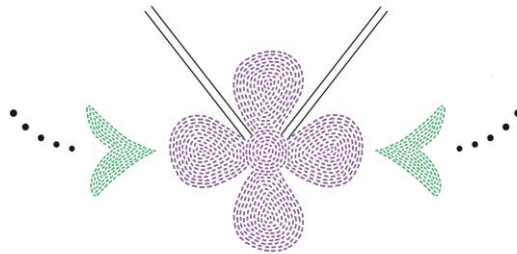


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

**National Inquiry into Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls
Truth-Gathering Process - Parts II & III
Institutional & Expert/Knowledge-Keeper Hearings
“Sexual Exploitation, Human Trafficking & Sexual Assault”
Sheraton Hotel, Salon B
St. John’s. Newfoundland-and-Labrador**



PUBLIC

**Mixed Part II & III Volume XVIII
Thursday October 18, 2018**

**Panel IV:
Chief Danny Smyth & Staff Sergeant Darryl Ramkissoon,
Winnipeg Police Service**

Diane Redsky, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre

Rachel Willan

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II

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#3

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Vancouver Sex Workers' Rights
Collective

Carly Teillet (Legal Counsel)

Winnipeg Police Service

Kimberly D. Carswell
(Legal Counsel)

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Chair: Christa Big Canoe, Commission Counsel

**First Witness & Second Witnesses: Chief Danny Smyth & Staff
Sergeant Darryl Ramkissoon, Winnipeg Police Service**

Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg Police Service

**Third Witness: Diane Redsky, Executive Director, Ma Mawi Wi Chi
Itata Centre**

Counsel: Jennifer Cox, Commission Counsel

Fourth Witness: Rachel Willan

Counsel: Christa Big Canoe, Commission Counsel

Heard by Chief Commissioner Marion Buller & Commissioners
Michèle Audette, Brian Eyolfson & Qajaq Robinson

Grandmothers, Elders & Knowledge-keepers: Pénélope Guay,
Louise Haulli, Norma Jacobs (National Family Advisory Circle -
NFAC), Kathy Louis, Barbara Manitowabie (NFAC), Pauline Muskego
(NFAC), Odelle Pike, Sarah Ponniuk, Gladys Radek (NFAC), Leslie
Spillet, Lauren "Blu" Waters & Bernie Williams

Clerks: Bryana Bouchir & Gladys Wraight

Registrar: Bryan Zandberg

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1 St. John's, Newfoundland
2 --- The hearing starts on Thursday, October 18th, 2018 at
3 8:16 a.m.

4 **(OPENING REMARKS/PRAYER)**

5 **MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** Will ee ex se puk
6 (ph). Good morning. Bon matin. Welcome to Day 4 of our
7 final hearing. It's very nice to see you today.

8 What I'd like to do is invite Odelle Pike
9 up this morning to get us started and share in opening
10 words and prayer with us.

11 And just before that, we have Paul, who
12 will be -- who has graciously lit the smudge for us this
13 morning. So if anybody wants to get smudged off, he'll be
14 wandering around the room.

15 **MS. ODELLE PIKE:** Will ee ex se puk. Good
16 morning. Yesterday was a really tough day, and I'm hoping
17 today that, being the last day, that we all take care of
18 ourselves. We have supports here all around the room, so
19 if you feel that things are a little bit too tough please
20 avail of the services.

21 Creator, we thank you for this beautiful
22 day. We thank you for all the gifts that you bestowed on
23 us. Help us to get through this day. Let us respect one
24 another. Let us show love and let us give love. Let us
25 be patient, let us be kind, let us protect one another,

1 let us rise with one another.

2 We ask that you bestow blessings on all the
3 people who are going to be testifying today. Keep them in
4 your hearts. Keep everyone safe. We pray that we have --
5 we will have safe communities when we go back. And like I
6 said yesterday, we need to get back to our cultural
7 teachings, keep them sacred in our hearts, always have
8 them in front, and help one another. Insinogima (ph) all
9 my relations.

10 **MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** Wela'lin, Odelle.

11 Sarah, I'd like to hand it over to you to
12 open us in a good way as well in lighting the Qulliq.

13 **MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** God, I come to you this
14 morning. I need help for you to give me words, words that
15 are not mine.

16 But God, I also pray for the people in
17 here, every one of us, and people that will testify today.
18 I pray for boundaries, that each a one -- each one of us
19 will have boundaries before we start hearing the stories
20 that are very real. And that you will give us, like an
21 holy shield, that will protect us a boundary that no one
22 else can give us. If people didn't put boundaries on this
23 morning, I pray right now put the boundaries for everyone
24 here.

25 Yesterday was powerful, and yesterday is

1 gone. But the memories are still in our minds, so I pray
2 that you will help our mind physically, emotionally, and
3 spiritually help us to heal because we have to live for
4 today and not yesterday.

5 (Speaking Indigenous language.)

6 **(LIGHTING OF THE QULLIQ)**

7 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** As the flame
8 of the Qulliq spreads across the wick, I'd like to take
9 this moment for my friend and my colleague, and her family
10 and community, who had a heavy day today as well, who lost
11 a tremendously important person in their lives, France
12 Robertson, a long-time friend and colleague to
13 Commission Odette and Grandmother Penelope, and the Québec
14 Native Women's Association community.

15 Her passing has impacted them greatly, and
16 Commissioner Audette has asked for a moment of silence.
17 And I think as the flame works its way across the wick and
18 brings us light and warmth and connects us as a sacred
19 fire to the spirit world and makes that path, I'd like if
20 we could all pay homage to France at the request of
21 Commissioner Audette. Thank you.

22 **(SHORT PAUSE)**

23 **MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** Nakurmiik, Sarah, for
24 your beautiful words and your prayers for us this morning,
25 and we want to extend our sincere condolences and love to

1 those that are affected, for all of those that have lost a
2 loved one. And, I want to be mindful of that spirit chair
3 and the significance of that space, that that is a space
4 that is a reminder to us of those that have gone on.

5 And, when Commissioner Robinson was
6 speaking, I remembered the words of Chief Seattle of
7 Suquamish Nation that there is no death, only a change of
8 worlds. And so, that spirit chair is a reminder of those
9 that have gone on to guide us, to surround us and to
10 support us every day, but in a different way. So, be
11 gentle with your hearts today. You can all be seated.

12 Before we get started, there's another item
13 that I want to just draw your attention to, and that is
14 this red willow basket at the centre of the sacred items
15 and bundle here. And, that basket was created at the
16 start of this Inquiry by several women in the Manitoba
17 Winnipeg area, and it was created to be able to receive
18 gifts that those that we have journeyed with or
19 encountered throughout this process as we travelled across
20 Turtle Island wanted to donate.

21 And so, we've received many of these sacred
22 items through that process through that basket. And also,
23 for family members and survivors through Part I of the
24 community hearings who wanted to share their truth in a
25 different way, that was the vessel for them to submit that

1 through what we would call an artistic expression.

2 So, many have created beautiful visual
3 drawings, and paintings, and beautiful poems, and
4 different items through that means, and it was really our
5 way to acknowledge that there are many different ways that
6 we can share our truth, not only through our words. And,
7 we're very grateful for those that have been generous to
8 share in that way, and I want to acknowledge them as well.

9 And, one of the things that we've
10 incorporated into our -- the last hearing in Winnipeg, and
11 of course, here in Newfoundland is the beading. And, for
12 those of you that have had the opportunity to participate
13 in the beading circle in the elders' room, it's a very
14 powerful space. And, we're honoured to have Gerry Pangman
15 and her daughter, Coralee McPherson, to facilitate and
16 teach, and they are very good teachers.

17 I call Gerry, Grandma Gerry now, because
18 I'm a singer, not a beader, but I'm trying. I don't know
19 how many times -- you know, it's like fishing. I got tied
20 up on my button, then caught on my name tag, and then,
21 "Grandma, help! I don't know what to do." Or, I have a
22 knot. But, they're very kind and gentle and that beading
23 medicine has helped many throughout this week, and the
24 last session as well. And, I'm so impressed with all the
25 red dresses that I've come across over the past few days.

1 But, this red dress in particular was
2 started in Winnipeg by Kim McPherson, who is Gerry's
3 sister, and Gerry had just completed this, I think,
4 yesterday. Beautiful bead work. Self-taught beaders.
5 And, they have asked if they could donate this to the
6 legacy archives, and to the Inquiry in remembrance of all
7 of those stolen sisters. And, we are very honoured.

8 The red dress is very significant. For
9 those of you that may not know, Jaime Black, who does some
10 work with us as well, had created the REDress Project, and
11 the red dress to signify those that have been taken, those
12 that are lost and haven't returned yet. And so, this is a
13 very powerful symbol.

14 So, at this time, I would like to ask Gerry
15 and her daughter Coralee to come up, and to submit this
16 beautiful red dress.

17 **(PRESENTATION OF RED DRESS)**

18 **MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** Beautiful. So, it's
19 a reminder if anyone else, at some point, let me know
20 because we're happy to receive those special gifts.

21 Keep care of yourself today. I think the
22 words of our elders that have shared as a reminder to be
23 gentle with ourselves and each other. Again, there is the
24 elders' room. There is the supports who will be checking
25 in on every one. And, certainly reach out to us if

1 there's something that we can assist you with. Have a
2 beautiful day, and we'll take just a couple of minutes to
3 get everyone together, and then we'll get started.

4 --- Upon recessing at 8:27

5 --- Upon resuming at 8:33

6 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Good morning. Good
7 morning, Chief Commissioner and Commissioners. Today, I
8 am very glad to be leading a panel that I think will be
9 addressing yet another topic of true importance. We are
10 so fortunate to have a number of witnesses with us today.
11 In fact, we'll have four in total. They will be led by
12 different counsel but if I could just, for the purpose of
13 introduction, one, for the record, because I keep
14 forgetting to introduce myself, I'm reminded, I'm Christa
15 Big Canoe. I am Commission counsel. I'm Ojibwe from
16 Ontario, and I've very grateful to be welcomed into this
17 territory.

18 Today, the focus of the panel will actually
19 be one, and if I had to deduce it to something quite
20 simple, would be collaboration, and what happens in
21 community when community partners, specifically survivors
22 and police services work together to try to make change
23 that will impact the lives of Indigenous women and girls.

24 And so, Commission counsel has, on consent
25 and requested counsel Kimberly Carswell of the Winnipeg

1 Police Service to lead evidence of Chief Danny Smyth and
2 Staff Sergeant Darryl Ramkissoon, and the first order of
3 business would be to ask that you consider the request
4 that Kimberly Carswell can lead that evidence?

5 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** That's
6 agreeable. Thank you.

7 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you. And,
8 then just so that we all know what's happening, following
9 Ms. Carswell's examination of her witnesses, we will have
10 the pleasure of hearing from Diane Redsky, and Commission
11 counsel Jennifer Cox will be leading that evidence.

12 And, finally, we'll hear from Rachel
13 Willan. I will be leading that evidence, and in support
14 with Rachel is her husband, Matt Willan. And so, I would
15 like to now turn the mic over to Ms. Carswell.

16 **MS. KIMERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you, Christa.
17 On behalf of my client and myself, I'd like to first
18 acknowledge the spirits of the missing women and girls,
19 the traditional territories that we are on of the Beothuk,
20 the Mi'kmaq and the Inuit and Innu of Labrador. We
21 acknowledge the grandmothers, elders, the prayers that we
22 received this morning, and the lighting of the qulliq, the
23 sacred items in the room.

24 We thank the Commissioners for this
25 opportunity to appear before you, and thank also the

1 Commission staff who has been so helpful in enabling us to
2 be ready for today. I would also like to thank the health
3 support that's been available, not only this week, but to
4 me throughout this proceeding.

5 To start, I'd like to indicate to the
6 parties that we will be showing some video clips from the
7 media during our presentation. Some of that will have
8 lived experience in it. So, I just would like to give you
9 that warning at this point to protect yourselves when that
10 information is presented.

11 And, now, I would ask that if you could,
12 Mr. Registrar, if you could swear Chief Smyth, please?

13 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Yes, I apologize. So,
14 we are going to swear in which witness? Both?

15 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Both, one at a
16 time, though. Chief Smyth first on the Bible.

17 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Fair enough. Chief
18 Danny Smyth, do you swear to tell the truth, the whole
19 truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

20 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I do.

21 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Sworn:**

22 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Okay. And, how are we
23 doing the affirmation or oath for the second witness?

24 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Bible as well,
25 please.

1 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Bible as well. Okay.
2 Good morning, Staff Sergeant Darryl Ramkissoo. Do you
3 swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but
4 the truth, so help you God?

5 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** I do.

6 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON, Sworn:**

7 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Thank you.

8 **--- EXAMINATION IN-CHIEF BY MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:**

9 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, before we
10 start, two items. My clients have asked me to indicate to
11 the parties with standing that they would invite you to
12 please call them by their first names, Danny and Darryl,
13 throughout these proceedings, and Chief Smyth, I believe
14 you have some remarks you'd like to make?

15 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Thank you. I'd like to
16 start by thanking the Commission for the opportunity to
17 testify here this morning. I'm here today to support a
18 friend and a partner. Diane Redsky is a strong advocate
19 for women and families, particularly survivors of
20 exploitation and human trafficking. She is also helping
21 to change the system to better meet the needs of those who
22 have been exploited, especially Indigenous women and
23 girls.

24 Ma Mawi is one of a handful of Indigenous
25 service providers in Winnipeg, and it provides services

1 for Indigenous women, delivered primarily by Indigenous
2 women. And, the Winnipeg Police is a partner with Ma
3 Mawi, serving in a supporting role that focuses on
4 targeted enforcement at times for those trafficking and
5 exploiting women, and at other times, assisting the
6 outreach workers to transport exploited women and girls to
7 safe housing and programming provided by Ma Mawi.

8 Diane asked me to come here before you
9 today, and it's my hope that together, we can illustrate a
10 model that emphasizes Indigenous-led community services
11 that are supported by the police in a collaborative way.

12 Before I talk about the partnership that
13 we've established, I also want to acknowledge that the
14 police in Winnipeg have not always been on the right path,
15 that our past actions and procedures contributed to
16 harming Indigenous people in our community. Indigenous
17 women were not treated with the respect and dignity that
18 they deserve.

19 As the Chief of the Winnipeg Police
20 Service, I offer my apologies for past conduct and
21 policies that contributed to harming Indigenous women and
22 girls.

23 I've been Chief of Police in Winnipeg for
24 almost two years. And, when I was appointed, I gave a
25 speech at that time that honoured many of the strong women

1 who work tirelessly in our community. And, I quoted a
2 passage from an essay, and it went like this: "I'm
3 interested in exploring the ways in which women share
4 knowledge to support their families and communities, and
5 in examining the types of power, although often
6 unrecognized in the public sphere, that women hold in our
7 society."

8 Now, these words were written by Dr.
9 Melanie Jansen. She's an assistant professor at the
10 Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba. She's
11 also my friend, and has helped shape many of my views
12 regarding women and diversity, both locally and in a more
13 global context.

14 Her essay went on to say that, "I
15 understand that these women's and children's lives are not
16 perfect. They are faced with issues that are not
17 prevalent in my world. But, what impresses me the most is
18 not just the way in which the group cares for the
19 children, but also the strong commitment to collaboration
20 that these women have established in so many aspects of
21 their lives. These women have found a way to share the
22 load, to prosper not just individually, but also in ways
23 that benefit the greater community. Undoubtedly, they
24 could not achieve alone what they are able to do as a
25 group."

1 Melanie was speaking about a group of women
2 that she came to know in Uganda, actually, when she was
3 researching her thesis. But, she just as easily could
4 have been describing the women that comprise many of the
5 grassroots organizations in our own community in Winnipeg.
6 I speak often of community engagement and our partnership
7 with groups like the Winnipeg Outreach Network, and the
8 Sexually Exploited Youth Coalition.

9 These groups are led by strong women;
10 leaders like Leslie Spillet, Diane Redsky, and elected
11 officials like MLA Nahani Fontaine and MLA Bernadette
12 Smith. And, there are so many more women who work
13 tirelessly in our community.

14 This is the kind of community engagement
15 that I see as important. Partnering with groups like this
16 is the true essence of crime prevention through social
17 development. These Indigenous-led efforts will help break
18 through social barriers that left unaddressed can lead to
19 harm.

20 I'm committed to partnering with
21 Indigenous-led service providers like Ma Mawi, Dene way
22 (phonetic), and Ka Na Kanichihk. And, when possible, to
23 use my voice to validate their efforts and lend additional
24 credibility to support their programs.

25 I will ensure that the police reflect the

1 needs and expectations of our community, and this will be
2 done by continuing to recruit Winnipeg Police that is
3 representative by Indigenous officers and employees. This
4 will be done by continuing to partner with our Indigenous
5 service providers, and it will be done through training
6 and education so that our members understand the
7 generational trauma inflicted upon Indigenous people
8 through colonization, the residential school system, and
9 government-imposed Child and Family Services. It will
10 also mean honouring and promoting Indigenous women and men
11 within the police service as leaders and role models in
12 our community.

13 I believe we're on the right path. This is
14 the direction that I want to lead, and I think the women
15 in our community will play a huge role in helping us get
16 there. Thank you.

17 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you, Chief
18 Smyth. If I could ask that the PowerPoint presentation
19 that we've provided be put up on the screen at this time?

20 Chief Smyth, if I could ask you to please
21 go to Tab A of the materials that we've provided to
22 Commission counsel and that have been disclosed to the
23 parties? I understand that this is your curriculum vitae.
24 Have you had the opportunity to review that?

25 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I have.

1 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, I note that
2 you've been a police officer with the City of Winnipeg for
3 over 30 years now?

4 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct.

5 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, as you
6 indicated, Chief for the last two years?

7 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

8 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, is there
9 anything about your background that you would like to
10 focus on after we enter this as an exhibit?

11 Chief Commissioner, if we could enter Chief
12 Smyth's curriculum vitae at Tab A as the next exhibit in
13 these proceedings?

14 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Yes.
15 Exhibit 65 is Chief Smyth's C.V., please.

16 **--- Exhibit No 65:**

17 CV of Chief Danny Smyth (six pages)

18 Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg
19 Police Service

20 Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg
21 Police Service

22 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you. Chief
23 Smyth, do you have any comments to make?

24 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I would just like to
25 comment on my journey before I became -- that led me up to

1 becoming a police officer.

2 First of all, I would like to acknowledge
3 my own birth mother. My mother was from a small town in
4 western Manitoba. She was pregnant, an unwed teen in the
5 sixties, and was shunned, and shamed, and really sent to
6 Winnipeg where she was to remain until she gave birth.

7 As near as I can determine, she was with
8 her baby for a day before returning to her community
9 without her baby. That baby was me. I was taken into
10 care at that time and put up for adoption.

11 I understand it was the following year,
12 actually, that I was adopted, and I was adopted by a young
13 policeman and his wife. They cared for me and gave me all
14 the opportunities that they could, and I was, frankly, the
15 first member in my family to attend university, graduating
16 in 1983.

17 Before becoming a cop, I had a number of
18 jobs that included recreation. I worked in the Long
19 Plain, worked and lived on the Long Plain First Nation. I
20 worked in healthcare as an orderly, and I worked in
21 Corrections in the federal system, working in prisons in
22 both Matsqui in B.C., and in Stony Mountain.

23 I became a member of the police service in
24 1986, and there was a reason it took that long. For those
25 of you that may have seen me walk in here today, I'm not a

1 very big man, and there were height and weight
2 restrictions back in those days, and I certainly didn't
3 meet any of those. It was a human rights challenge that
4 opened the door for me, and really sent me on a different
5 path; one that I've never looked back on.

6 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you. If we
7 can now turn to Tab B, Darryl? If I could ask you to take
8 a look at that? That is, I understand, your curriculum
9 vitae?

10 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's
11 correct.

12 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, you've had an
13 opportunity to look at it, and it is accurate?

14 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Yes, I
15 have.

16 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Chief Commissioner,
17 could I ask that the curriculum vitae of Staff Sergeant
18 Ramkissoon at Tab B be entered as the next exhibit in
19 these proceedings?

20 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Yes.
21 Exhibit 66 is Staff Sergeant Ramkissoon's C.V., please.

22 **--- Exhibit No 66:**

23 CV of Staff Sergeant Darryl Ramkissoon
24 (12 pages)

25 Witness: Staff Sergeant Darryl

1 Ramkissoon, Winnipeg Police Service
2 Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg
3 Police Service

4 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, Staff
5 Sergeant, do you have anything you would -- in particular
6 you would like to bring to the attention of the
7 Commission?

8 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Just a
9 little bit about my background. I was born in Trinidad,
10 in the Caribbean. Moved here to Winnipeg with my parents
11 when I was three, and at the age of 11, we moved back to
12 Trinidad. At the age of 19, I wanted a better life and
13 more opportunities for myself, so I moved back to Winnipeg
14 by myself. I had no money, no friends or family, and
15 there were a lot of things that happened to me during
16 those years that led me to policing. So, I applied at
17 least three times until I finally got in on my third time
18 in 1991.

19 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you. If I
20 could have the next slide? We appeared to have moved on -
21 - oh, next slide, please? Thank you.

22 I understand that today we will be
23 presenting four general areas, that being the background
24 of the Counter-Exploitation Unit, various enforcement
25 projects undertaken by the Counter-Exploitation Unit,

1 prevention, intervention and community collaboration; is
2 that correct?

3 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct.

4 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you. Next
5 slide, please. Next slide, please. Chief, if you could
6 just speak briefly to the overview of the size of the City
7 of Winnipeg, its demographics and of the Winnipeg Police
8 Service for those who are not familiar with this?

9 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** So, the City of
10 Winnipeg has a population now of approximately 750,000.
11 We've had slow but steady growth throughout most of our
12 history. It is a diverse population which represents many
13 different ethnic groups. In particular, there are over
14 70,000 Indigenous peoples that call Winnipeg home, both
15 First Nations and Métis.

16 That makes up collectively about 11 percent
17 of our population in Winnipeg, making it the largest
18 concentration of Indigenous peoples living in a major city
19 in Canada. Winnipeg also has one of the largest multi-
20 racial populations for any large Canadian city as well.

21 In terms of language, Tagalog and French
22 are the most common languages after English. Our Filipino
23 population is coming on 70,000 in its own right. So we
24 are a very diverse community.

25 In terms of the Winnipeg Police Service,

1 we've been in existence since 1874. Currently, there are
2 about 1,900 employees -- about 1,380 sworn members, police
3 members, and the rest being support staff. Of our makeup,
4 and it fluctuates year to year, but we have between 9 and
5 11 percent of our membership is comprised of Indigenous
6 officers. And when you fold in the supporting staff, it's
7 about 9 percent overall of our makeup is Indigenous.

8 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. Thank
9 you.

10 Next slide, please.

11 Danny, we're going to move -- and Chief
12 Commissioner -- rather quickly through this background in
13 order to get to the more substantive topics. So if I
14 could ask you please to take a look at Document C in the
15 materials that have been provided. And do you recognize
16 this document?

17 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Yeah, this document is --
18 this slide is showing a segment from our Strategic Plan.

19 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. And the
20 document at Tab C is the Winnipeg Police Service Strategic
21 Plan from 2015 to 2019. Is this document a public
22 document?

23 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Yes, it is.

24 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And are you
25 familiar with this document?

1 That is a document entitled The Indigenous Women's Safety
2 and Protection Report. And again, are you familiar with
3 that document?

4 MR. DANNY SMYTH: I am. It's essentially a
5 strategic report.

6 MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And it was produced
7 in August of 2015; is that correct?

8 MR. DANNY SMYTH: That's correct.

9 MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And are you
10 familiar with this document?

11 MR. DANNY SMYTH: I am.

12 MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Is it public?

13 MR. DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

14 MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And you would be
15 able to ask -- answer questions on it for members of the
16 parties with standing if requested?

17 MR. DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

18 MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Chief Commissioner,
19 if I could ask then that the Indigenous Women's Safety and
20 Protection report be entered as the next exhibit in this
21 proceeding. It's dated August of 2015.

22 CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Yes.

23 Exhibit 68 is Indigenous Women's Safety and Protection,
24 August 2015, Winnipeg Police Services.

25 --- EXHIBIT NO. 68:

1 "City of Winnipeg Homicides 1980 -
2 2014," Winnipeg Police Service Crime
3 Analysis Unit, April 13, 2015 (seven
4 pages)

5 Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg
6 Police Service

7 Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg
8 Police Service

9 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you.

10 And in support of those reports, I
11 understand you provide quarterly reports to the Winnipeg
12 Police Board. And for this proceeding today, you've had
13 those summarized, and that summary is at Tab E of the
14 materials that have been provided to the Commission and to
15 the parties with standing. Is that correct?

16 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct. You have
17 a sample quarterly report and a summation of all of the
18 quarterly reports dating back from 2015 to the present.

19 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. So
20 dealing first with the document at Tab E, that would be
21 the summary document you've just referred to?

22 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct.

23 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** This document is
24 not a public document; is that correct?

25 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** No, this is a summary

1 document, yes.

2 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right.

3 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** The quarterly reports
4 themselves are public.

5 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** That's correct.
6 And you would be able to speak to this document today if
7 parties had questions on it?

8 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

9 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Again, Chief
10 Commissioner, if I could ask for the summary of quarterly
11 reports to the Winnipeg Police Board from 2015 to 2017 be
12 entered as the next exhibit, please.

13 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Yes.
14 Exhibit 69 is Winnipeg Police Service, Indigenous Women's
15 Safety and Protection Strategy, Summary of Police Board
16 Reports 2015 to 2019.

17 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 69:**

18 "Indigenous Women - Safety and
19 Protection Strategy: Summary of Police
20 Board Reports," Winnipeg Police
21 Service Crime Analysis Report by S.
22 Bell (eight pages)
23 Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg
24 Police Service
25 Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg

1 Police Service

2 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you.

3 And at Tab F is the complete -- a complete
4 report that you've referred to, that is, the public
5 document and a report to the Winnipeg Police Board. Is
6 that correct?

7 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Yeah. This report is a
8 sampling of the kind of reporting that I do with the
9 Police Board when we meet at public meetings.

10 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. Again,
11 you would be able to speak to this report and answer any
12 questions that parties with standing may have?

13 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

14 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Chief Commissioner,
15 if I could ask that the report of Chief Smyth update
16 report to the Board, dated October 13th, 2017 be entered
17 as the next exhibit, please.

18 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Yes.
19 Exhibit 70 is Update Report to the Winnipeg Police Board
20 by Chief Danny Smyth, October 13, 2017.

21 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 70:**

22 "Update Report to the Winnipeg Police
23 Board" from Chief Danny Smyth to Chair
24 and Members of the Winnipeg Police
25 Board, October 13, 2017 (eight pages)

1 Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg
2 Police Service
3 Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg
4 Police Service

5 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you, Chief
6 Commissioner.

7 And finally with these documents, at
8 Schedule C is the Winnipeg Police Service 2018 Business
9 Plan. Do you recognize that document?

10 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** I do. We do a business
11 plan each year in support of the Strategic Plan. This is
12 the 2018 Business Plan that aligns with the strategy.

13 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And is this
14 document made available to the public?

15 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** It is.

16 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And you are
17 familiar with it?

18 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** I am.

19 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And you would be
20 prepared to answer any questions with respect to this
21 document that parties with standing may have?

22 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

23 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Chief Commissioner,
24 if I could ask then that this document be entered as the
25 next exhibit, the Winnipeg Police Service 2018 Business

1 Plan?

2 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Yes.

3 Exhibit 71 is the Winnipeg Police Service 2018 Business
4 Plan.

5 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 71:**

6 "Winnipeg Police Service 2018 Business
7 Plan" (24 pages)

8 Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg
9 Police Service

10 Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg
11 Police Service

12 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you, Chief
13 Commissioner.

14 Next slide, please.

15 Chief, if you could just -- or Danny -- if
16 you could speak, please, to the history of the Counter
17 Exploitation Unit where the service was and where we have
18 come to be in relation to this unit?

19 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** So this unit has done a
20 transformational change during my time in the police
21 service, but more, in particular, in the last 15 years.
22 When I began, we were involved in work that would have
23 been considered the Vice Division, with the Morals Unit
24 conducting much of this work. Looking back, just the
25 names alone were questionable, frankly. Moral seems to

1 imply some type of standard and/or lack of standard, and
2 vice seems to imply behaviour that is bad. It's -- it was
3 just not a good fit.

4 We began to transition with more of a focus
5 on protecting and enforcing against those that were
6 exploiting the women in our community. At that time, we
7 started to move to naming the unit the Counter
8 Exploitation Unit. We transitioned that from the Vice
9 Division to a specialized Investigations Division that
10 included other units like child abuse, internet child
11 exploitation, and sex crimes.

12 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right.

13 And if I could direct this next question to
14 you Darryl. I understand one of the first initiatives
15 that started the shift with a project called So Long John.

16 And if I could get the next slide up,
17 please.

18 And that occurred while you were part of
19 the -- during part of the time you were with the unit, and
20 that was in 2003. Could you just speak briefly to this
21 particular project, please?

22 **MR. DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's correct.

23 Way back in 2003, we started targeting exploiters. We
24 realized way back then that targeting persons involved in
25 the sex industry was ineffective.

1 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. And you
2 can see the numbers up there was -- there were 73 arrests
3 in that project, as well as the number of vehicles seized.
4 And we'll talk about the vehicles in a minute.

5 But if I could have the next slide.

6 This is media reports from the results of
7 that project. Is that correct?

8 **MR. DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's correct.

9 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And I understand
10 that a decision was made with respect to a strategy to
11 involve the media in information surrounding projects of
12 this nature and the results of those projects. Is that
13 correct?

14 **MR. DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's correct. We
15 -- in our media strategy, we do want for public awareness,
16 plus it lessens the stigma of the exploited, and it also
17 highlights our partnership with the other agencies.

18 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right.

19 And then, Chief, I understand the major
20 change came in 2013 -- if I could have the next slide up,
21 please -- when the unit was reorganized and moved and
22 certain reports were written that we'll get into in a
23 minute that you've started to speak about. Is that
24 correct?

25 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** What you're seeing there

1 is a segment from our organizational chart, and it was the
2 period of time when we transitioned what was then known as
3 the Morals Unit over to this division. The Counter
4 Exploitation Unit aligned itself with some of the other
5 units that I mentioned: child abuse, internet child
6 exploitation, and sex crimes.

7 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. And
8 during this period of transition, as I understand it, you
9 were overseeing this area; is that correct?

10 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes. At that time, I
11 was a superintendent that oversaw the investigations
12 portfolio.

13 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. If you
14 could then turn to the document that's been provided as
15 Schedule H to our material to the Commission and Parties,
16 you'll see a report titled Winnipeg's Visible Sex Trade.
17 Are you familiar with that document?

18 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I am.

19 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And I understand
20 that was written by a member of what then became a
21 Counter-exploitation Unit with proposals to embark on a
22 new philosophy with respect to enforcement and interaction
23 with women being exploited; is that correct?

24 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct. One of
25 the Sergeant's in the unit at the time came up with this

1 idea and this initiative, to create a dedicated unit that
2 worked in this area, that would fall under this division
3 and specialize in both outreach and enforcement against
4 the exploiters in our community.

5 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. And you
6 are familiar with this report?

7 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I am.

8 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** This report is not
9 a public report, I take it?

10 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** This is not.

11 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And you would be
12 able to answer any questions parties with standing may
13 have on the report?

14 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Chief Commissioner, if I
15 could ask the report titled "Winnipeg's Visible Sex Trade"
16 it's dated 2013, June 4th, be entered as the next exhibit,
17 please.

18 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** I'm
19 sorry, the date again?

20 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** The date is on the
21 last page. It's 2013-06-04, So June 4th of 2013.

22 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Thank
23 you. I always get those dates backwards.

24 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** So do I.

25 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** So

1 Exhibit 72 is "Winnipeg's Visible Sex Trade" June 6th,
2 2013.

3 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 72:**

4 "Winnipeg's Visible Sex Trade" by
5 Sergeant Gene Bowers, dated 2013-06-04
6 (eight pages)
7 Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg
8 Police Service
9 Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg
10 Police Service

11 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you. And in
12 addition there was a proposal then put forward up the
13 chain of command, as it were, that entered as Tab I in our
14 materials. And that is the request that the Sergeant's
15 report be accepted and that a pilot project be commenced
16 with respect to the counter-exploitation team. Is that
17 correct?

18 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct. So
19 within the counter-exploitation unit there was a dedicated
20 counter-exploitation team. This team is dedicated to
21 outreach and relationship building. They typically don't
22 get involved in any enforcement activities. This is what
23 distinguishes this team from the other police working in
24 this area.

25 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Chief Commissioner,

1 this report unfortunately is undated. But if I could ask
2 that it be entered, it's the proposal for the anti-
3 exploitation team pilot project.

4 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Exhibit
5 73 is Winnipeg Police Service Division 41, Specialized
6 Investigations Division, Vice Unit establishment of an
7 anti-exploitation team pilot project proposal.

8 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 73:**

9 "Vice Unit - Establishment of an Anti-
10 Exploitation Team - Pilot Project
11 Proposal," Winnipeg Police Service
12 Division 41 Specialized Investigations
13 Division, submitted by Inspector L.
14 Pilcher (four pages)
15 Witness: Witness: Chief Danny Smyth,
16 Winnipeg Police Service
17 Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg
18 Police Service

19 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you.

20 Now, I understand there was one last recent
21 change, and that was in 2017 when counter-exploitation and
22 missing persons was merged; is that correct?

23 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct. So
24 missing person and counter-exploitation were separate
25 entities. We were seeing a lot of -- a lot of overlap in

1 the work that they were doing. We saw an opportunity to
2 merge our missing persons unit with our counter-
3 exploitation unit.

4 In Manitoba we have the distinction of
5 having almost 10,000 kids in care. Much of that work
6 falls upon the missing persons unit. Upwards of 80
7 percent of those kids are Indigenous. So it was an
8 opportunity to merge the two units.

9 By in large it helped. They could help
10 each other. It extended our coverage so that we had
11 people out available in the field seven days a week, both
12 on days and evenings.

13 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. Thank
14 you. Next slide, please.

15 And this is the current staffing model of
16 that unit. Is that correct?

17 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct.

18 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Next slide, please.
19 This is the mandate of the counter-exploitation unit.
20 This is not the team, but the unit as a whole, and if you
21 could speak to that, please, Darryl?

22 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** So with
23 the realignment of the Counter-exploitation Unit and
24 Missing Persons Unit, we became more a victim cantered
25 service. In regards to persons going missing and

1 exploited, this allowed us to align the appropriate
2 resources and support and conduct robust investigations.
3 This enabled us to do more project-oriented
4 investigations, streamline our strategies, and provide
5 increased coverage to deal with community and survivor
6 complaints. It also increased our capacity to do more
7 public education and presentations at schools.

8 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you. And if
9 I could have the next slide?

10 Darryl, if you could speak to the mandate
11 of the Missing Persons Unit, please?

12 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Again,
13 with the bigger resource available to us we were able to -
14 - especially for the chronic missing children, we were
15 able to better position and initiate a coordinated
16 response with other government NGOs and community
17 partners.

18 **MS. KIMBERLY RAMKISSOON:** Thank you.

19 Now, Danny, you indicated that the Winnipeg
20 Police Service had noted a correlation between missing
21 youth and those at risk of being exploited. If I could
22 have the next slide, please? And this represents missing
23 persons incidents in Winnipeg in the second quarter of
24 this year; is that correct?

25 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct. What

1 you're seeing there is really a snapshot of what's
2 happening in Winnipeg during that time. You'll note that
3 the majority of the missing children in our community are
4 women or girls. The average age being 16 years. They
5 comprise almost 65 percent of the missing. The boys
6 follow, with the balance 35 percent, with the average age
7 being 18. Again, I mention that almost 80 to 85 percent
8 of those are Indigenous children.

9 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And if we could
10 have the next slide, please? This slide is for the same
11 time period and shows the percentage of children missing
12 as those children being in care; is that correct?

13 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** So the blue part of
14 that pie represents the children that are in the care of -
15 - either of CFS essentially, but it's distinguished by the
16 large majority of them are in group home facilities.

17 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And that -- those
18 numbers are broken down in the chart underneath; is that
19 correct?

20 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct.

21 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you. Next
22 slide. Next slide.

23 Now, Danny, we're going to look at some of
24 the successful projects, but before we do, could you just
25 sort of give us an update on the enforcement numbers this

1 year?

2 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** So again, what you're
3 seeing here is just a snapshot of some of the indicators
4 of work that is being done by the unit. To date, in '18,
5 we have over 107 individuals that have been charged with
6 obtaining sexual services for consideration. Of note,
7 over 70 vehicles have been seized from exploiters involved
8 in that activity during that same period.

9 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. Now,
10 we've mentioned the use of a provision to seize vehicles.
11 And if you could turn to Tab J in the materials, and next
12 slide please? This would be the provision of the *Highway*
13 *Traffic Act* that allows for police to seize vehicles used
14 in the process of exploiting individuals; is that correct?

15 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct. It's
16 provincial legislation that gives us the authority to
17 seize a vehicle that's being used for obtaining sexual
18 services.

19 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And that's been a
20 useful tool for police; is that correct?

21 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** It has.

22 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Chief Commissioner,
23 if I could ask the excerpt from the *Manitoba Highway*
24 *Traffic Act* CCSM Chapter H-60 to be entered as the next
25 exhibit, please?

1 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Yes.
2 Extract from the *Highway Traffic Act*, CCSM Chapter H-60 is
3 Exhibit 74.

4 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 74:**

5 Manitoba *Highway Traffic Act*, C.C.S.M.
6 c. H60, Part VII sections 241(1)-
7 242.2(9), print date October 10, 2018,
8 version current as of October 8, 2018
9 (12 pages)
10 Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg
11 Police Service
12 Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg
13 Police Service

14 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you, Chief
15 Commissioner.

16 Next slide, please. Now, Chief Smyth, this
17 shows some longitudinal numbers from 2005, to the current
18 day, to show the number of people both charged and the
19 number of vehicles seized. And these are people charged
20 with purchasing or exploiting women and girls; correct?

21 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct. The
22 top graph is showing the arrests. You'll not some
23 fluctuation going back to 2005. To date, as of the end of
24 September we were at 107 persons that had been charged.

25 The bottom graph represents the number of

1 vehicles that we've seized, and of particular note, is
2 this year we have seized substantively more vehicles than
3 we have in the past.

4 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Now, Chief
5 Smyth, I understand this slide you have to understand what
6 is a disk stop briefly, and what is CPSD-CEU? Could you
7 explain those two terms, please, for the Commissioners?

8 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** So, these are
9 acronyms, and they are a way for the police service to try
10 to categorize and capture some of the work that's done in
11 the field.

12 DISC is an acronym. It stands for
13 deter and identify sex consumers. This is done within our
14 service. It's largely done by uniformed general patrol
15 officers, in addition to some of the work being done by
16 Counter Exploitation. When they have contact in the
17 field, they note the contact, and it comes out as what we
18 refer to as a DISC stop, which is largely like an
19 intelligence report.

20 As we started to more earnestly shift
21 over to outreach work and supporting those that were
22 involved in the sex industry, those that are being
23 exploited, we needed to find another way to capture some
24 of that work. The acronym, SPTSD, it stands for crime
25 prevention through social development. And, really, what

1 we were asking our units, primarily our Counter
2 Exploitation teams, is when they had contact in the field
3 to capture it using that particular type category, SPTSD.
4 And, it could be for anything from a casual conversation
5 to helping someone give them a ride to a safe place, to
6 taking them -- you know, anything from a medical
7 appointment to giving them a ride home.

8 So, there is a variety of things that
9 are captured within there, depending on what transpired
10 during the contact.

11 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, the graph
12 would appear to show a shift from contact with potential
13 exploiters to more focus on dealing with exploited
14 persons; would that be fair to say?

15 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes, you can see
16 the distinction there with the red bars is really just
17 showing some of that work where they're conducting
18 themselves in more outreach work in the community.

19 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right.
20 Next slide, please. Now, Darryl, the next slides I'm
21 going to ask for some assistance from the tech crew. If
22 you could put up this slide, and give us, while we're
23 talking, put up the next one after while we're ongoing?
24 I'll give you a hint as to how many I want to roll
25 through. That would be most helpful.

1 Could you talk briefly about Project
2 Create? And, when I ask you the questions about the
3 projects, I'm not asking you to identify particular
4 investigative techniques that would assist individuals in
5 avoiding detection, but to speak generally about those
6 projects?

7 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** So,
8 Project Create was a covert operation, both street level
9 and hotels. It was about gaining trust with the persons
10 involved in the sex industry and offering them some sort
11 of resources and contacts should they choose to use it.

12 The next component on that was to
13 target exploiters, and the third component was an
14 educational component, educating the management and staff
15 on identifying the signs of exploitation and human
16 trafficking.

17 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Again, if we
18 could have the next slide? Thank you. And, part of that
19 strategy, again, was use of media in providing information
20 on that activity to the public, and there's a couple of
21 slides of that media coverage following this project; is
22 that correct?

23 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**
24 That's correct. Again, the strategy is there for public
25 awareness. Plus, in this, we also make sure we put

1 resource information in there, not only for our unit but
2 our partners should exploited persons or survivors wish to
3 contact these numbers after.

4 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. If
5 we could then move to the next slide and Project Hook?
6 Thank you very much. This, again, was a project conducted
7 by Counter Exploitation, I understand, in June of this
8 year, and could you speak, again, generally about that?
9 And, if one more slide could be put up as we go?

10 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**
11 Yes. This was a project, a covert online project
12 specifically targeting persons looking for children under
13 the age of 14. The project we did with the assistance of
14 our Tech Crime Unit, ICE Unit, and the Canadian Centre for
15 Child Protection.

16 The project lasted approximately three
17 months. It was multi-jurisdictional, and with warrants,
18 we were able to identify the suspects and take our
19 investigations to them where we were able to arrest them
20 and prevent future victims.

21 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right.
22 And, thank you. And, again, the slide currently up shows
23 some of the media on that. Moving on, then, to Project
24 Northern Spotlight, I just note that the Winnipeg Police
25 Service has been involved in Northern Spotlight since

1 That's correct.

2 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And -- sorry.

3 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**

4 And, you can see in our media strategy, again, it's for
5 public awareness. Plus, it's also to highlight the great
6 work our partners are doing in the community. Without
7 them, it would make our jobs a lot more difficult.

8 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, if I
9 could ask you to turn to Tab K in the materials that were
10 provided? This is a Winnipeg Police Service media release
11 from last week, October 9th, 2018, and the latest Project
12 Return. It's in your materials at Tab K. And, do you
13 recognize that?

14 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**

15 Yes, I do.

16 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, that lays
17 out, again, the results of the project as well as the
18 assistance received from various partners right in the
19 media release; is that correct?

20 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**

21 That's correct.

22 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Chief
23 Commissioner, if I could ask that the media release of the
24 Winnipeg Police Service dated October 9th, 2018 related to
25 Project Return be entered as the next exhibit, please?

1 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Yes.
2 Exhibit 75 is Winnipeg Police Services' media release,
3 October 9th, 2018, Project Return.

4 **--- Exhibit No 75:**

5 Project Return / Winnipeg Police
6 Service media release dated October 9,
7 2018 (one page)
8 Witness: Staff Sergeant Darryl
9 Ramkissoo, Winnipeg Police Service
10 Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg
11 Police Service

12 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, if we
13 could get the next slide up? Thank you. Danny, I
14 understand you've also been approached by a number of
15 media outlets to do stories on the work of the Counter
16 Exploitation Unit and its community partners; is that
17 correct?

18 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Well, I would
19 characterize it a little bit different. There is a lot of
20 interest in missing and murdered women, both locally and
21 throughout the globe. We have been approached by numerous
22 production companies from CNN to BBC to some of our own
23 local production companies, all looking to tell the story
24 of what's going on in our community as well as across
25 Canada.

1 We've embraced that opportunity and
2 certainly given these outlets access so that they could
3 tell the story of what's going on in our community and in
4 our country. We've done that in collaboration with our
5 partners.

6 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Now, I
7 understand that as part of that, you were not involved in
8 the decisions with respect to how this is produced or
9 shown; is that correct?

10 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct.
11 We have no control over that. It's blind faith. We trust
12 that they will provide a balanced story to the world.

13 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, if I
14 could ask that the video be played at this time, please?

15 **(VIDEO PLAYED)**

16 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you. Next
17 slide, please. Next, Chief, if we could focus on our --
18 the Winnipeg Police Service Intervention Activities. And,
19 perhaps Darryl you could speak to the type of individuals,
20 three specific types, that are tracked through the disc
21 stops.

22 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** For disc
23 stops, what we're looking at is identifying the exploiters
24 and to track suspicious persons and vehicles.

25 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And then the

1 Counter Exploitation unit, I understand, has made over
2 1,200 contacts in the last couple of years, and that would
3 be with individuals who are potentially being exploited;
4 is that correct?

5 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's
6 correct.

7 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, that
8 information does not form part of any criminal
9 investigative file; is that correct?

10 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's
11 also correct.

12 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** If you could take a
13 look at the next slide, the Counter Exploitation team, and
14 Danny, if you could speak to what this team's mandate and
15 the expectations for it are.

16 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Again, I referenced it
17 earlier. This team is dedicated to being out in the field
18 to reach out and try to establish relationships with those
19 they encounter in the community. They're not involved in
20 any enforcement activity, they are strictly there to try
21 to understand what's going on in the community and
22 establish relationships when possible, educate on
23 resources that are available to these people.

24 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, what sort of
25 coverage does the team have with respect to hours and days

1 of the week?

2 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Because
3 of the merge between the Counter Exploitation unit and
4 Missing Persons unit, they now have seven day coverage,
5 days and evenings.

6 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Right. Next slide,
7 please. And, again, Chief, this was a -- we're going to
8 be looking at a video done by the BBC, again with respect
9 to the operations of the Counter Exploitation team; is
10 that correct?

11 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct. This
12 is an excerpt from a piece that was called Red River Women
13 and it was pretty comprehensive. So, this is just a
14 segment of it that focused on the Counter Exploitation
15 team, but they covered a lot of other ground relative to
16 things going on in Manitoba.

17 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, again, this
18 was not something that the Winnipeg Police Service had any
19 choice in with respect to the music, lighting or
20 production; is that correct?

21 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** We're not involved in
22 the production. We just gave them access to our teams and
23 resources so that they could tell the story. They came
24 all the way from England to tell this story.

25 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. If we

1 could play that video, please.

2 (VIDEO PRESENTATION)

3 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you. If we
4 could have the next slide, please. One of the other
5 responsibilities of the unit, Darryl, is creating
6 community awareness; is that correct?

7 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's
8 correct.

9 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, that's done
10 through a number of initiatives, including with our
11 partners?

12 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's
13 also correct.

14 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Now, if you could
15 tell us about some of the recent initiatives, perhaps the
16 -- working with evacuees from the North?

17 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Yes. We
18 recognize the fact that persons coming to Winnipeg from
19 smaller communities can be vulnerable and at risk to
20 exploitation, so that's why this June, or this past June,
21 we did a joint presentation with the Bear Clan to a group
22 of fire evacuees on the risk and how to identify
23 exploitation and human trafficking.

24 In addition to that, our Counter
25 Exploitation team, along with our school resource officers

1 have also presented to schools, with emphasis on certain
2 age group that would be higher risk to exploitation.

3 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Right. If we can
4 move to the next slide, please. Next slide. And then
5 there was some media attention paid again to the plight of
6 those coming down from the North, and the fact that there
7 was education provided; is that correct?

8 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's
9 correct.

10 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, a sample -- if
11 we could have the next slide. This is just a sample of
12 the presentation that would have been provided to both the
13 groups at the -- with the Bear Clan and later with school
14 presentations; that's correct?

15 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's
16 correct.

17 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, in addition,
18 you talked earlier about, during Project Create,
19 information being provided to hospitality and hotel
20 industry employees, and that's something that continues
21 today in a more formalized way; is that right?

22 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's
23 right.

24 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And the expectation
25 is that will enable them to report exploited persons to

1 police to assist them.

2 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's
3 also correct.

4 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Now, in addition,
5 the Winnipeg Police Services recently started educating
6 other organisations -- thank you -- on -- with respect to
7 working with sexually exploited youth; is that correct?

8 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's
9 correct.

10 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And those -- sorry,
11 go ahead.

12 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** We
13 currently run a course called a youth sexual exploitation
14 course, specifically for CFS workers, group homes and
15 crisis workers.

16 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And as a result of
17 a recent suggestion by a survivor, a person with lived
18 experience, there's been some change to that program; is
19 that correct?

20 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Yeah, as
21 a result of that suggestion we established a fund that's
22 called a survivor fund. So a portion of the money that is
23 being paid by these workers for the course is being put
24 aside for the survivor's fund.

25 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Next slide, please.

1 In addition, there's work going on internally to educate
2 our own members on exploitation, signs of exploitation.
3 And this I understand is a slide from our intranet site,
4 which officers, no matter where they're stationed, can
5 access; is that correct?

6 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's
7 correct. We also give presentations to our recruit
8 classes and from time to time our Counter Exploitation
9 members will attend uniform shift briefings and educate
10 the frontline members.

11 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Next slide, please.
12 In addition, the unit uses analysts to produce proactive
13 bulletins based on information provided, whether it be
14 from community partners or complaints with respect to
15 areas that should be paid special attention, areas of
16 concern. And this is one such bulletin; is that correct?

17 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's
18 correct. These bulletins are used to engage our members
19 outside of our unit and also to be shared with our
20 partners.

21 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And they involve
22 the use of crime analysts to assist in the determination
23 of trans and help direct resources in that way; is that
24 correct?

25 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Yeah,

1 intelligence information we received, not only from other
2 members, but from our community outreach partners, and
3 this information is compiled by our crime analysis.

4 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Now next slide,
5 please. Danny, if you could speak to what this slide
6 looks like and the fact I understand it was prepared by
7 crime analysis for the membership.

8 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** So these maps are
9 depicting certain parts of Winnipeg that are -- where we
10 see the most at risk and vulnerable people being
11 exploited. The two areas being depicted here on the left
12 is the west end of Winnipeg, which is an inner city
13 neighbourhood just outside the downtown on the west side.
14 The map on the right depicts a couple of neighbourhoods in
15 the north end, which is just north of the railway tracks,
16 which is also adjacent to downtown.

17 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Next slide, please.
18 And, finally for this topic, Darryl, if you could speak to
19 the meetings that are held with respect to high-risk
20 potential missing persons?

21 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** So,
22 referrals are made to StreetReach by CFS and guardians. A
23 risk assessment is completed specific to sexual
24 exploitation. We meet weekly, monthly and twice a year
25 with StreetReach to determine who will be labelled or

1 designated as a high-risk individual. So, we don't really
2 chose the top 12 high-risk individuals and those
3 individuals are each assigned a Counter Exploitation Unit
4 investigator and a social worker. So once they're
5 assigned that we use extensive resources to ensure their
6 safety.

7 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And there's also an
8 information sharing process between the agencies, again,
9 to help try and ensure the children's safety, youth.

10 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's
11 correct.

12 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Next slide, please.
13 Next slide. Thank you.

14 Chief, if you could speak -- I know it was
15 difficult to because the Winnipeg Police Service partners
16 with many different agencies, but we're here to talk about
17 its relationship with a few and let's start with the
18 relationship with Ma Mawi if you would not mind.

19 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** So we've had a
20 longstanding relationship with Ma Mawi, particularly under
21 the direction of Diane. Ma Mawi is one of a handful of
22 Indigenous service providers in Winnipeg. They provide
23 all kinds of service, from recreation and social services
24 to services around sexual exploitation. H.O.M.E. is
25 another one, the Hands of Mother Earth, which is a retreat

1 centre just outside of Winnipeg, a safe place where those
2 that are recovering can heal and become more in touch with
3 their community. Even things as innocuous as hockey
4 programs. So, they're involved in a myriad of different
5 programming in the community.

6 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Now next slide. I
7 know that we had intended to show another video and this
8 was another CNN one on H.O.M.E., but given the time
9 limitations perhaps we'll just ask that when I file the
10 record it'll be in the record in that manner, if that's
11 all right, Chief.

12 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yeah, and all of that's
13 available online. It's about a six-minute video that
14 really shows the retreat outside of Winnipeg and how it's
15 used.

16 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. If we
17 could then turn to the next partnership, and that being
18 the sexly -- excuse me -- Sexually Exploited Youth
19 Community Coalition. And if you tell us a bit about that
20 Coalition, Chief?

21 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** So the network is a
22 combination of Winnipeg organisations and community
23 members, including people with lived experience, that are
24 part of that and they get together regularly to address
25 sexual exploitation in Winnipeg. Certainly, some of the

1 things they do, they provide expertise and support to one
2 another, increased awareness around things that they were
3 encountering in the community. And probably where we come
4 in, after being invited into the group in the last few
5 years, to sharing information and resources with one
6 another. They're able to bring suspicious activity and
7 concerns to us and we're able to share information with
8 them.

9 **MS. KIMBERY CARSWELL:** And if we could show
10 the next slide, thank you. This is the -- no, sorry, back
11 up one. This is the group of organisations involved in
12 the Coalition.

13 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** So it's a combination
14 of government agencies, NGOs, quite a few of our
15 Indigenous service providers are included within the
16 network.

17 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. Next
18 slide, please. Next, if you could speak about the
19 Winnipeg Outreach Network?

20 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** So the Outreach Network
21 is again another coalition of outreach workers, this time
22 from 18 organisations, organisations like Ndinawe, the
23 Canadian Centre for Child Protection, ANCR, which is our
24 All Nations Coordinated Response for child abuse and those
25 kinds of things. Primarily what they do is search out and

1 find kids at risk. They try to build relationships and
2 really it's an effort to get them to safe spaces. Again,
3 our focus is -- as part of that group, the Police Service,
4 it's information sharing and support, and also includes
5 some training workshops to better help the workers
6 recognise sexual exploitation indicators. Darryl talked
7 about that a little bit earlier.

8 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Can you -- next
9 slide, please? And the next slide, please. Again, the
10 organisations involved in this.

11 One of the tangibles I understand was the
12 creation of a resource guide for youth who might be
13 underserved and others and that's contained at Schedule L
14 in your binder. The resource guide produced by the
15 Winnipeg Outreach Network. You're familiar with that?

16 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I am. It's a document
17 that they use and distribute regularly in the community.
18 That document was put together by the members of WON.

19 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And it's meant to
20 be folded up, just so you understand, so that it fits in
21 the back pocket or pocket of an individual. It's at Tab
22 L, Chief Commissioner. And if I could ask that that be
23 entered as the next exhibit? The Winnipeg Outreach
24 Network Resource Guide.

25 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Yes.

1 Exhibit 76 is Winnipeg Outreach Network Resource Guide.

2 --- EXHIBIT NO. 76:

3 Winnipeg Outreach Network resource
4 guide (two pages)

5 Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg
6 Police Service

7 Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg
8 Police Service

9 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you.

10 And next slide, please. And could you
11 speak about Ka Ni Kanichihk?

12 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Ka Ni Kanichihk is
13 another of the handful of Indigenous service providers
14 that I've referenced here. They do a lot of programming
15 in the community as well. In this instance I wanted to
16 highlight the Heart Medicine Lodge as one of the programs
17 that they have available around sexual assault survivors.
18 We're not involved directly in the program, but what we
19 were able to do for Ka Ni Kanichihk was to provide an
20 opportunity or to provide production resources so that
21 they could highlight some of the work around the program.
22 We put to -- we didn't -- we had made it available to
23 them, our Production Unit, so that they could put together
24 a video that they could use in the future.

25 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And if we could go

1 to the next slide, I believe with the assistance of
2 Ms. Shelby Thomas. Thank you, Ms. Thomas. This video was
3 imbedded, and we would like to play this one. Our partner
4 has provided permission for us to do so here today.

5 (VIDEO PRESENTATION)

6 MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Thank you. Next
7 slide, please.

8 Chief, if you could speak about our
9 relationship with the Eagle Transition Centre, which, I
10 understand, was created by the Association of Manitoba
11 Chiefs.

12 MR. DANNY SMYTH: The Eagle Transition
13 Centre is a facility that helps many young families and
14 young women transition to the urban centres, like Winnipeg
15 and like Brandon. Our situation in Manitoba, we have a
16 lot of fly-in remote communities to the north, and it's --
17 often, people are coming down to places like Winnipeg for
18 a variety of reasons. It could be education, it could be
19 medical services, it could be to visit relatives, or shop.
20 There's a whole host of reasons that people come down.

21 The urban -- the Eagle Urban Transition
22 Centre is there to help with that transition. One of the
23 biggest things that they help to provide is housing, and
24 helping people transition from a remote community to all
25 the concerns and ills that go along with living in a big

1 city.

2 I can certainly recall one young mother who
3 had transitioned down from a remote community in the
4 North. She was struggling when she got here. She was by
5 herself with her young daughter, and particularly, she was
6 having trouble meeting the rent. And she was desperate
7 and she was starting to turn to the street.

8 Some of our community support officers
9 crossed paths with her and certainly became aware of her
10 situation. They were able to actually divert her and get
11 her in contact with Eagle Transition. They literally
12 drove her there for her appointment and really diverted
13 her from having to be at risk on the street. They were
14 able to help her provide a subsidy for her rent so she
15 could continue her transition in Winnipeg.

16 They provide an unbelievable service to our
17 community because we have a lot of people that come down
18 to Winnipeg and places like Brandon.

19 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Next slide, please.

20 And then the last organization, Chief, if
21 we could speak to, is the Bear Clan Patrol.

22 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** So the Bear Clan has
23 really emerged in our community, particularly over the
24 last 5 years, although they've been around longer than
25 that. They've been under the coordination of James Favel.

1 They do an amazing job in the community, and they're
2 largely a voluntary service.

3 They really came to prominence a few years
4 ago when there was a young teenage boy that went missing,
5 and they stepped up and really provided a coordinated
6 search to try to locate this boy. Ultimately, this boy
7 ended up being a homicide victim, but they really endeared
8 themselves to the community and have gone on to do so much
9 good work, particularly in the north end.

10 They're out on patrol every night,
11 virtually every night. They provide outreach. They
12 provide food to some of the children that they encounter.

13 And you know, we're dealing with a meth
14 crisis in Winnipeg now, and one of the other services that
15 they provide that they probably never even dreamed of was
16 they probably pick up hundreds of discarded hypodermic
17 needles every time they go out. I was taken aback when I
18 walked with them in the spring, just the number of needles
19 that they pick up that would otherwise be laying out as a
20 hazard to our children in the community.

21 So they've done a lot. They've formalized
22 themselves now with board governance. They've got some
23 private funding. We're certainly trying to help them
24 steer them into -- for some grant money for forfeiture so
25 we can help them with some infrastructure. We've given

1 them some radios so that they're safer when they operate
2 in the community. We're hoping that they will be able to
3 mobilize with vehicles as well. I can't say enough about
4 them.

5 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And then finally,
6 Chief, I understand you have two suggested recommendations
7 for the Commission to consider. I understand that for
8 parties with standing and the Commissioners, those were
9 Tab N, I believe?

10 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** So we certainly had the
11 opportunity to highlight some of the work done by many of
12 the Indigenous-led groups in our city. One of the things
13 that I didn't highlight was just how much time and energy
14 many of the directors and leaders have to try to raise
15 funding so that they can keep their programming going.

16 I see Diane doing that. I used to see
17 Leslie doing that. James is going through that right now.
18 Tremendous amount of time and energy trying to raise
19 funds. If I had any recommendation there it would be for
20 sustained, reliable funding so that they can actually
21 focus on the work that they do in the community and not
22 have to spend time fundraising.

23 The second one I would have, and I talked
24 about Eagle Transition Services, they're one of the few
25 services in our city. There is a need for more services

1 like that.

2 And I would respectfully request that
3 consideration be given for more funding so that more
4 transition services can be established. They do a
5 tremendous job helping people transition from rural and
6 remote communities so that they're not caught up in some
7 of the ills of a big city.

8 Those are my two recommendations. Thank
9 you.

10 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Chief Commissioner,
11 could I ask that the recommendations of Chief Smyth be
12 entered as the next exhibit in this proceeding?

13 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Yes.
14 Recommendations by Chief Smyth will be Exhibit 77, please.

15 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 77:**

16 Recommendations of Chief Danny Smyth
17 (one page)

18 Witness: Witness: Chief Danny Smyth,
19 Winnipeg Police Service

20 Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg
21 Police Service

22 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And then that
23 completes the examination, and I would ask that the
24 PowerPoint presentation be entered as our final exhibit in
25 these proceedings.

1 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Yes.

2 The PowerPoint is Exhibit 78, please.

3 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 78:**

4 Powerpoint presentation "Counter
5 Exploitation - Winnipeg Police Service
6 (2018)" (57 slides / pages)

7 Witness: Chief Danny Smyth & Staff

8 Sergeant Darryl Ramkissoo, Winnipeg
9 Police Service

10 Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg
11 Police Service

12 **MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you, Chief
13 Commissioner, Commissioners.

14 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Thank you.

15 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Chief Commissioner,
16 Commissioners, I would kindly ask that we have a 15-minute
17 break now. That will provide us the opportunity to sort
18 of shift the witnesses and counsels around at this table.

19 And I'd kindly ask any parties that have
20 not yet returned your number, to please see Ms. Shelby
21 Thomas during this break to do so.

22 And when we return, Commission counsel,
23 Jennifer Cox, will be up front with Ms. Diane Redsky.

24 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Okay.
25 Fifteen (15) minutes, please.

1 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.

2 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Thank
3 you.

4 --- Upon recessing at 9:58 a.m.

5 --- Upon resuming at 10:23

6 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** We'd like to begin, if
7 anybody could make their way to their seats? Good
8 morning, Chief Commissioner and fellow Commissioners. My
9 name is Jennifer Cox and I am Commission counsel. I have
10 with me today Diane Redsky, and before we begin, Mr.
11 Registrar, if we could have a promise to tell the truth in
12 a good way? And, Diane has a feather here in front of
13 her.

14 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Good morning, Ms.
15 Redsky. Do you promise to tell your truth in a good way
16 today?

17 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes, I do.

18 **DIANE REDSKY: Affirmed**

19 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Thank you very much.

20 **--- EXAMINATION IN-CHIEF BY MS. JENNIFER COX:**

21 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** So, Chief Commissioner,
22 fellow Commissioners, my intention is to qualify Ms.
23 Redsky as a knowledge keeper in relation to human
24 trafficking and sexual exploitation. And, further, as an
25 expert in Indigenous-led community partnerships.

1 So, with respect to Tab A in the materials
2 that were provided, there is a curriculum vitae of Ms.
3 Redsky. Diane, can I have you have a look at this? Do
4 you recognize this document?

5 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes.

6 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** Can you tell the
7 Commissioners what it is?

8 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** This is my curriculum
9 vitae of all the experience that I have not only on the
10 issue, but overall.

11 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** So, particularly on the
12 last page of the document under achievements, there's a
13 number of references there. I'm wondering if you can
14 speak to -- like, there's references to the United
15 Nations. On several occasions, you presented to the
16 United Nations. I'm wondering if you can speak just a
17 little bit about that?

18 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Sure. This is a really
19 important -- as we all know, a really important forum to
20 elevate the voice of Canadian Indigenous women at a global
21 stage. And so, I have had the opportunity several times
22 to be parts of various areas within the United Nations to
23 bring that important voice on violence against women, on
24 human trafficking and sex trafficking of Indigenous women
25 and girls. And, right up until -- I'm leaving Saturday to

1 go there this week, to New York, to be part of a panel
2 that is finalizing the report to the United Nations
3 Security Council on peace and security of women.

4 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** And, the other thing
5 that I would point out is that you've been working with
6 the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre for a number of years?

7 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes, since 1998, and
8 there was a block of time that I worked for the Canadian
9 Women's Foundation to lead a national task force on sex
10 trafficking of women and girls in Canada from 2011 until
11 2015.

12 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** And, finally, you
13 currently have a role with respect to the national task
14 force; correct?

15 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Well, this is the
16 federal government National Action Plan that is currently
17 being reviewed and hopefully launched in sometime next
18 year. The renewal of the federal Government of Canada
19 National Action Plan.

20 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** And, finally, I'm going
21 to show you another document, Diane, if you can just
22 identify what that is?

23 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** This is my biography.
24 It's the long version of it, but there are various shorter
25 versions of it that also describe the work that I've been

1 doing on the issue of Indigenous rights and Indigenous
2 women's issues.

3 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** And so, that was in Tab
4 B of the materials provided to the parties and to the
5 Commissioners. Chief Commissioner, if I could have both
6 the curriculum vitae and the biography marked as an
7 exhibit, please?

8 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** The C.V.
9 for Ms. Redsky is Exhibit 79.

10 **--- Exhibit No 79:**

11 CV of Diane Redsky (four pages)
12 Witness: Diane Redsky, Ma Mawi Wi Chi
13 Itata Centre
14 Counsel: Jennifer Cox, Commission
15 Counsel

16 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** And, her
17 bio is 80, 8-0.

18 **--- Exhibit No 80:**

19 Bio of Diane Redsky (three pages)
20 Witness: Diane Redsky, Ma Mawi Wi Chi
21 Itata Centre
22 Counsel: Jennifer Cox, Commission
23 Counsel

24 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** And, following that
25 discussion, Chief Commissioner, I would kindly ask that

1 she be qualified as a knowledge keeper in relation to the
2 human trafficking and sexual exploitation, and further, an
3 expert in community -- Indigenous-led community
4 partnerships, please.

5 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:**

6 Certainly. Ms. Redsky is more than qualified to provide
7 opinion evidence with respect to human trafficking and
8 sexual exploitation, as well as Indigenous-led community
9 partnerships and marriage commissions.

10 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes.

11 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** So, Diane, we can get
12 right into it now at this point, and I think one of the
13 things that you wanted to talk about first was language?

14 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes. I would like to
15 begin properly, and to acknowledge my spirit name. I am a
16 proud member of Shoal Lake First Nation 40, which is a
17 First Nation in northwestern Ontario. I live in Winnipeg,
18 Manitoba.

19 I'd like to acknowledge the traditional
20 territory that we all have the privilege of being on. I'd
21 also like to acknowledge the elders here today, the
22 ceremonial items throughout this room and throughout the
23 Inquiry, guests. There are many leaders that I have
24 looked up to that are in this room and I know that are
25 watching, and I want to acknowledge them as well.

1 And, Commissioners, I acknowledge you, and
2 the ancestors who are here in this room joining us today.
3 And, most importantly, the families of missing and
4 murdered Indigenous women, survivors of sex trafficking
5 and sexual exploitation, and for all survivors of all
6 forms of violence.

7 I want to remember that there are women and
8 girls, men and boys, who have been affected by this
9 violence that are here, but also that are watching that
10 may be triggered, and it's very important for everyone
11 here to take care of yourselves. This is not an easy
12 topic and issue, to talk about the realities of sexual
13 exploitation and sex trafficking. And so, please be
14 mindful of your spirit while you're here.

15 I would also like to, again, remind
16 everyone here and watching that if you do feel upset, I
17 encourage you to seek support both in the room and
18 elsewhere.

19 So, I'd like to -- I felt it was really
20 important, and thank you for the knowledge keeper expert
21 recognition, but I'd like just to qualify that just a
22 little bit more by giving a very brief overview of my
23 experience on the issue of sexual exploitation and sex
24 trafficking.

25 I've been working on the issue for almost

1 25 years now, everything right from frontline service to
2 developing resources to solve this problem, this crime,
3 this victimization. And, right through to education and
4 awareness that has brought me everywhere around the world
5 to talk about this issue.

6 I've been a part of developing the Manitoba
7 Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking Strategy, which is the
8 only strategy in Canada, and that's really important to
9 highlight, that the Manitoba Sexual Exploitation
10 Trafficking Strategy is the only strategy from 2002 until
11 2016 which today invests \$11 million annually into a
12 continuum of service, and there's a whole range of that,
13 and I'll get into that near the end of my presentation.
14 There are some incredible funding partners and people that
15 I've met along the way as part of doing that work.

16 What's also important is working with
17 survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking that
18 we've been able to develop one of the very first safe
19 houses in Canada for girls and transgender 13 to 17 years
20 of age. Currently, the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre in
21 partnership with our community, we operate the only rural
22 healing lodge in Canada for girls and transgender 13 to
23 17, again, who are sexually exploited and trafficked.

24 I'm a part of a grassroots movement of
25 community-based organizations, survivor systems like

1 police and Child and Family Services, and government all
2 working together. So, that has been my Manitoba
3 experience that brings me here today.

4 And, I'm highlighting this because it's
5 important to understand that we -- and when I say "we", I
6 mean there's a whole community, a whole group of us, as
7 Manitoba's Know More about sexual exploitation and sex
8 trafficking, and how to work together collaboratively than
9 any other province in Canada. Hands down, without a
10 doubt, that is the experience. And so, it's that
11 experience that I bring here today.

12 Just before I get into the first part of my
13 presentation, I'd like to just say a few statements that I
14 feel is really important to put up front before I start
15 and have on record, that not all missing and murdered
16 Indigenous women and girls are victims or have experienced
17 sexual exploitation and trafficking. That sex trafficking
18 is the most extreme form of violence against women and
19 girls, it is a human rights violation and it's 100 percent
20 a preventable crime. My presentation focuses in on women
21 and girls, but this also happens to men and boys, and it's
22 just -- I don't know very much about men and boys, but I
23 don't want you to think that it doesn't happen to men and
24 boys.

25 Sex trafficking operates on the same -- and

1 sexual exploitation operates on the same business
2 principles of supply and demand. The demand to buy women
3 for sex and to pay to sexually abuse girls drives the
4 supply. Addressing the demand will address the supply.
5 That being said, I clearly agree that a comprehensive
6 approach is required and we must end poverty, there is a
7 direct link to poverty and sex trafficking.

8 Sex trafficking is rooted in racism,
9 sexism, classism. At its very worst, it harms and targets
10 Indigenous women and girls who are affected even more than
11 non-Indigenous women and girls. I also strongly advocate
12 that we need the political will and the leadership at the
13 top levels, combined with grassroots and survivor
14 engagement. So, a real top, down, bottom, up approach is
15 needed, and I'll get into that in terms of solutions a
16 little bit later on.

17 Lastly, I strongly agree that the big
18 picture and the end game is to decolonize our systems and
19 we must never lose sight of this. But, what do we do in
20 the mean time? There are things that we can do in the
21 mean time, and much of my presentation is about those
22 things that we can do in the mean time.

23 So, my presentation is set up into four
24 sections, the importance of language, understanding the
25 continuum of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, the

1 work that -- of the National Task Force on sex trafficking
2 of women and girls in Canada, and the Manitoba Strategy
3 that has promising practices and even some more
4 recommendations.

5 So, number one is language. And, this is
6 critically important, because how we set the context to
7 talk about sexual exploitation and sex trafficking is
8 incredibly important because it shapes and it views how we
9 see and how we view the issue. So, some key definitions
10 that I feel are critical for this Inquiry is to understand
11 that a trafficker is a pimp. We all -- if -- so the form
12 -- if we have that image of what a pimp is, that is what a
13 trafficker is, and in fact, that's what meets the legal
14 definition of a trafficker.

15 Another really important aspect of a
16 definition is what I refer to as the sex industry. And,
17 the reason why -- it's important to refer to it as a sex
18 industry is because many of us have been brainwashed to
19 think that the sex industry is two consenting adults
20 behind closed doors, exchanging money for sex and nobody
21 is getting hurt, and in fact that's not the truth. It's
22 not the truth.

23 I am a strong advocate that -- and you will
24 never hear me say "sex trade", because trade implies
25 you're trading something of fair value. When you

1 understand sexual exploitation and sex trafficking as much
2 as we do, you will know that there is nothing fair of
3 value being exchanged. The other is "sex work", I will
4 not say "sex work" because it is not employment. It is
5 not a job, it is not a legitimate job. Again, as we
6 understand sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, it is
7 highly exploitive, and violent and degrades our women.

8 What is also important is to understand
9 that there is a clear definition between sexual
10 exploitation and sex trafficking. And, these are very
11 different. And, women and girls can go from one to the
12 other constantly, moving back and forth between sexual
13 exploitation and sex trafficking. The key difference
14 between the two is a third party, is a third person.

15 So, sexual exploitation is involvement in
16 the sex industry in exchange for money, drug, shelter --
17 any kind of other necessity of life, having no choice but
18 to be involved in the sex industry. And, what's also
19 important is that minors can never provide consent, and
20 there are criminal provisions in the *Criminal Code* under
21 the age of 18, and I'll explain in a second why that
22 statement is important.

23 Sex trafficking on the other hand requires
24 a third party to force the sexual exploitation. So, the
25 RCMP will define sex trafficking as forced prostitution,

1 so if that helps explain the difference between sexual
2 exploitation and sex trafficking. So, for example, a pimp
3 is a third party and is responsible for the recruitment,
4 luring and forcing women and girls to exchange sex acts
5 for money, then hand over all of or part of the money back
6 to the pimp. So, the pimp again is a trafficker. Sexual
7 exploitation and sex trafficking have clear intersections,
8 meaning whether a woman is sexually exploited or
9 trafficked, they are advertised in the same places and
10 they are often bought by the same men.

11 Another important definition is the demand
12 and the buyers. And, we know the demand and the buyers
13 are primarily men who are buying women for sex and pay to
14 sexually abuse a child. And, I really want you to really
15 key in on some of the language change that I'm using, that
16 I'm referring to. The demand and the buyers, they can
17 also be called johns, but I do not support this because it
18 minimizes the crime they are committing, whether it is to
19 a woman or a girl.

20 In Manitoba, our language refer to the
21 demand are -- and you saw some of that in the Winnipeg
22 Police presentation. The demand, because we understand
23 that they are responsible for creating and driving the
24 supply of sexually exploited and trafficked women and
25 girls, we understand that they are the ones responsible

1 for that. They are also referred to as perpetrators and
2 offenders, because what they are doing is they are
3 committing a crime.

4 When sexual exploitation and trafficking
5 involves a child under the age of 18, they should never
6 ever be called teen hookers or child prostitutes, or
7 especially girls providing a service to johns. Why?
8 Because it minimizes their victimization. It also implies
9 that they had some choice in the matter when we know that
10 minors cannot consent. Minors can never provide consent
11 and there are criminal provisions in the *Criminal Code* for
12 under the age of 18. So, instead, they are victims of
13 child abuse. A perpetrator paid to sexually abuse a
14 child.

15 And, I'm going to do a really important
16 version of how this can impact a young girl. So, when I
17 say the word "juvenile prostitution" or "child
18 prostitution", an image often times come to somebody's
19 mind that this is an older person. It's an older girl.
20 That they're choosing that lifestyle, that they're not
21 victims, they're just being bad teenagers right now. That
22 they put themselves at risk, they probably asked for it
23 and it's just a lifestyle choice that they're making.
24 That there is a john and a pimp present and that there's
25 no sense of urgency to help because, oh, CFS will take

1 care of that or somebody else will take care of that.

2 Now, I'm going to switch gears and say the
3 word "child abuse". The image that comes to mind is
4 always a younger person, someone is hurting them, they're
5 being victimized. That they didn't do anything to put
6 themselves at risk, that there's a perpetrator present and
7 there's a sense of urgency to help. Somebody stop the
8 abuse from happening. And, these misconceptions and the
9 power of language just in those two incidences when you're
10 referring to children harms that same 15, 16, 17-year-old
11 girl who is being victimized through sexual exploitation
12 and sex trafficking. She is a victim of child abuse and
13 that is critically important to understand that the power
14 of language and how we set the context will drive how
15 people feel, will drive how people respond. And so we
16 have to call it what it is, particularly when it comes to
17 children. Anybody under the age of 18, it is child abuse.
18 Period. Bottomline.

19 The second part of my presentation is to
20 talk about the continuum. And I really felt that this was
21 critically important for the Commission to understand that
22 there is a continuum.

23 So when we're talking about human
24 trafficking, we're talking about sexual exploitation, we
25 can't see it just in reference of the time it starts and

1 the time it ends, because there's always something that
2 happens before and something that happens after. And so
3 understanding the continuum is really going to give you
4 the education that everybody needs in order to come up
5 with the proper responses -- the proper response.

6 So I'm going to explain this continuum.
7 And I have to say this that this is a generalization. And
8 I've -- have been across the country and know thousands of
9 survivors, and there is a common experience that they have
10 to explain the continuum.

11 I don't by any means want the Commission to
12 think that this is the only way that sex trafficking looks
13 like and sexual exploitation, that it's the only way that
14 this happens and that it looks like. Every woman has
15 their own story and experience about what happened to her,
16 and so I'm only offering this as a generalization to give
17 you the depth and the scope of what sexual exploitation
18 and sex trafficking looks like.

19 So the -- it often begins -- and if you
20 look at the continuum, and I'm going to start kind of over
21 here -- that it often begins very young with some form of
22 childhood trauma. Whatever trauma that is, whether it's
23 sexual, whether it's physical, emotional, any kind of
24 trauma, something happened to her when she was little that
25 created a vulnerability that traffickers can sniff out,

1 and they're really good at sniffing the -- and identifying
2 a vulnerable girl.

3 And so this is -- really kind of sets --
4 can set, and also is an opportunity to provide services,
5 but oftentimes, it has now created her to now she's 13
6 years of age, which is today the average age of
7 recruitment that traffickers are targeting girls,
8 particularly Indigenous girls. They are targeting teens
9 and forcing them into to be sexually exploited and
10 trafficked.

11 And so now she is 13, and she's been
12 recruited and lured and she is under the control of a
13 trafficker, and that will last until she's around 25. And
14 when she's around 25, she's actually of no value to a
15 trafficker anymore. She's no value to a trafficker
16 anymore because she's actually too old. The demand wants
17 younger and younger girls. So she's too old.

18 And chances are by that time, she is highly
19 -- experiencing trauma, she is most likely addicted to
20 something, and she is suffering with some form of mental
21 health. Because of the trauma that she has experienced
22 from the time she was 13 until the time she was in her
23 mid-twenties, that whole traumatic experience has changed
24 her. But now she's of no value to a trafficker anymore.

25 And so, really, five things can happen to

1 her at that time, if it hasn't happened already.

2 The first is that they can stay with the
3 trafficker and they can work with the trafficker and
4 become sort of like a slave, where they are doing chores,
5 they are counting the money, they're cooking the food,
6 they're doing other recruitment. They have a name for
7 them oftentimes called the "bottom bitch", who is the one
8 that is now working for the trafficker and doing
9 everything else but being sexually exploited and
10 trafficked.

11 The second thing that could happen to her,
12 if -- again, if it hasn't happened already, is that
13 families have paid exit fees to get their daughters back.
14 And we heard through the National Taskforce that can be
15 anywhere between \$10,000 and \$150,000 to -- that families
16 are paying to get their daughter back from a trafficker.

17 The third thing that can happen is that
18 they will end up in the survival sex industry, where they
19 literally are living day-to-day. Because of their trauma
20 and lack of supports and opportunities for them, they have
21 no choice but to exchange sex acts for a place to sleep,
22 for food, for drugs, and other basic needs.

23 The fourth thing that could happen, if it
24 hasn't happened already, is that she has committed suicide
25 and/or has become part of the sad reality of those missing

1 and murdered Indigenous women who are and have been
2 victims of sex trafficking who have been murdered or are
3 still missing.

4 The fifth thing that could happen is that
5 they begin the very long journey of rebuilding their life.
6 And many, many do, and you have heard from some very
7 powerful women already, and you will continue to hear with
8 Rachel how rebuilding their lives have been important.
9 And this is an incredible, huge, huge effort they make to
10 do this; and oftentimes, it's the systems themselves that
11 work against them.

12 Survivors have shared with us beginning by
13 being turned down by Social Assistance. That they end up
14 traumatizing, the trauma counsellors, that they are
15 seeking for help to help rebuild their lives. They refer
16 to these years of being trafficked and sexually exploited
17 as the "lost years".

18 A young woman, 24, told us that when her
19 trafficker died, that was her window of opportunity. And
20 it was a really big challenge for her because during that
21 time, that's when computers went from almost nothing to
22 where -- being everywhere. And she had no idea how to
23 even use a computer because she missed all of that; she
24 wasn't allowed to be a part of that.

25 And so these are very basic things that we

1 take for granted. But women do rebuild their lives, and
2 much of the work that -- and the leadership we've been
3 doing, not only with the taskforce report, but also in
4 Manitoba, is making it easier for women to rebuild their
5 lives from this violence.

6 The final part of the continuum -- so if we
7 go over here -- and I'll try not to hit you. The final
8 part of the continuum is very tragic, and we found this,
9 not only as part of the National Taskforce, but also the
10 reality in Manitoba in our work, is that many women who
11 are trafficked die young. The trauma that's done to their
12 bodies over years, and years, and years, and just think if
13 of it; 10 times a day they are forced to perform sex acts.
14 It is a body invasion of its worst kind.

15 Many -- many women talk about each of those
16 incidences as paid rape. And again, 10 times a day, every
17 day, 7 days a week. It doesn't matter if you're on your
18 moon time, doesn't matter if you're sick -- 7 days a week.
19 So the trauma that's done to their bodies results in their
20 bodies shutting down at a young age. So 50, 55 years of
21 age, many of them, their lives are ending at that age.
22 And so that is a tragic reality for women.

23 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** So perhaps we can go
24 into the National Taskforce as...

25 So in relation to the -- Tab C that was

1 provided to the parties and to the Commissioners, that
2 document has already actually been entered as an exhibit
3 in the Calgary hearing, so I'm not going to ask that it be
4 re-entered as an exhibit. But I want to -- for the
5 convenience of everyone, it's been included in the package
6 of material that's been uploaded.

7 So Diane, I'm wondering if maybe we could
8 go to the National Taskforce itself, your work with them,
9 and maybe talk a little bit about the various reports that
10 have also been... Aside from the No More document, there's
11 a number of other ones as well.

12 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Great. And I will,
13 right away. Here we go.

14 So yes, this is a really -- and I
15 appreciate the opportunity to file this as evidence
16 because it is, and continues to remain, one of the really
17 important diving deep documents on the issue of sex
18 trafficking in Canada, particularly as it comes to
19 Indigenous women and girls and I'd to acknowledge the
20 Canadian Women's Foundation for putting the resources into
21 that document to have that -- to fund the National Task
22 Force to do that really important work. I'd also like to
23 acknowledge the Native Women's Association of Canada who,
24 as part of the National Task Force work, was commissioned
25 to do work on specifically on the sex trafficking of

1 Indigenous women and girls. And so that is really
2 important and valuable research.

3 So the Task Force Report itself is included
4 as evidence and is referred to. All of the work that we
5 did is outlined within the Task Force Report. It was
6 pretty extensive with site visits, research, six research
7 projects. We had national round tables with survivors and
8 service providers, national online survey, and then we did
9 grant making across the country ensuring that we are
10 supporting the work that is being done across the country
11 when it comes to some really important promising
12 practices.

13 So I'd like to get into what we learned,
14 overall what we learned about the National Task Force.
15 And I'm just going to go to my page here. So what we
16 learned is the biggest risk factor to sex trafficking is
17 just being a girl. Right off the bat, you're a girl. You
18 are already at risk. The common recruitment age is 13.
19 And I'll tell you something, when I first started doing
20 this work almost 25 years ago, the average age was 16.
21 Today it's 13 and getting younger and younger.

22 Why do traffickers do this? Why does this
23 happen? It's motivated by greed. Traffickers can earn
24 quite a bit of money. In fact, the Canadian Intelligence
25 Service did the math, \$280,000 a year just for one girl.

1 And many traffickers will have multiple, multiple girls
2 and which they're trafficking.

3 The girls and women that are bought and
4 sold from inside Canada are targeted to marginalised
5 girls. There's a very specific market, in fact, for very
6 vulnerable Indigenous girls, very vulnerable Indigenous
7 women.

8 The root causes: gender inequality,
9 violence against women, poverty, organised crime, and, as
10 I said in my opening statement, racism, sexism and
11 classism at its very worst.

12 And one of the things we thought was
13 important as part of the Task Force is to ask survivors
14 and we met with over 160 survivors from across Canada.
15 And we asked them, what systems did you interact with the
16 most when you were being trafficked as a child? Like,
17 where are we all? Why are we all missing this? And we
18 wanted to know, where were you, what systems did you
19 interact with the most. Number one was school, and number
20 two child welfare, and number three a youth serving
21 organisation, community organisation.

22 So we can't be looking for young girls who
23 are the -- it could be anybody. We have -- the
24 trafficking in, in fact, is moving so insidious that girls
25 are even living at home and being trafficked. And so the

1 warning signs are getting harder and harder because it's
2 getting more and more sophisticated.

3 Another important learning of the Task
4 Force is that the survivor-led initiatives are essential.
5 You can't do and shouldn't do any work at all unless you
6 have a survivor beside you, unless there is survivor voice
7 at the table, because nobody knows more, nobody knows
8 better than a survivor. And so their role is critically
9 important.

10 We have done the math on the cost of pain
11 and suffering, the cost of lost earnings as part of the
12 Task Force Report, which is really important. And we
13 highlighted that one of the key risk factors is the
14 inconsistent provincial child protection policies in
15 Canada. We have six provinces in our country where child
16 welfare taps out at 16. So if you're 15 and a half and
17 you are in need of protection, chances are there's
18 actually a risk that you could be denied service. And, in
19 fact, we heard that from survivors that they were denied
20 service because of their age. Given a bus ticket and an
21 address to the closest co-ed youth shelter where we know
22 traffickers just park outside. They are just waiting to
23 recruit and lure from these.

24 And so those are really critically
25 important learnings that we had as part of doing that

1 work.

2 Some of the promising practices in Canada,
3 which I do think are really important -- oh, sorry, I'm
4 going to back up one second and acknowledge the Native
5 Women's Association Report, and I just want to highlight a
6 few things out of the Native Women's Association of Canada
7 Report specifically on Indigenous women and girls. That
8 50 per cent of those surveyed -- and again, this was a
9 small survey of experiential Indigenous women -- that 50
10 per cent of those surveyed were first recruited between
11 the ages of 9 and 14 years of age. That 87.5 per cent had
12 already been sexually abused, raped or molested before
13 they were trafficked. A hundred per cent they were
14 expected to do everything men wanted. 87.5 had to do
15 things they were not comfortable doing. And 85 per cent
16 said they tried to resist and leave their situation. And
17 so 71.4 per cent did not abuse drugs, alcohol or other
18 substances before being trafficked. And so those are
19 really key learnings that we need to understand the impact
20 as it relates to Indigenous women and girls.

21 And it also really is important that we
22 also concluded that Indigenous women and girls suffer way
23 more violence, more extreme violence than non-Indigenous
24 women, which is also critically important for the report.

25 And just to talk very briefly about some of

1 the promising practices that are in Canada. And so while
2 we -- I'll -- you know, we've been highlighting Manitoba,
3 but there are really good things that are happening across
4 the country.

5 British Columbia, their Fraser Health
6 Centre, their emergency room staff in Surrey Memorial
7 Hospital has an online training program for emergency room
8 nurses called "help, don't hinder." The B.C. government
9 has an office to combat trafficking in persons.

10 Alberta. In Edmonton there is a Centre to
11 End all Sexual Exploitation. CEASE is a very -- is a
12 grassroots community organisation. There's ACT Alberta as
13 well in Alberta.

14 Manitoba, I'll highlight more of that in a
15 little bit.

16 Ontario. The Ontario Government is the
17 second province. So there's only two provinces in Canada
18 that have a provincial strategy today. Manitoba, since
19 2002 and Ontario now has a human trafficking strategy as
20 of 2016.

21 I need to acknowledge Sex Trade 101 as a
22 very strong survivor-led organisation that is critically
23 important to having a voice on this issue.

24 Quebec, Montreal -- and I see Clay is here
25 and the work that they're doing to fight against sexual

1 exploitation in their city. There is the Montreal Police
2 Department has a survivor-led service as a part of the
3 work that they do with police.

4 And so those are really, really important
5 solutions and things that we can look to that many
6 communities who have had no money, trying to figure it
7 out, trying to keep up with how much sex trafficking and
8 sexual exploitation changes and how they do -- they've
9 done all of this work across the country. So, it's really
10 important to acknowledge their important work as well.

11 The 34 recommendations to end sex
12 trafficking in Canada I just want to highlight just a few
13 of them for the purposes of the recommendations.

14 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** And so for the purposes
15 of the record, those are the documents that are found in
16 No More, which is at Tab C.

17 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** So the recommendations
18 are essentially into four themes and I won't go through
19 them all because we don't have time and you have the
20 information. That the four themes are: change systems,
21 support women and girls, build awareness that leads to
22 prevention, and collective action.

23 And so I just want to highlight a few
24 from these recommendations that I think are even more
25 relevant for this Inquiry, is that we need to enforce the

1 human trafficking and sexual exploitation laws that we
2 have already. There are many jurisdictions. We're lucky
3 in Winnipeg and in Manitoba that we have a policing agency
4 that works cooperatively with police, but that's not the
5 case across the country. There are policing agencies and
6 other places where there's nothing happening at all.
7 There's no enforcement of laws, and it really is creating
8 a vulnerable and lack of a safety net for Indigenous women
9 and girls. So, we must be enforcing the laws that we have
10 on the books right now.

11 We need to increase the civil causes
12 for action and civil forfeiture procedures to return the
13 trafficker profits directly to the victims. They are the
14 ones that should be getting the money.

15 Another recommendation here that I'd
16 like to highlight, which is critically important, is that
17 we need to vacate and expunge records for women rebuilding
18 their lives from trafficking. All of them pretty much
19 have criminal records, and if you're trying to rebuild
20 your life from a life of sexual exploitation and sex
21 trafficking to get a job anywhere, it is like an upward
22 battle, and having a criminal record makes that like 90-
23 degree, you know, crawl out of hell situation for them.

24 And, we could prevent that from
25 happening if they are given the proper support, just like

1 they did in Illinois in the United States. They have
2 expunged the criminal records -- if any of the crimes were
3 related to as a result of their sexual exploitation or
4 their sex trafficking, those records are now vacated.

5 Another important in terms of changing
6 systems is the decriminalization of women and girls who
7 sell sex, and this is the Bill C36 that we have now that
8 doesn't charge women, because they're not criminals, and
9 that -- but charge the criminals. Charge the demand and
10 the people who are responsible for creating the demand for
11 sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. So, supporting
12 Bill C36 is critical.

13 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** Just for the
14 purposes of the record, again, and for clarification if I
15 might interrupt you, that's the *Child Sexual Exploitation*
16 *and Human Trafficking Act* in Manitoba?

17 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** No.

18 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** Okay.

19 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Bill C36 is the
20 protection of communities and exploited persons bill. I
21 don't have the name on me right now. But, essentially, it
22 decriminalizes women and girls who sell, and it
23 criminalizes those who buy. So, it is also known as the
24 Nordic model that was discussed quite a bit yesterday.

25 A trafficking proof child welfare

1 system. We need to have a consistent protective child
2 protection age across Canada, 18, 19 at least. We've got
3 to stop this 16-year-old that they're not considered
4 children in need of protection.

5 Provincial guidelines to help child
6 welfare agencies help victims. The supporting women and
7 girls. This is critically important, is that -- and we
8 heard this time-and-time again yesterday, and I strongly
9 support that we need to meet women where they're at.

10 We need to have services that are
11 available, that are unconditional, that are non-
12 judgmental, that are kind, that are caring, that are
13 loving, that are mobile, that are creative, that you do
14 whatever it takes to help. And, if that means 24/7, if
15 that means it's got to be located in a certain place,
16 whatever it takes to make sure that when she has that
17 window of opportunity, when that window is there, that
18 there needs to be a safety net in place. That we need
19 training for first responders, that we need a dedicated
20 safe house and detox and treatment beds.

21 We need long-term stable housing,
22 economic stability, and there needs to be long term,
23 really, walking with women for the long term,
24 understanding the healing nature that is required from
25 sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, that we're

1 looking at this long term. Five, ten years; five, ten
2 years of funding; five, ten years of having a constant
3 stable service that is going to be available. And, it
4 needs to be, for Indigenous women, it must be Indigenous-
5 led. Bottom line, it must be Indigenous-led.

6 Building awareness. We're not going
7 to change anything unless we build awareness and we start
8 building the protective factors of boys and girls, and
9 that is going to be critically important. We need to
10 target vulnerable youth to make sure that we're creating a
11 safe environment for them.

12 And, the last part is collective
13 action. So, this is not just a government problem, a
14 community problem, a police problem; it's an everybody,
15 every Canadian problem. Everybody, in fact, every
16 individual in this room has the capacity and the power to
17 be part of a solution. We all do.

18 And so, we're calling upon and raising
19 awareness in the National Task Force report that there are
20 best practises that are out there like in Manitoba, like
21 in British Columbia, where there are strategies that are
22 in place that -- just copy them. Just use what it --
23 tweak it to make it work for your region and your
24 jurisdiction, but the best practises already exist.

25 That there be a convening of a

1 survivor summit. The survivor voice is critically
2 important and not heard enough, and we need the direction
3 and we need to be able to support survivors in coming
4 together so that they're coming up with the solutions and
5 guiding us.

6 And, of course, the last part of the
7 task force reports are to have -- convene expert
8 roundtables on certain issues, whether it be public
9 awareness, research, technology, and national
10 coordination. And, again, funding is critically important
11 in all of that.

12 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** So, with respect to
13 the other documents that have been provided, aside from
14 Tab C, there are a number of other documents that we have
15 provided to both the Commissioners and the parties with
16 standing. And, I'm going to show you -- this is at Tab D.
17 I'm wondering if you can identify that document?

18 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes. This is a
19 really important document, and this is, again, the
20 National Task Force report that was funded by the Canadian
21 Women's Foundation, and it represents the report of a
22 roundtable of 20 survivors who came together. And, this
23 is their voice, and in fact, literally their voice. The
24 entire report is a compilation of quotes throughout the
25 national roundtable hearing that we had in December 2013.

1 And, it is critically important to read this document
2 because there's also many of the recommendations that
3 you've heard already, many of the recommendations that are
4 just about to come, and you'll hear from Rachel as well
5 that survivors themselves have really important
6 recommendations to include.

7 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** So, in that report,
8 there's recommendations at the end; correct?

9 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes.

10 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** Chief Commissioner,
11 if I could have that marked as an exhibit?

12 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:**
13 Yes. Exhibit 81 is We Need to Find our Voices and Say No
14 More, a report from the National Experiential Women's
15 Roundtable, December 5th and 6th, please.

16 **--- Exhibit No 81:**

17 "We Need to Find Our Voices and
18 Say, 'NO MORE,'" report of the
19 National Experiential Women's
20 Roundtable held December 5-6,
21 2013 organized by the Canadian
22 Women's Foundation Task Force on
23 Trafficking of Women and Girls in
24 Canada (24 pages)
25 Witness: Diane Redsky, Ma Mawi Wi

1 Chi Itata Centre
2 Counsel: Jennifer Cox,
3 Commission Counsel

4 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** Diane, I'm going to
5 show you another document which is at Tab E.

6 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** This next document
7 is a report of a national roundtable of service delivery
8 providers from across Canada, which we, the National Task
9 Force, brought together to learn from -- really, these are
10 the cream of the crop at that time that were doing really
11 critical work on the frontlines, on the issue of how to
12 end sex trafficking in Canada, and their voice and their
13 recommendations are also included in here.

14 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** So, Chief
15 Commissioner, if I could have that also marked as an
16 exhibit?

17 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:**
18 Yes. Exhibit 82 is We are at a Critical Moment: Report
19 from the National Roundtable on Service Delivery for
20 Trafficked Women and Girls in Canada, September 18th, 2013
21 task force again.

22 **--- Exhibit No 82:**

23 "We Are at a Critical Moment,"
24 report of the September 18, 2013
25 National Roundtable for Service

1 Providers hosted by the Canadian
2 Women's Foundation's Task Force
3 on Trafficking of Women and Girls
4 in Canada (24 pages)
5 Witness: Diane Redsky, Ma Mawi Wi
6 Chi Itata Centre
7 Counsel: Jennifer Cox,
8 Commission Counsel

9 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** Thank you. Diane,
10 I'm going to show you another document, and this one is
11 represented at Tab F of the materials.

12 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** This is of the
13 Canadian Women's Foundation National Task Force, some
14 research. This is one of the research projects that did a
15 really deep-dive examination of the laws to combat sex
16 trafficking, and this is the final report.

17 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** And, this is also
18 part of what you were involved with; right?

19 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes.

20 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** So, if I could have
21 that marked as an exhibit as well, Chief Commissioner?

22 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:**
23 Yes. Exhibit 83 is the Laws to Combat Sex Trafficking: An
24 Overview of International, National, Provincial and
25 Municipal Laws and their Enforcement by Barrett and Shaw,

1 December 2013.

2 --- Exhibit No 83:

3 "Laws to Combat Sex Trafficking:
4 An Overview of International,
5 National, Provincial and
6 Municipal Laws and their
7 Enforcement" by Nicole A. Barrett
8 & Margaret J. Shaw, December
9 2013, commissioned by the
10 Canadian Women's Foundation's
11 Task Force on Trafficking of
12 Women and Girls in Canada (104
13 pages)
14 Witness: Diane Redsky, Ma Mawi Wi
15 Chi Itata Centre
16 Counsel: Jennifer Cox,
17 Commission Counsel

18 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** And, finally, as
19 represented at Tab G, Diane, I'm going to show you another
20 document.

21 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes. This is
22 another research project commissioned by the National Task
23 Force, funded by the Canadian Women's Foundation. It is
24 an assessment of sex trafficking in Canada, and it's
25 really one of the first research projects that we did.

1 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** And, just for the
2 purposes of the record, Chief Commissioner, the last
3 document represented at Tab H is also an exhibit that was
4 previously provided to the Commission in Calgary. So,
5 it's included for your convenience, but it's already been
6 marked as an exhibit.

7 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** So,
8 Exhibit 84 then, is an Assessment of Sex Trafficking by
9 Nicole Barrett, May 2013.

10 **--- Exhibit 84:**

11 "An Assessment of Sex Trafficking," by
12 Nicole A. Barrett, May 2013 (58 pages)
13 Witness: Diane Redsky, Ma Mawi Wi Chi
14 Itata Centre
15 Counsel: Jennifer Cox, Commission
16 Counsel

17 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** In terms of a point of
18 clarification, Bill C-36 is actually *Protection of*
19 *Communities and Exploited Persons Act*, so that's the
20 technical terminology that goes with -- thanks to my
21 colleague, Ms. Big Canoe.

22 So, Diane, one of the other things that you
23 wanted to talk about was specifically what you have been
24 doing in Manitoba. So...

25 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes. Thank you again

1 for the opportunity. Manitoba is a very -- like I said, a
2 very important province that I believe that Canada can
3 learn, the world in fact can learn a great deal from,
4 because we have rolled up our sleeves and worked together,
5 we have a lot of firsts and we have a lot of onlys, and
6 again, we have made significant impact. And, I want to --
7 what's important about the work that we have done is that
8 it's really important not to leave anybody behind. And,
9 one of the strategies that we naturally came together on
10 is that we developed a common table, and a common table is
11 -- has, really, four key sectors that are involved.

12 The first is the political will, you need
13 the political will -- and we had it at the time and still
14 do. The political will to end sexual exploitation and
15 trafficking in our province. The second is that, because
16 we had the political will, we had the systems at the
17 table, and then we had the leadership of police, we had
18 Child and Family Services at the table, we had health,
19 education. And so, we had the systems that could be part
20 of the solution.

21 The third is that we had community based
22 organizations, and there's many that were discussed today,
23 that are women serving organizations, youth serving
24 organizations and especially Indigenous led organizations.
25 The fourth and probably the most important is that

1 survivors are involved in everything that we do. And, in
2 fact, we have an experiential advisory committee that is
3 the go-to committee for anything related. Nothing moves
4 forward unless these four people are involved.

5 And, in fact, it is so natural to us now
6 that if somebody is missing, if there's a sector missing,
7 there is not a survivor at the table, meeting done.
8 There's not a systems at the table, you know, we can't
9 move ahead without them. And so, it really has created a
10 natural way in which we collaborate with each other. And,
11 you heard a little bit about how that has evolved with our
12 Winnipeg Police Service who have been really critical at
13 helping us address some of those -- and a way to get ahead
14 of the exploiters and the people who are harming our women
15 and girls.

16 The only thing I would add in hindsight to
17 the work that we do in Manitoba is that I would add
18 business. I would add the private sector as part of the
19 solution base. And, I think we can do really much better
20 at that.

21 We have -- in Manitoba, we have a *Human*
22 *Trafficking Act*, and I believe that that is -- did I
23 provide that? I'm not sure if I provided that. Again, we
24 have the only provincial *Human Trafficking Act* in Canada
25 that does have -- yes. That does give two things, one it

1 does provide for civil -- an opportunity to sue your
2 trafficker for money, to be compensated. Two, that it
3 makes it easier for anybody to get a protection order if
4 you have to intervene between an exploiter, a trafficker,
5 and a child essentially, or anybody for that matter. And
6 so, it makes it easier to get protection orders, so that
7 there's an opportunity to intervene so we can have the
8 helpers go in and help women and girls.

9 We fully enforce Section 52 of the *Child*
10 *and Family Service Act*. Every single act, as far as I
11 know, in Canada has a section within their act, that if
12 you are responsible for putting a child in need of
13 protection, you are committing a crime. And so, our
14 province actively enforces Section 52. And so, I do have
15 some information on that. I'm just trying to get the
16 numbers here. So, there's been -- since the *Human*
17 *Trafficking Act*, our provincial legislation, we have had
18 45 cases of protection orders that have been successfully
19 obtained by using the provincial *Human Trafficking Act*.

20 The shirts that you see me wear here today
21 is a campaign that we did when the Grey Cup came to
22 Winnipeg and it's called Buying Sex is Not a Sport. That
23 was a real community initiative of making sure -- because
24 we know any time there are men with money who are
25 transient, you are going to have sexual exploitation and

1 trafficking, whether it's a resource community, a sporting
2 event. And so, we worked together as a community, with
3 police, with CFS, with the CFL and created a campaign.
4 And so, it was quite successful, where we created a lot of
5 awareness, and we had a lot of services that were
6 available for the women and the girls who were being
7 targeted for sexual exploitation.

8 You heard already a little bit about the
9 Winnipeg Outreach Network, and that is critically
10 important because that is a relationship between all of
11 the frontline outreach workers who have incredible street
12 intelligence of what is going on on the frontlines. And,
13 that is critically important for them to come together and
14 to share information. And, again, I'll add that our
15 Winnipeg Police members are a part of that, as well as
16 Child and Family Services is a part of that. And,
17 everybody, again, working collaboratively.

18 We have in Manitoba as I said the only real
19 healing lodge in Canada. We have one of the first safe
20 houses for girls and transgender 13 to 17 years of age.
21 And, another really important program that, when we did
22 the National Task Force, and it's still the same to this
23 day, is the only program in the entire world is run
24 through Ndinawe Child and -- Ndinawe, which is a youth
25 serving organization. It is child and youth care diploma

1 program for survivors of sexual exploitation and sex
2 trafficking, and they have been operating, I believe, for
3 about nine years, and there is over 100 graduates. So,
4 these are now survivors who are working anywhere within
5 the Tracia's Trust, whether it is in a specialized
6 resource like home, or whether it is working at the
7 province, or whether it is working at any of the programs,
8 that we now have a pool of survivors and survivor leaders
9 who are a really important part of moving forward.

10 We have a really strong relationship --
11 again you heard about the Counter Sexual Exploitation
12 unit, and that just didn't happen overnight. It was a
13 relationship that evolved over time because we were all
14 committed to making it happen, you know? And, any
15 relationship, there is ups and downs, and difficulties
16 with relationships, and we have gone over -- like, we're
17 over the -- you know, it took a while for us to build
18 those relationships. And so, we are -- you saw some of
19 the results as a result of the success of having those
20 relationships with the Counter Exploitation unit and with
21 police.

22 The last thing I want to say about the
23 Manitoba Strategy, and again it is a model that is -- we
24 would highly -- in fact, the National Task Force
25 recommends that a National Anti-Trafficking Strategy be

1 modeled after the provincial Manitoba Strategy. And, I
2 want to make it clear that there is an order also to
3 implementing strategies, because when you talk about the
4 issue of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, people
5 want to get involved and they want it to end, like, right
6 now, like right away, and it doesn't always work that way.
7 What we learned in Manitoba is that, before we created
8 education and awareness, the community and the systems and
9 our collaboration built the services first. So, we
10 created the safety net, which was critically important
11 that the safety net be built because the second phase of
12 Tracia's Trust -- our provincial strategy, which is in
13 memory of Tracia Owen, who was a young girl -- that
14 reminds us not to -- that we need all hands on deck for
15 kids. And that Phase 2 of the strategy was to raise
16 education and awareness. And sure enough, as we raised
17 education and awareness, the phone's ringing off the hook.
18 We needed places in which to support people. And so there
19 is a very specific order.

20 So I really caution everybody in the room
21 and the Inquiry that let's not be so quick to educate
22 everybody because if we don't have the proper resources at
23 the grassroots level to be the proper safety net, and it
24 is -- has to be a proper safety net and not just anybody
25 can do trauma inform work, that then -- then please don't

1 do it because you're creating harm. You'll create harm if
2 there's not enough resources or a place to refer women to,
3 and that is critically important.

4 And I just want to conclude my presentation
5 -- one minute over -- and conclude my presentation with a
6 -- the reality of where we are at now.

7 Slide 14. Thank you for your patience. It
8 won't be long.

9 Sexual exploitation and sex trafficking in
10 Canada is getting -- is not getting any better; it's
11 getting worse. It is a growing problem that is almost out
12 of control.

13 The girls that are being trafficked are
14 being trafficked -- are getting younger and younger. And
15 like I said, there's a very specific target and market, in
16 fact, for young, very vulnerable Indigenous girls. And as
17 I said, when I first started doing this work it was 16.
18 That was -- well, almost 25 years ago. The average age of
19 recruitment now is 13, and getting younger, and younger.

20 That trafficking is becoming more subtle.
21 This is -- it's not -- there's not even -- they don't even
22 use the word "pimp" anymore, really, out there.
23 Traffickers are posing as boyfriends or managers or
24 friends, sometimes even peers, and so it's harder and
25 harder to detect, actually, who it is and who is that bad

1 friend or who is that bad boyfriend. It's getting harder
2 and harder for them to stand out.

3 Trafficking is becoming less visible, while
4 sexual exploitation and sex trafficking is becoming less
5 visible because it's going online. And the Internet is
6 making it possible for traffickers, as one mother put it,
7 "to enter my daughter's bedroom through her computer
8 screen". And so the Internet is playing a really
9 significant role in being part of the growing problem of
10 sexual exploitation and sex trafficking.

11 And lastly, that sex trafficking is
12 becoming more profitable for more people, and that's
13 getting back to that sex industry again. That there are
14 more people profiting from the sexual exploitation and sex
15 trafficking -- and it's growing, and growing -- than ever
16 before, and it is alarming, and it is a cause for concern.

17 So I do urge the Inquiry that there really
18 needs to be a concerted effort and the renewal of a
19 Federal National Action Plan that is vital to having some
20 federal leadership in our country. That the renewal,
21 which the -- we had a Federal National Action Plan from
22 2012 to 2016 that invested \$6 million a year up until
23 2016, and then it went down to \$2 million a year. And we
24 hope it'll be renewed. It actually formally has not been
25 renewed.

1 And so we would call to have a Federal
2 National Action Plan renewed because it allows for the
3 creation of laws, it allows for the creation of funding
4 for services, and it allows for the creation for some kind
5 of national coordination of service providers and
6 leadership across the country because that is vitally
7 important in the work that we're doing.

8 And -- so that concludes my presentation.
9 Unless you have more.

10 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** Sure. Just a couple of
11 clarification questions. So going to the Federal National
12 Action Plan, what's been the action plan that you've
13 witnessed of the funding being depleted? So what are the
14 specific things that you've seen that you no longer have
15 available to you?

16 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Okay. That's -- and
17 thank you for that question. The original Federal
18 National Action Plan really focused in on education and
19 train -- education and awareness and training of police
20 officers. Which was really important at that time because
21 we had a new law in 2015, and there was a big question
22 about how do you -- or 2005, I mean -- how do you apply
23 that law, how does that law get applied. And it is --
24 it's an indictable offense. So it's like -- it needs this
25 much evidence in order to lay a human trafficking charge.

1 And so much of the work that was done was
2 by the RCMP. The RCMP National Coordination Centre was
3 established where there was an RCMP officer in every
4 province that was dedicated to working on the issue, with
5 communities, on the issue of human trafficking. They did
6 education and awareness within communities. They helped
7 communities with building action plans and funded those
8 action plans.

9 And that was really vital, particularly to
10 vulnerable First Nation communities, who are very at risk
11 because of either their location or because of the
12 vulnerability of the girls within the community and how
13 traffickers were exploiting that vulnerability. And so we
14 went from having a RCMP officer in every province to, I
15 think there is one now in Canada.

16 And so the education and awareness
17 materials, which I brought a kit, were done through a
18 national consultation with young people, with service
19 providers, with Indigenous communities, with a whole bunch
20 of key stakeholders. And they built a really good toolkit
21 that was available. You could just call and ask for one
22 and they would be mailed to you. And so that resource has
23 been extremely limited because the lack of funding to be
24 able to have those tools out there and accessible.

25 And probably a important impact is a lack

1 of money now available for people on the frontlines that
2 are doing the work, that are doing the work with survivors
3 of sexual exploitation, survivors of sex trafficking, and
4 that there is -- there's almost no money available,
5 specifically through the National Action Plan.

6 And probably the largest lost opportunity
7 is national coordination. Human trafficking doesn't --
8 and any sexual exploitation doesn't care about borders.
9 They don't care about your -- what province you're in.
10 And so we need that national oversight and that national
11 coordination in order to really work at to combat both
12 sexual exploitation and sex trafficking.

13 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** And the next
14 clarification question I have is the legislation in the
15 Province of Manitoba. Is that the correct -- the *Child*
16 *Sexual Exploitation* ---

17 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes.

18 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** --- and *Human*
19 *Trafficking Act*?

20 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes.

21 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** That's what you referred
22 to earlier?

23 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes.

24 **MS. JENNIFER COX:** Those are all my
25 questions, Chief Commissioner, Commissioners, parties with

1 standing. So I think that concludes the direct
2 examination.

3 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Chief Commissioner,
4 Commissioners, I will seek your guidance on this. We will
5 require a short break before. One, for coordination; and
6 two, to give the witnesses a moment of opportunity.

7 But I do want to put to you that it's my
8 intention once I lead the evidence to complete the
9 evidence and not have a break. It would be more trauma
10 inform to be continuous than to pause for lunch.

11 And noting the time is now 11:30, I would
12 like to have your direction on maybe instead of having a
13 5-minute break, we have a 10-minute break, knowing that
14 we'll go to 12:40 to start lunch, or would you prefer a
15 short break and a push-through?

16 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Okay.
17 What's a realistic time for a break in terms of duration,
18 to be honest?

19 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** To be honest, if we
20 ask for five, it will likely take ten ---

21 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Ten.

22 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** --- to get everyone
23 back in here, to reconvene.

24 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** And then
25 you anticipate the evidence then will be until 12:30?

1 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** The evidence is
2 anticipated to be one hour.

3 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** One
4 hour....

5 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I just don't want
6 to start, take the pause, and then recommence.

7 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Okay.
8 Let's do this. We'll split the difference, and we'll make
9 it a 7.5-minute break.

10 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.

11 --- Upon recessing at 11:33

12 --- Upon resuming at 11:48

13 **MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** ...diabetic, we're
14 going to look at getting a few things put out for you if
15 you do need to eat. So, please let us know, but we will
16 work on that as we work through some of the lunch and have
17 a little bit later lunch; okay?

18 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, good morning,
19 again. Chief Commissioner, Commissioners, I have the
20 opportunity now to introduce Rachel Willan as our next
21 witness, and the parties have also been advised of this,
22 but just for the record, we've been fortunate to have
23 Rachel, actually, testify before us before. She, about a
24 year ago, actually, testified for us in the Part I
25 community hearings and shared her personal story as a

1 survivor.

2 She will be touching on some of those
3 issues again, her lived experience. And so, as I've done
4 kind of throughout this week, and as Commission counsel
5 has done throughout this week, we've, you know, kindly
6 reminded people that when we're sharing these lived
7 experiences to 1) to protect your own spirit, but also to
8 kind of walk gently when we are talking with Rachel,
9 because she is going to be sharing a lot of her background
10 and past, and how she has managed to accomplish where she
11 is today.

12 With her today is her husband, Matt. And,
13 when they testified together a year ago in the community
14 hearings, they demonstrated, I think, to the National
15 Inquiry the importance of relationships and healing
16 together. And so, it's good to see Matt again here to
17 support his wife.

18 In addition to that, Rachel was also on a
19 panel in Winnipeg on human trafficking. And so, today, as
20 we move forward and the testimony she provides here is
21 really what the parties with standing will have the
22 opportunity to question her on, not on anything that she
23 had previously said.

24 Before we begin, Mr. Registrar, could you
25 please promise Rachel in on a feather?

1 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Yes, for sure. It's
2 really good to see you again, Ms. Willan. Do you promise
3 to tell your truth in a good way today?

4 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** I affirm.

5 **RACHEL WILLAN: Affirmed:**

6 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Thank you.

7 **--- EXAMINATION IN-CHIEF BY MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:**

8 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, Rachel, I think
9 what we would like to do is we'd actually like to start by
10 putting the PowerPoint presentation up, and Rachel, you
11 created this PowerPoint, I understand?

12 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Yes.

13 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And, there's parts
14 that we've added into this PowerPoint that was a
15 PowerPoint that Matt had created, too. If I understand,
16 you created these for the purposes of the speaking
17 engagements you do with youth and others, and at schools;
18 is that correct?

19 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Yes.

20 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Okay. And, there
21 are no documents to be entered into exhibits today other
22 than the PowerPoint. There will be videos, and as we come
23 to them, I'll ask for them to be an exhibit. But, for the
24 purpose of today's testimony, can we please have this
25 marked as an exhibit?

1 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Exhibit
2 85 is Ms. Willan's PowerPoint.

3 **--- Exhibit No 85:**

4 Powerpoint presentation "Rachel's
5 Story of Survival: From the Streets to
6 the Books" (26 slides / pages)
7 Witness: Rachel Willan
8 Counsel: Christa Big Canoe, Commission
9 Counsel

10 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, if we could
11 just go to the next deck? So, I understand you two want
12 to start with introductions, and I just want to offer you
13 the opportunity to share with us your introduction and
14 what you're comfortable sharing with anyone in attendance.

15 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Good morning. I would
16 like to start off by saying I'm honoured to be back and
17 share a bit more on the aspect of human trafficking, you
18 know, other than my entire life story which pretty much
19 sums it up to almost 99 percent of the early childhood
20 that most of our survivors have experienced, the main
21 contributors being poverty, addictions, being victimized
22 right from the womb. Those are the early -- early -- it's
23 so evident that more than 99 percent of us survivors have
24 endured the same. So, I'm not going to touch too much on
25 that.

1 I'm a married Métis woman. I originate --
2 my community is Duck Bay. My mom was status from Pine
3 Creek. It cut off at me, and I probably carried my
4 heritage with me all my life, and teach my children to be
5 proud of who they are. I have five boys being my first
6 five boys, and then I have two little daughters that came
7 along last, and I share four with my husband.

8 I'm 43-years-old. I've been in the child
9 welfare system since the age of 2, eventually becoming a
10 permanent ward at the age of 4. I was raised in
11 approximately 53 different placements, including lock ups,
12 group homes, foster homes. There was never any temporary
13 home other than one that I could remember, and today, I
14 still remain in contact with my one sister. I still talk
15 to her, and she's in my life. So, is my old foster home.

16 At an early age, I was subjected to lots of
17 sexual violence, starting from -- I would probably say as
18 far as I could remember. I started to remember at age 2,
19 3, 4, 5, and it might have been somewhere between 4 -- age
20 4, age 5, that I actually became a permanent ward of the
21 Children's Aid Society then. My dad was my first
22 perpetrator, my biological dad. I have a stepdad and a
23 biological dad who has since passed on. He was the most -
24 - one of the most brutalist men I've ever, you know, had
25 encountered in my early life.

1 My mom passed away in 2009. My mom shared
2 six kids with my dad, one being taken in 1981 and adopted
3 out, and all I know is his name is Quentin, and I hope
4 some day to meet him. And, I often wonder how his life
5 is, because my dad wasn't only a perpetrator to myself, he
6 was also a perpetrator to my brothers, my older brother
7 and my younger sister.

8 My mom had six kids with my dad, and I'm
9 the only one in my family that went head on and shared it
10 with my family and didn't live in denial. And, I did that
11 by being incarcerated many times and being able to have
12 some points in my life where I had recovery from being in
13 an institution. And, throughout those times, I reflected
14 a lot on my life, and I've always known what happened to
15 me, and it was time to stand up and share that.

16 When I first exposed my dad, my own mom, I
17 think, felt a bit of shame, and she didn't want to admit.
18 Her words were that, "I never left you alone. I never left
19 you alone. I never left you." But, I could remember my
20 grandma, who just passed away a year ago, at the age of
21 87, trudging us through the snow, me and my brother, with
22 my mom, just to bring my mom to safety. As my mom was
23 carrying my sister -- my mom was pregnant year, after
24 year, after year almost. And, I know that my mom loved
25 us, she was just caught in the cycle. And, I didn't learn

1 this up until I sobered up almost 13 years ago.

2 For the longest time, I just felt that my
3 mom didn't love me. And, most often, this was taught to
4 me by the child welfare system, that I was not loved, I
5 really didn't matter. It wasn't in those specific words,
6 but it was in a way where actions were shown to me that I
7 didn't really matter to anybody. And, that's where I kept
8 running, and running and running, and just kept on going.
9 I just could not settle anywhere. I was never looked at
10 internally for any kind of -- you know, fetal alcohol
11 effects or anything. It didn't matter back in the early -
12 - you know, late 70s.

13 And, I have children today that I had
14 exposed to some drugs and alcohol, and they're excelling,
15 and I say that with so much pride because, statistically,
16 I know I broke the cycle. And, I have four at home and
17 they weren't supposed to be in the "regular school
18 curriculum" and they're excelling, grade 9, 10 and 11, and
19 my daughter is in grade 5. And, I say that with pride and
20 it's one heck of a job getting them up in the mornings,
21 but they're in a really nice school in Fort Richmond
22 Collegiate.

23 And, I've really connected with the
24 educational system and it was -- I have turned into a real
25 vicious mama bear, because most often, our school

1 curriculum doesn't fit the needs of our children, and I
2 battle that with them and I said, you're going to fit my
3 children's need. I said, you're not going to turn their
4 life to fit yours. I said, I'm tired of it. And, they
5 have. Without a doubt, they have.

6 Because telling me that I'm not required --
7 my grade 9 daughter, she's grade 9, she's 13. She didn't
8 qualify for bus service, but yet it's 3 kilometres away,
9 and I couldn't understand why. And, they said, we don't
10 do bussing. So, that would make her walk 3 kilometres to
11 school and my heart just dropped. And, I said, well, I'm
12 going to take you up on the challenge, Ms. -- whatever her
13 name was. And, I said, I'm going to take you up on that
14 challenge, I'll be the first one to do it. And, she was
15 very ignorant. Showed hostility within her voice. And, I
16 said, okay, okay, okay. I said -- so she replied, the
17 answer was no to bus service for my daughter. This was
18 just the beginning of the school year. And, I said, well
19 -- moving forward, I said, I'm going to wait for a
20 response from our educational minister, and then for now
21 just leave it. And, the next day, my daughter had bus
22 service. The next day. And, I said, well, isn't that
23 amazing how you found a loophole, eh? I said, you did it.
24 Thank you. I appreciate that.

25 So, having to learn to be kind even when

1 you're shown unkindness from our systems has really been -
2 - 2018 has been my biggest teaching of my recovery. And,
3 battling systems that oppress us and continue to oppress
4 us. And, when my children are my world, I live for and
5 breathe for my children and -- you know, as rough as it
6 gets, my child -- raising my phone bill to \$2,000.00,
7 using 53 gigabytes of data, I just about had a heart
8 attack.

9 So, then, I got on the phone with Fido and
10 then I got from one level to the next level, to the
11 president level. And, I said, listen here, we're evolving
12 in technology, I said, so you just decide to let him use
13 50 gigabytes and slam me up the ass? I said, that's not
14 happening. So, what they did was they eradicated more
15 than half my bill. It's because I spoke up and I said,
16 you need to start -- you know, children cannot get phones,
17 but yet we want to know our children are safe, whether it
18 be boy or girl. So, that was a nice thing, you know?

19 Moving forward, you know, I'm raising my
20 kids. In my early life, I was bounced all over. I ended
21 up in a group home -- one particular group home that was
22 Nichiwamane (phonetic), it's still -- they're still around
23 today, but they're not -- they weren't as big as they
24 were. They had a group home at -- they must have took me
25 back 10 times and threw me out 10 times. So -- but they

1 never gave up on me. Never ever, no matter what I did. I
2 even stole their van and went on a joyride. And, I parked
3 it the wrong way, that's how they knew I took it. Being
4 12, 13-years-old.

5 Sometimes -- and I connect with those
6 people too. And, that's where I first exposed what
7 happened to my dad. And, it was right from that group
8 home, you know, at the age of 8, 9, 10. I was given
9 opportunities to see my mom. I was never adopted, so I
10 was always running back to my grandma's and -- they lived
11 in the central part of Winnipeg. I would always go back
12 no matter where they put me in the city. If they put me
13 in Dauphin, if they put me in Pine River, wherever they
14 put me at, I always made my way, whether it was
15 hitchhiking, catching a ride, stealing a car, I made my
16 way back to my grandma's house because I knew my mom was
17 close by.

18 So, I always came back. And, during those
19 times, I was often looking for my mom, whether it be on
20 Main Street -- half the hotels are not there. And, I
21 didn't really look at it as exploitation but, you know, I
22 thought it was, kind of, cool to be drinking at age 10,
23 you know, getting kind of drunk off of one beer. For me,
24 it was just coping -- instant coping and it was free.
25 And, dabbling into, you know -- it wasn't so much the

1 drugs, but it was mostly alcoholism.

2 And, from an early age -- I've seen it my
3 entire life, so I started doing that. And, I was about
4 12, 13 that I started to pretty much -- you know, my first
5 encounter was with somebody from my community. Other than
6 my dad violating me, was another older man that just
7 picked me up -- I was sitting at the school library. He
8 took me and he just did whatever and dropped me off. I
9 was completely devastated. The first thing I did was jump
10 in the bathtub and scrubbed so hard, I almost scrubbed my
11 skin off. And, I was so scared that -- I just felt so
12 completely dirty. I didn't even know how to respond. I
13 never, ever told anybody. Like, I never told anybody --
14 really, I told -- I shared with my husband, but nobody
15 else I told. And, this person still walks around my
16 community today. But, nobody knows that.

17 I ended up coming back to the city from my
18 community. Something happened there where I was, kind of,
19 not ousted, but I ended coming back from my community. I
20 lived there for a bit and I had some loving family that
21 did take care of me. I must have been quite the handful
22 because I ended up coming back, I had a problem with
23 stealing, lying, all those things that come with that. I
24 was placed in a -- with my grandma's sister. And, I have
25 to say, it wasn't the best place. Me and my brother were

1 beaten. We were the foster kids. We were the kids that
2 hardly got any clothes, that got one present -- lucky to
3 get one present at Christmas while everybody else got 25
4 presents. And, it was really hurtful. And, I was glad to
5 flee from there.

6 I left, came to the city and it was
7 completely -- it just chewed me right up just so fast and
8 quick. I was exposed to coke and shooting up. I was -- I
9 don't think anybody ever knew that I was a -- the bars
10 that don't exist, such as the Manor, (indiscernible), the
11 Patricia, all those bars that are not there today, where
12 Thunderbird House sits, I don't think anybody ever knew
13 that I was 13 or 14, but I was allowed in every single
14 bar, right up until I was 18. Nobody ever knew. And then
15 when I celebrated my 18th birthday, I was like, yay, I'm
16 18. And, everybody just looked at me. Like, you just
17 turned 18? I'm like, yes. I was never 18 to begin with.
18 But, yet I went about it. I've always hung around with an
19 older crowd of people, always, thus making me more
20 vulnerable, I guess, you know, not really thinking about
21 it. And I was introduced to coke, you know, pretty early.
22 And I tried it a few times, you know, 11, 12, 13, but it
23 was not really my thing at that time.

24 And eventually, I was taken to -- I had met
25 some older -- older women, and they always had money and

1 they always had, you know, this -- and so we walked over
2 the Salter Bridge in Winnipeg and she just said to me, you
3 know, "Go down under the bridge right there, just walk
4 there. Somebody is going to pick you up right away."

5 So I just kind of glided with her, and I
6 just followed her and low and behold I was stopped so
7 fast. And I thought it was the coolest thing, not
8 realizing I was being exploited. Because when I got in, I
9 remember the guy handed my \$60 and I was like, "Well, can
10 you take me here first?" To a bar that's no longer on
11 Portage Avenue that used to be called Portage Village in.
12 I said, "Can you take me here and I'll be right out?" And
13 for me I was like, holy smokes, I just got 60 bucks, right
14 on. And then I went back, and back, and back, and that
15 was just the beginning of that.

16 And I really got entrenched into drugs, and
17 I remember being -- you know, I had a baby at 15. I was
18 14 when I, you know, just had 14, just turned 15 and I got
19 pregnant, and I remember -- I'm just going to bounce a
20 little bit back there. I remember the guy was 27, I was
21 15. He had -- he's been with Hydro for over 30 years. I
22 think he must just have hit his 35 -- 35th year. And I
23 have a child with him. My child is 28 years old.

24 I've always had an ability to see my child,
25 but there's a real broken bond where we haven't talked in

1 quite some time. But his dad was actually convicted of
2 sexually assaulting one of my friends that has been
3 trafficked and exploited as well. And how I found that
4 out was, we were sitting in a sharing circle and talking
5 about the first time we had did things, you know. She
6 said, "I wasn't, I was raped." And she shared with me the
7 guy's name and I was just stunned.

8 I looked, and I went racing -- back then we
9 had a warehouse -- I'll call it a warehouse, it was called
10 Seven Oaks Youth Centre. It was not -- you didn't have to
11 be criminally charged with something, it was just a
12 warehouse because there was not enough placements for
13 Child Welfare, well, Children's Aid, back then. So that's
14 where I was staying. I eventually ended up going to Villa
15 Rosa.

16 But I confronted him and asked him, like,
17 you know, you raped my friend. And he goes, "It wasn't
18 like that. It wasn't like that. That's not what
19 happened." But he actually did time for it. And he did
20 18 months for it. I'll never know if they had a sex abuse
21 registry then.

22 But so I think the rift right there, the
23 bond between my son and him that I shared, I basically had
24 my son and Children's Aid told me -- and I can mention the
25 worker's name too. The worker's name was Ruth Turzids

1 (phonetic). I'll never forget her name because she
2 basically said, if he wants to be -- if he wants to be in
3 my child and my life, he has to support us financially.

4 So I agreed, because we just agreed
5 automatically. I don't know what the terms were, but I
6 just remember saying, "Okay. CFS will leave us alone."
7 Because I was so fearful that they were going to take my
8 baby, and at the time I was breastfeeding him. He was two
9 weeks old.

10 And then it came to a point where they had
11 to make a permanent plan, and they put me in a home with
12 an old lady that was about 80 years old. I had no clue,
13 not even a clue, the only thing I knew in my mind was if
14 your baby cries just put him in a safe spot and don't ever
15 shake your baby. So those are the only -- that was the
16 only one teaching I was ever taught.

17 So I remember putting him in the crib and
18 this was the third night, going on the third night. I had
19 no help from the woman, she was never really home,
20 actually. And I remember calling and seeing if Children's
21 Aid, and saying you know, "You've got to come get my baby.
22 I don't know what to do."

23 You know, I loved at him, and I was crying,
24 and I was looking at him and he was crying. I picked him
25 up. I tried to do what I could. I wrapped him, I changed

1 him, I fed him, I burped him. None of that was helping,
2 and I think now that I'm much older that he felt my
3 internal feelings of not knowing what to do as a mother,
4 you know, and feeling my emotions of a bond that was
5 supposed to be, but wasn't.

6 So I put him in there, in CFS, and his dad
7 came to see me after work and he said, "Well, where's the
8 baby?" And I said, "I gave him to CFS." And he was just
9 shocked and outraged, and I just basically signed him over
10 to his dad and said, you know, you have him. And it was a
11 pretty sad situation because I know I loved my baby, but I
12 just never had no skills. I was not taught any skills.

13 Right from then on it -- I couldn't believe
14 how when I was in Seven Oaks Youth Centre they allowed him
15 in to visit me and bring me treats, and allowed me to live
16 with him. And now that I'm older, I always think about
17 accountability. That they let me, at age of 15, be with a
18 27-year-old perpetrator that's been convicted of sexual
19 assault. But yet, they -- somehow, they must have knew
20 that, and I just often wonder where things went wrong, and
21 I'm not going to sit here and sit and you know, just
22 solely focus on the negative.

23 At the end of the day, I was -- I managed
24 to get away from him, but then I just moved on to other
25 exploitation and you know? I'm not going to say I

1 exploited myself, because the first woman that took me
2 down was another older lady showed me where to go, and it
3 started from there and I remember not even knowing how to
4 shoot up. And I remember just sticking my hand out and
5 not even knowing what was going in my arm and just going
6 like this.

7 And twice I was -- I woke up on the floor
8 and still continuing to do it. And I remember running to
9 the bathroom to vomit every time I got -- somebody shot me
10 up and it just started from there. I ended up -- it was
11 just survival. You know, I was running from the system.
12 I was given a sheet of bus tickets a month and \$28 from
13 Children's Aid for the month. Nobody ever checked up on
14 me. Nobody ever knew where I was back then. Obviously,
15 things have changed.

16 I was fully pretty much -- fully a young
17 full-fledged addict already. Had started to shoot up and
18 just, you know, it became so normalized to me, it just
19 chewed me right up and I got into the criminal element of
20 that with perpetrators. Every single conviction that I
21 have on my record is against a perpetrator, every single
22 one is against a John. I've never had a fight or -- with
23 a woman, where I was charged, it was against a -- it was a
24 robbery, a brutal robbery, or a fight.

25 So I look back at that. I became, you

1 know, just completely numb to any kind of feelings. I
2 never even knew what normal was. Like, I couldn't even
3 identify myself as anything. I didn't know where I stood
4 anywhere. I was just a complete numb person existing in a
5 society where -- where nobody paid attention. So I just
6 kept getting high and drinking, and doing everything.

7 And when I say drinking, I would drink the
8 hard stuff right until I couldn't feel and blacked right
9 out. And I had many suicide attempts, many, and you know,
10 I look up now and I thank, you know, I'm thankful that I'm
11 still here. I just don't think it's my time. It wasn't
12 my time ever.

13 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** You were just
14 talking -- you were talking about when you were
15 transitioning into adulthood, where you were already at a
16 place where your addiction took over your life. And you
17 were talking about particularly, charges you had, that you
18 received against mostly, almost always male perpetrators,
19 where you would fight back or do things. This actually
20 created a criminal record.

21 And I'm going to ask the next slide be
22 pulled up. In this you actually have -- you're sharing
23 with us some pictures. I want you to be able to talk a
24 little bit about these pictures and maybe explain to us a
25 little more when you say all of my charges were against

1 male perpetrators, often were those in instances where you
2 were fighting back or trying to defend yourself.

3 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Yes, it was then.
4 Going back on my last one there, after I had left him, it
5 wasn't long, I was in my 20s, my early -- I believe I just
6 turned 20. I had met another older man, again, once
7 again, whom I had a child with who trafficked me right
8 from the moment I met him. And his name was Elford
9 Williams Neil (ph). He's since deceased.

10 I share two sons with him. They're 22 and
11 19. And I love my boys with all my heart. And one just
12 graduated in June. And it was one of the highlights of my
13 life, you know, having him graduate. And I have many more
14 to graduate.

15 His dad I was with for 10 years and he was
16 one of the biggest exploiters that I've ever had. The one
17 on the left is where he beat me. He beat me so bad. And
18 I remember he grabbed me by my face because he wanted me
19 to -- I'd bring home men and I would get the money and I
20 would say, "Okay, just tell him to go now." And he would
21 punch me, physically punch me in the head or grab me by my
22 hair because he wanted to watch me have sex with him and I
23 was not about that. I was, like, "No, just tell him to
24 go." And he got uglier and uglier and uglier.

25 I actually had my first son July 12th,

1 1996. I went into labour on the street corner of
2 Pritchard and Aikins. My water broke standing on the
3 corner while he just stood a few feet away from me. I
4 went and had my baby in the hospital and he said to me,
5 "You know, they're not going to let you keep the baby
6 anyway, so we might as well just go." So I listened and I
7 left the hospital with breasts this big. Didn't even have
8 -- I had one pad. And I was right back to the same
9 corner, just on a -- the other side of the street while he
10 watched me again.

11 I was so numb to anything. I just didn't
12 even realise and it was about a week later that somebody
13 from the authority came and got me to sign papers. And
14 what I signed was my son's status card and them
15 surrendering my baby over to this authority, which I'm
16 grateful they did because I've always had the privilege to
17 see my sons at any given time. Because in every family
18 there's a -- there's somebody that's good in every family
19 and his sister took my sons and I contribute. She's a Ma
20 Mawi home as well. She's licensed through Ma Mawi.

21 She's raised my two sons. And, you know, I
22 never wanted to take my kids away from her because I knew
23 that she wanted the best for my kids. And I know that.
24 One's going to head to university next year, my 19-year
25 old.

1 la Prairie I called this Child and Family Services and I
2 said, "Look, I'm having a baby. I see you through the
3 fence. Your agency's right across from the jail. Can
4 somebody come and see me?" And I had them come see me.
5 And I was fortunate I had a nice lady, you know, and they
6 made three visits a week after I had him. And he went to
7 a good home. He went to a home in a -- with a Métis woman
8 who left her colony to marry, you know, to marry a Métis
9 man. And she learned our culture as a Métis woman. And
10 it struck me. I was thinking, oh, what are the odds.

11 And when she brought him back to me -- I
12 ended up going to treatment for six months on parole. And
13 she brought him back to me and I remember being -- how she
14 had his clothes so neatly folded and she just had
15 everything so cute. And she told me that she really loved
16 my son and my intentions were good in my heart, but I
17 slipped right after that. It didn't take me long, because
18 their father moved in with me. I obtained housing within
19 a month. I got my full parole. Their dad moved in.
20 Within two weeks I was back on the street corner and he
21 would watch the kids.

22 And I was doing the same thing, same thing.
23 I didn't get into the drugs right away, but I got into the
24 drinking because I knew I had to be piss tested every
25 Friday. So after I got piss tested I would go on wicked

1 mission of drinking. And then, you know, the second --
2 and then I got into the hard drugs and there was no hiding
3 it anymore from the parole board.

4 And I don't know how I actually got parole
5 board -- like, how I actually got parole. It was a one-
6 time chance and I remember sitting in front of a bunch of
7 people and they were asking me why I feel I should deserve
8 parole. And I said well -- you know, they said, "You have
9 a big gap here in your record and then you have this --
10 this, like, really outrageous charges." And I said,
11 "Well" -- you know, "Were you good during that time?" And
12 I said, "Ah, no." I said, "I just wasn't getting caught
13 for what I was doing." You know, because I never once
14 stopped. And he said, "Well, that's fair to say." You
15 know, everybody chuckled, but I -- "That's fair to say,"
16 he said, "Because most people would say they were doing
17 good." And I said, "Well, I was never doing good. I just
18 learned to get craftier as the time went on." And that's
19 what we call survival. That's where I learned to survive.
20 And by then I was really adapted to that lifestyle.

21 I ended up going for my sentence. My last
22 sentence was a Gladue sentence. Somebody mentioned a
23 Gladue yesterday and that played a huge role in my
24 recovery. And it took me to plan my Gladue decision. It
25 was never offered to me in a prison. I told my lawyer, "I

1 will not go and be sentenced in front of a judge unless I
2 have the Gladue component." I said, "No, no."

3 They wanted to do a PDR, which is a
4 predisposition report, and I said, "No, no. I'm not
5 accepting it. I'm not dumb. I know my rights. No." I
6 said, "So send somebody here." And I refused to take any
7 other worker unless it was my probation officer that I had
8 previously. I had her for -- she's become like a mom to
9 me. She just finished ringing the bell on her cancer
10 treatment. And I still keep in contact with her today.

11 And, you know, I was able to move forward
12 when I got my parole and I left. And but I just became --
13 he was just dragging me down. And I ended up going back
14 to jail. My kids got taken away. Well, he kept them
15 actually. And then while I was inside everything was
16 being sold. I was phoning outside. I had two boys. I
17 obtained them, got them back.

18 And I did the work actually in treatment.
19 I stayed in treatment for -- in St. Norbert for six and a
20 half months. He stayed for one month and left. He got
21 kicked out because he was too violent to me in treatment.
22 And that's why he got kicked out. So basically he was
23 waiting on the outside for me when I came back and it got
24 really, really ugly.

25 When -- how I got my parole revoked was he

1 phoned in. Within 24 hours they caught me, 12 hours
2 after. He told them what corner I was standing on,
3 because I took too long to come back with money to supply
4 him. And I was happy to go back, but I missed my kids, my
5 two boys.

6 I went back. And while I was in there for
7 those six months finish -- to my warrant expiry date, I
8 remember thinking, you know, I'm going to kill this guy.
9 And this is me sober. And the first thing the prison did
10 was want to put me on anti-psychotic meds. And I said,
11 "Oh, no, no, no, no. No." I said, "I'm just trying to
12 tell you how I feel," I said. And I reached out to a few,
13 you know, people that I trusted.

14 And the whole prison system, I mean, right
15 from when I was 17 -- I was actually -- I was 17 when the
16 first -- when the remand centre, when it first opened, I
17 remember I was 17. And I got spoiled. I was a little
18 spoiled inmate by the older women that actually loved me
19 in there, and I was like the little boss. I was working
20 in the kitchen, and -- you know, that's who became my
21 family.

22 Today even, I connect with a lot of the
23 older women. Not all the older women are exploiters, but
24 I did have one exploit me as well. But that part, they
25 know who they are, and they're probably watching today.

1 They're still in my life, and I have lots of -- I just
2 love them to death. They stand by me.

3 And during those thoughts of wanting to
4 kill him, I was sober. And I couldn't believe. I told my
5 mom, "You know, I think that I'm going to kill Neil when I
6 get out", you know, because I'm having these thoughts. So
7 then finally, I just prayed, and I prayed, and I prayed,
8 and in the cell, you know, please, I just -- I can't live
9 like this anymore.

10 And when I got out, I left jail with
11 \$1,900, knowing I was planning to get high. You know, I
12 could say in my heart, I didn't want to get high, but I
13 knew, okay, I'm saving up for when I get out; I'm going to
14 have one big party. Because my intentions weren't to get
15 well because I had too much trauma.

16 So I left. Got out. Never seen him. He
17 looked for me, kicked doors in for me. The doors that he
18 kicked in were actually houses, and he got turned out
19 pretty good because I hid in the closets.

20 Women defended me. Women locked the door
21 or held the door because they wouldn't let him into the
22 door where I was, where I was hiding in a closet filled
23 with dirty clothes and needles hiding from him. It was
24 women holding the door shut that protected me, and it was
25 my other survivor sisters that said you're not going to

1 hurt her.

2 And one of them, she -- her name is
3 Christine, but we called her Cece. She's like my best
4 friend. And she committed suicide. She was just going to
5 attend her second year at River College, Youth and
6 Childcare Program. And we walked our life together. And
7 she left behind -- all six of her kids were taken, and she
8 was finally raising one little baby boy named Frank. And
9 she was like my little right sidekick, you know. She was
10 feisty as heck. And I miss her so much. I miss her right
11 -- every day.

12 Flying here, I was thinking and looking at
13 the clouds, you know. And I think my mom's in the clouds.
14 You know, that was going through my mind.

15 So I was able to break free from that
16 relationship, you know. I didn't call it a relationship;
17 I just called it -- I didn't know what to call it,
18 actually. And I continued to use, and I ended up meeting
19 Matthew, meeting Matthew. And when I met him -- he has
20 his side of the story, and his side consists of being
21 forced to sell drugs too at a young age to survive.

22 And he was new, because I had never met
23 him. Mind you, it shifted here because he's five years
24 younger and I'm five years older. So I don't know what
25 you want to call me, but -- a cougar, or whatever you want

1 to call me, but it's been, you know, 18 years.

2 And he's never been a drug user. I was.
3 So it was really difficult and volatile. It was not the
4 greatest beginning, but to us, it was the greatest
5 beginning. But to society, we were two monsters that were
6 probably going to -- you know, Bonnie and Clyde, that
7 we're going to just hurt somebody.

8 And he was selling drugs and I was coming
9 to buy. You know, he sat there one day, and he said,
10 well, "Why do you do what you're doing?", and I was always
11 defensive, and I said, "Well, why do you do what you do?",
12 I said, you know. I just told him no business asking me
13 why I'm doing what I'm doing.

14 But he was wondering, you know, because he
15 was just basically plopped there too to sell from --
16 exploited from his parent, his dad. You know, that's
17 something that his dad exploited him to sell drugs. But
18 at the same time, he had a moral compass where he said he
19 knew what he was doing was wrong, he knows what I was
20 doing was wrong.

21 So we connected and we sat and talked for
22 hours, and I was jittery and I was flying all over, and I
23 was -- you know. But at the end of it all, we made a
24 connection. And never -- we never talked like about
25 anything, you know. And he said in his mind he thought,

1 you know, in this house, all these beautiful women. If I
2 was going to ever pick anybody it would probably be that
3 strong woman right there. He tells me this later. And
4 I'm like...

5 So we kind of, you know, just started
6 talking and talking, and out of all the treatment --
7 shitty treatment, you know, "Okay. You're done getting
8 high. Get out the door". That's how most people --
9 dealers are. I turned vicious. I chucked chairs. I've
10 threw knives. I threw bottles at dealers who expect you,
11 in minus 55, when you're coming by, to get high really
12 quick, and they shoot you out the door.

13 And I said, "Listen here you", you know, "I
14 put clothes on your back, I feed your big mouth. You
15 ain't fuckin' throwing me out until I'm done. You're not
16 doing this." And I got vicious and I they would have to
17 call the higher up. And I said, "I'm still not leaving.
18 I don't care who you call. Call whoever you want." And I
19 was vicious. I turned so ugly that I felt that one of
20 those little boys selling to me, they're going to be
21 paying for it because I'll knock their teeth right out of
22 their gums.

23 You know, I was at that point that you're
24 not going to mistreat me anymore. Just because I'm
25 addicted, you're not -- and you're selling, and they think

1 they're cool making this money. And I'm thinking, hmmm,
2 well I'm an old dog. Not happening. So they just kind of
3 let me be.

4 And the stipulation for Rachel to go in any
5 drug house was make sure Rachel's not drinking. But I was
6 really clever. I put it all around me. I put all my
7 bottles around me, and I sat there really quiet until they
8 kicked in, and then hell broke loose and I was out the
9 door. So that's how I coped for the longest time.

10 And I got to meet Matt more often and more
11 often. You know, it was about a month, and we ended up
12 getting into a relationship. And that was pretty much the
13 end of his selling, you know. It happened.

14 I got pregnant immediately. And I shared
15 with Matt at the same time that at that time I had
16 contracted Hepatitis C, but I was really fortunate. By
17 the grace of God, you know, Creator, I thank -- I'm
18 thankful because I don't have it no more. We know it's
19 curable. I just could not believe the life I lived that I
20 didn't walk away with HIV. Through everything I've been
21 through.

22 And I shared with Matt, this is who I am,
23 this is what I have, this is the baggage I come with, you
24 know. And he accepted it. He accepted it.

25 And the one thing that was really difficult

1 was I only knew one way to live. I only had one vision
2 and that was to cope. So when I got pregnant I would try
3 and sneak away. And he'd find me, and I would fight back,
4 and -- you know. I want to -- he said, "I just want to
5 have a healthy baby. I don't want to have a baby that's
6 addicted to drugs." And I didn't know any other way but
7 just to get high.

8 So we moved forward, and I had some long,
9 good healthy -- and there's our kids, our babies there.
10 Serenity is -- oh, it didn't go up there.

11 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Can we just change
12 to the slide that has the picture of Rachel and the kids?

13 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Serenity is the one on
14 the left. She had the -- she was born during my recovery.
15 I've been sober since April 23rd, 2007. And my other
16 three right here were taken in September 6th, 2006.

17 And from September 6th, 2006 until
18 April 23rd, 2007, I was out on bail for a violent, violent
19 assault, robbery, and forcible confinement. And I felt so
20 invisible because many doors were kicked in in the houses
21 I was in. I couldn't understand, I have a warrant out,
22 how come they're just letting me go? I used to wonder
23 like, what's going on? I know they're investigating
24 somebody, but why am I still sitting here?

25 We had a Canada-wide parole lady sitting on

1 the -- she was wanted on a Canada-wide warrant. She's
2 laying on the couch. I'm here cowering, hiding, trying to
3 say my name's a different name. But I know our police
4 knows our names. And I'm thinking, how come they're not -
5 - they don't want me? So it left me just to spiral into a
6 deeper...

7 At this time, Matt was getting well,
8 and -- he was getting well. He was visiting our kids
9 every week for -- you know, there was 50 -- over 50 visits
10 where Matt was the connection to our children. For six
11 months I was in jail. For six months I was -- I was just
12 using. I was down to a -- I was about 90 pounds when I
13 got arrested, and I had three pairs of jeans on and I was
14 Size 0. And, it was kind of when they arrested me, I was
15 just like, "Oh, I'm so glad I had racked up 24 charges."
16 I just surrendered right then and there.

17 But, I still had a hard element to me
18 where I just needed to get rid of it, and you know, I
19 turned to prayer. I did. People could say -- you know, I
20 think that when you mix our cultural component with our
21 faith, it's actually very beautiful, and I love that about
22 our human spirit, is that we can feel what we need to feel
23 and mix two things together and make it beautiful.

24 And, I'm not ashamed to say, you know,
25 I prayed to God, because at the end of the day when people

1 say to me, "Oh, I don't believe in God," and I say,
2 "Bullshit. When you're in a cell, you're praying to him,
3 so shut up." Don't tell me you're not praying to him,
4 because you are, because I did, you know?

5 And, for me, that's where I found
6 myself. It was in a cell. I was, like, I am so tired of
7 being tugged in every direction. I swear to God I just
8 was tugged from child welfare, EIA, Justice, probation. I
9 had everybody under my skin pulling me. I didn't even
10 know where I stood. I didn't even know who I was. I was
11 so fuelled by shame. I'm supposed to be a mom. My family
12 looked down on me. "Oh, she's just standing on the
13 corner." "Oh, she's just doing" -- certain family
14 members, not all my family. My grandma had 13 kids, 12
15 kids; eight daughters. I believe eight daughters, or nine
16 daughters, sorry.

17 But, my mom -- I have a particular
18 auntie. If she's watching this, she knows who she is.
19 Always checked up on me. Always did, and she has become a
20 big force, like a big -- you know, she's the auntie that
21 had one son, one daughter. My uncle has been at his job
22 for -- I actually have good, stable family members that
23 have been employed for 35, 40 years in the same field,
24 like, whether it be labour work or whatever. But, there's
25 a few family members that I do have that are healthy.

1 But, there's a real disconnect, you
2 know? Because it's judge -- they're the judge. "Well,
3 she stood on the corner", and they were very embarrassed
4 about it, and it made me more shamed. But, I moved
5 forward anyway.

6 And, my mom passed away. I got
7 pregnant and I was just praying and praying that my mom
8 would be able to meet my little daughter, Serenity, the
9 little one. She got to meet her, and the one thing is my
10 mom was married November 1st, 2008. That was her final
11 wish, because the cancer had come back. And, that's why I
12 got released.

13 I had to sneak a letter into my pad
14 from one institution to the next, which you're not getting
15 to see nobody, and I had to sneak it to my lawyer to give
16 the judge. I had written a three-page paper that took me
17 almost probably a month to rewrite and write, but I really
18 wanted to highlight if I'm given a second chance, this is
19 what I'm going to do.

20 And, I got that second chance, and I
21 got bail. I got bail on my own recog., and I couldn't
22 believe it. I was, like, this woman is letting me walk
23 free today? Like, she's letting me go? And, I got -- and
24 no surety or nothing. And, I made sure that when I called
25 in my second chance, I was going to make the best of it.

1 And, you know, today, I'm 13 years
2 sober. I ended up going back to school. I'll be 13 years
3 sober. This was one of my first visits after I had seen
4 my kids. It was at Wabun I got to see my little Serenity.
5 It was really weird, because we got married, and he went
6 home, and I went home with my baby.

7 So, we had Revenue Canada up our
8 alley, and we're having to, like, violate ourselves as
9 human beings. Okay, you really want to know? We have
10 child welfare involvement. He has to live there, I've got
11 to live here. Why? You've got to explain to them why,
12 and these are people you don't know.

13 So, we're constantly having to
14 revictimize ourselves as people, because we're technically
15 married, but we have two different households. We have to
16 explain to EIA systems. We have to explain to the
17 government. We have to explain to everybody why we're in
18 the situation we're in, but yet, we're married. It was
19 really odd because, you know, to get married and just him
20 go home, me go home, and "Okay, see you husband." "See
21 you wife."

22 But, you know, we ended up getting
23 married and, you know, it was a beautiful day. Our
24 children were all involved. I just had my baby. I was
25 taking a program that was mentoring women, and I stayed in

1 that program for 18 months. As soon as I finished that, I
2 became employed with the Native Women's Transition Centre.
3 I never thought that I would ever live to see to have an
4 actual job, because I was so conditioned to live on
5 welfare, and that's the colonial systems that are designed
6 to make us think we must just live on welfare.

7 And, you know, regardless, I feel, you
8 know, I couldn't handle it. Every worker I met had
9 something up their butt, and I was just, like, "Oh, God,
10 I'm so tired of dealing with you." That's why there's
11 plexiglass here, you know, because the money is not coming
12 from your pocket, it's coming from up over there. So, get
13 it out of your head.

14 There was always something political
15 you had to face. So, I made sure that, you know, I worked
16 for a bit. Five years, actually, I was employed, and I
17 resided at Native Women's for 18 months, and that's where
18 my baby was born. I was given a chance from Judge Patti-
19 Anne Umpherville. She stepped down from the bench, and
20 her words to me were -- when she sentenced me and gave me
21 my opportunity to be out in the community on such
22 offenses, she said that my case that she read of my Gladue
23 was the most hardest one she's ever read in her career as
24 a judge.

25 So, standing there, ready to give

1 birth two days prior, like, I was ready for a scheduled
2 induction and, "You go and have your baby, but you don't
3 want to come back before me, because you won't get another
4 chance." I was sure that I was not going to come back,
5 and I did not come back.

6 By then, the Crown had appealed and
7 said I shouldn't have -- I shouldn't be out in the
8 community. I should be locked up. And, lo and behold, I
9 went in for -- it went to the three-judge level, I guess,
10 and all of a sudden, it was Judge Murray Sinclair, and I
11 was just staring when I walked in the courtroom. I'm
12 like, huh? Huh? Oh my God. So, I was kind of, like,
13 excited but scared. I was thinking, well, I know he
14 believes in us people. I know he does. So, I'm not going
15 back to jail.

16 I already had this in my head, you
17 know, because somebody has got to believe in us somewhere,
18 and I know this guy does. And, he denied the primary,
19 secondary and all grounds, that I'm doing what I should be
20 doing in the community. I'm not running around doing
21 other things. And, I worked really hard to get there and
22 I ended up having my baby, being a resident to being
23 employed.

24 I'm going to be honest. I loved the
25 work. You know, I didn't even consider it work. It's a

1 way of life. We give back as a means of -- that's our way
2 of life. It is by giving back. And, I don't let no room
3 for boredom come in my head. I'm constantly going where I
4 overdo it, where I need to actually just sit down and take
5 time.

6 I went back to school. I took a two-
7 year course on child welfare, a very condensed course. I
8 did a lot of healing. My husband also took the same
9 course after me. He was running a roofing business and he
10 said, "Hmm, I don't want to be a labourer all my life
11 here. I think I'm going to go back to class."

12 So, he ended up coming back, after me,
13 though. And, we -- I guess I'm just going to...

14 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, we just
15 put up on the screen From Tears to Triumph, and you know,
16 we know that you and Matt got married in 2010. You both
17 went back. You got more education, and I want to kind of
18 bring us to the kind of work you're doing now and all of
19 the success you've had now. I know we have a couple of
20 videos we want to run, and I know that you guys both want
21 to -- you in particular wanted to have an opportunity to
22 talk about one of the mentors that have made a big change
23 in your lives and the work you're doing now. I understand
24 that one of the big things that just recently happened was
25 that the work you guys do, you actually got a van through

1 a charitable organization as a result of the good work
2 you're doing. And so, if you could maybe explain to us
3 some of that good work and how the van came to be, and
4 then we can show the clip of it.

5 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** There's a
6 component to therapy. We work with Mitch. We're both
7 contracted through child welfare agencies and we work with
8 -- he works with the young boys, I work with -- I have my
9 case load. And, we hold some pretty big case loads. And,
10 there's also an adult component from when they age out.
11 It goes from 18 to 40. It used to be 29, but now it's 40.
12 And, it's for men and women.

13 And, it's to enhance -- give them life
14 skills, giving back to the community. OPK is an offset,
15 just so that they're followed after they come out of care
16 or age out, and it's for men and women. Particularly a
17 lot of men are in it, so my husband takes on that role and
18 that's the work we do with OPK.

19 We were just recently asked to --
20 received the keys to a 2017 Dodge Caravan through United
21 Way -- through MPI. Manitoba Public Insurance gives away
22 a vehicle every year and they chose OPK. And, Matt did a
23 -- I'm probably the only woman -- I follow the men around
24 most of the time, I don't know why. Well, my husband is,
25 so I, kind of -- I think it's important to bring woman --

1 a balance with the woman in the youth, teach them at a
2 young age what's healthy and what's not. So, I bring my
3 girls.

4 And, when they want to look for boys,
5 they say, well, let's go drive down Selkirk and look at
6 Ndinawe. Oh, let's see, I said, I'm going to take you to
7 church to go look for boys. Never mind going to Ndinawe.
8 So, I'm always teaching my little girls balance. And, my
9 girls start from 10 to 20. Age 10 is my youngest therapy
10 girl. He has -- his as well. He's had a lot of success
11 with his. And, that's the first one. We received a van
12 just on October the 11th, the United Way Kickoff Campaign,
13 and it was awesome.

14 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, this is
15 the first video.

16 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Mitch. He's like
17 Papa Mitch. Yes.

18 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, we could
19 play the video ---

20 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** He took us under
21 his wing and ---

22 (VIDEO PRESENTATION)

23 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, Rachel, I
24 noticed that you were also in the circle, and I think some
25 of your children were in that circle too, eh?

1 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Yes.

2 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, it's
3 really become, kind of, a family business to support the
4 community, that pathway to give back. And, I think I've
5 heard you both say this before in part, it's part of the
6 healing process, giving to others helps, and it's part of
7 the healing process. I know that -- I want to give you a
8 chance to talk a bit about the Action Therapy as well, in
9 terms of the work that you guys do. And, one of these
10 important components is you guys -- you said it wasn't
11 easy in the beginning, things didn't work well.

12 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** No.

13 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And, all these
14 circumstances that kept you apart because of the
15 volatility of your relationship, but then you healed and
16 you have been sober together for years, and now you give
17 back to the community, and you volunteer, and you work and
18 you've got the education to help people who may be in
19 similar circumstances. What about things like the work
20 you're doing now with Action Therapy and helping people in
21 Winnipeg?

22 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Some of the work -
23 - I know my work is just completely -- I immerse myself in
24 taking care of our women. I'm not -- you know, I love all
25 of our people. Taking care of our woman, adult, youth,

1 kids, however it is. Some of the things we do in Action
2 Therapy are, we volunteer for Got Bannock, Mama Bear Clan,
3 which is just an offset, it's a supported women supportive
4 initiative. Feeding our -- doing some Lateral Empathy,
5 which is volunteering, and another part that OPK does too,
6 as well as -- is moving women out of domestic violence
7 situations at the drop of a hat. There'll be teams of
8 guys that will go move a woman and her basic necessities,
9 and her children, away from harm, and take her somewhere
10 safe. Most often, it's not a shelter, because we don't
11 have enough shelters in Winnipeg. And, literally, there
12 is -- the woman has to have somebody special in her life
13 to go to, that's safe, because we don't have enough. But,
14 the team, I try not to do the lifting, but they come and
15 they take that woman out and bring her to safety. And,
16 often times, it's -- they get that call.

17 A lot of sweat lodge ceremonies we go
18 to. I know I (indiscernible) a lot of them,
19 (indiscernible), and it's beautiful. Building -- you
20 know, building networking, building relationships with
21 other ones. And, I never forget where I come from. I
22 drag Matt with me to all this sexually exploited youth
23 coalition meetings that I had (indiscernible) away, and I
24 think it's important to balance out our trans, our women,
25 as well as our men. So, I bring Matt along on a lot of

1 them.

2 And, just teaching them land based
3 activities, hunting, fishing, and it's a therapeutic way.
4 And, basically what we do is we're -- we're the in
5 between. When they're transitioning out of care and
6 having their term -- like, when you hear "social worker",
7 a lot of them are really -- have become pretty -- they
8 don't like their social worker, put it that way. So, I'm
9 just, kind of, the bridge in between the worker and the
10 child, and just doing that -- changing their ways and
11 trying to have -- like, even explaining to a 10-year-old
12 why this has happened to her.

13 And, actually, just last week, I got the
14 worst social history I've ever read in my entire life. It
15 actually traumatized me when I read it last week, because
16 I was trying to make sense of how can -- what's going on
17 and why isn't this -- something's not right. Why is there
18 just silence or one liners. I'm not getting, like -- you
19 know, it's four months now and I should have, kind of, got
20 somewhere. So, I had to figure out why. And, when it was
21 sent to me, I was like, ha, I had to read it twice. ...But
22 now it all makes sense to me of why my beautiful little
23 girl -- you know, I call them my girls. Everybody thinks
24 I have 20 kids. They're my girls, I said. I'm really
25 protective, so don't bother my girls. But yeah. So

1 that's part of what we do.

2 And we actually foster two. And I
3 explained to my kids that that's their sisters. When you
4 go to school, those are your sisters, and they're your
5 sisters in the house here. So you must know this. And my
6 kids are pretty understanding. Yeah.

7 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** While Rachel and I
8 -- while Rachel asks -- answers my next question, if we
9 could go through the decks that show the pictures, the
10 next few pictures, but stop at "right where I'm supposed
11 to be", the slide.

12 But if -- you know, as we're talking about
13 this, Rachel, one of your philosophies is, you know,
14 everything you've gone through and all the hardship and
15 stuff puts you in a place today -- you've mentioned that
16 you're a helper. You explained that you're a helper in
17 sweat lodge and that you're doing lots of spiritual stuff.
18 But can you tell us a little bit about what you mean when
19 you say, "right where I'm supposed to be today"?

20 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** I had a few jobs. I
21 worked at our exploited safehouse, our shelter, our
22 women's centre that is the only one in Winnipeg that is
23 open for a few hours a day. I was actually employed for
24 1 year there and I resigned, by my choice, because it's
25 not effective case planning. It's completely upside down,

1 and I ain't afraid to say that. It is upside down.

2 We have survivors that have contributed
3 years of their life to this program, and upper management
4 has torn it into pieces. And I'm not ashamed to say that
5 I made a phone call on Monday and I said, "What are you
6 doing?" You know, "Our women will not -- they'll stay
7 silent, they won't say anything. So they're further
8 entrenched into exploitation because of your style of
9 management. This is not proper."

10 You know -- and when we're doing the work
11 we do, for me, I take it so passionate, because at the end
12 of the day, we need to have these programs. And you know,
13 all the work we do, I don't even consider it work, it's a
14 way of life. I mean, I couldn't be more blessed to have
15 Mitch pull, not only my husband, but pull me up to a level
16 that I'm actually starting to feel less hatred for the
17 child welfare system. Because of him, I can actually sit
18 and talk to a worker without just wanting to strangle
19 anybody. Because you know what? That was a healing
20 experience that he gave me.

21 I mean, for the many years that -- I've
22 utilized many programs, and one of the biggest programs I
23 utilized was actually Mom Away. I'd go there. Flying on
24 planet Mars, and I'll tell you they're doors were always
25 open to me. I always went there for food, I went there

1 for help. When I was raising my kids, I went there for
2 diapers, I went there for everything I needed. So for
3 years they've been there.

4 And given...

5 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So do you want this
6 one?

7 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Yeah.

8 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Because we're going
9 to have to cut one too.

10 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Yeah.

11 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So you were talking
12 about the mentorship and stuff. And I know there is a
13 short videoclip, Number 3, the third video.

14 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** My sons are in this
15 video, and they were in the last one. So it just shows
16 the ripple effect that we have on our children and our
17 youth and the work that we do. Little eyes are seeing
18 constantly; right?

19 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So ---

20 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** That's me.

21 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** There we go.

22 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** I don't think it's that
23 one. No. That's not the one.

24 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Oh, sorry. You
25 wanted...

1 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** It's this one.

2 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Oh, I'm sorry.

3 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Number 2.

4 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I'm sorry. My
5 mistake. It was Number 2. I apologize in advance.

6 **(VIDEO PRESENTATION)**

7 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So this concept of
8 the lateral empathy, it's really kind of taken on a life
9 philosophy for you. It's pretty neat when I -- I think
10 it's a positive spin on sort of what has been hardship and
11 negative outcomes.

12 There is one last video, and this is the
13 point we'll end on, because -- and I just want to ask
14 though. Anything that's in the slide presentation that
15 the parties have seen, are you okay if they ask you
16 questions about the points raised in the slide
17 presentation?

18 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** M'hm.

19 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Great. There's a
20 particular video here, it's just publicly available. And
21 I can't remember if it's Vimeo or YouTube, but can you
22 tell us about this video and this song that we're going to
23 play? Because I know that you wanted this to be an ending
24 point for you.

25 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** I was at a Safety

1 Canada meeting about a month ago. I think it was a Public
2 Safety Canada meeting, and I met a gentleman there who
3 works in Saskatchewan, and they have a bunch of homes out
4 in Saskatchewan, and they're each categorized from 0 to
5 6 months, 6 months to 12 months. And he was giving us how
6 they work with their systems out there.

7 But he explained to me two youth came up to
8 him and they had this idea, but they had no money. So he
9 pushed, you know, made \$500, put up a page. And -- I
10 don't have the rights to this, but it's on YouTube.

11 And I just started crying when I read it.
12 When I seen it, I just had tears, because it depicts who
13 we are as women, we're -- who we really are, but it also
14 shows another component to it, the stigma that lies with
15 women as drug addicts, you know, and all those things that
16 come with it, but it also shows the beauty of her culture,
17 dancing in her jingle dress.

18 So for me, it really -- it touched my heart
19 that two youth, you know, our youth have gifts, and we
20 sometimes don't recognize that. And it's so important to
21 showcase their gifts. And for me, this touched my heart
22 watching this video.

23 (VIDEO PRESENTATION)

24 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So obviously clear
25 at the end the message, but also, you could see her

1 dancing and them singing in front of an MMIWG monument.
2 And this kind of thing or these type of messages that are
3 going to help reach out to youth and focussing some more
4 of that positive energy or, as you folks call it, that
5 empathy I think will take us a long way.

6 Was there anything else you wanted to add
7 as a last word, Rachel?

8 **MS RACHEL WILLAN:** I wrote down some
9 recommendations that I have. The one that I don't
10 understand -- I've been speaking at what we call "john
11 school" in Winnipeg -- well, at least I call it "john
12 school". I don't know if there's any fancier name than it
13 could be, but for some time. I haven't spoke recently and
14 this is done through the Salvation Army in Winnipeg. And
15 where they're -- I believe they're -- they pay about \$1200
16 and it's kind of a first-time offenders get to take this
17 school.

18 And I could never understand why, because
19 they have money, they're allowed to pay, you know, \$1200
20 and walk away with a day program, but yet we've been --
21 our human rights have been stolen. And apparently it's a
22 human rights issue not to have their names published,
23 whether they're a first-time offender or not. Our laws
24 must change to protect our vulnerable women and girls and
25 our children. I believe that a john school is just a

1 gateway for them to get a little bit smarter and go
2 through social media and start meeting up. To have them
3 given -- the first time offender given a chance at picking
4 up a young girl by seizing their vehicle.

5 As survivors we struggle on a hundred
6 dollars a month. Some people struggle. And, you know, I
7 see women all the time. There should be a law where,
8 whether it's your first time, your name's going -- putting
9 out in the paper. People are going to know who you are.
10 Because if you're my neighbour, you're my pastor, I want
11 to know if -- are you picking up our women.

12 There should be no human rights --
13 apparently I asked and it was a human rights. Well, you
14 know what? If they're stealing our human rights at the
15 age of 14, 15, 16 and they're out there picking up our
16 women, I believe that society, Canadians, as a whole, have
17 a right to know who these men are. There should be no --
18 nothing against human rights. They've fortified *[sic]* the
19 right when they're out picking up women, you know,
20 forfeited the right.

21 At the end of the day, all the -- you know,
22 you don't learn in one day. It's going to take a lifetime
23 for us survivors to learn how to undo half of the things
24 that happened to us and to accept it and move and heal,
25 move forward.

1 So a one-day program and \$1200 gets them to
2 walk away. But yet I just ordered my criminal record
3 check and I got six prostitution charges that are on my
4 criminal record that are never going to go away. So, if
5 perhaps I decide to move, you know, a job or get another
6 job one day, I think it's fair to say that we need a
7 system that's not going to have that and keep on shaming
8 us as women. That must go.

9 And another part is ensuring our schools --
10 that was one of the recommendations that there's no first-
11 time offender program. You offended. That's it. Your
12 name's being published. That there shouldn't be nothing
13 like that.

14 So my second -- well, another one was
15 ensuring schools have self-care. We have a curriculum now
16 that's mandated to teach our children the cultural
17 component of Indigenous people, but from what I'm
18 understanding, they don't have no self-care program after.
19 So I'm wondering why my child's behaving the way he is,
20 why this is happening, why this is going on. So I phoned
21 the school and I find out that you started the curriculum
22 of Indigenous peoples, showing them the graphic history of
23 our people, but yet sending him home just like that.

24 And my child's, you know, what I would call
25 not acting his self, not wanting to shower, not wanting to

1 do this. And then so I said, "Well, did you ever think
2 that perhaps maybe it's bringing him back to when he was
3 taken at two years old?" Like, I needed to open up their
4 eyes. I said, "You guys are not doing any self-care with
5 our children." "Well, there's guidance counsellors."
6 Yeah, sitting way at the end of the hallway in their
7 offices. I said, "Sometimes our Indigenous children don't
8 have tools to walk over there, because when you walk to
9 the office that's a bad place to be." We know that.
10 Those offices are a bad place to be.

11 But there's other ways to do self-care for
12 our kids when they're teaching this curriculum to our
13 students. They -- there's a lot of money, the TRC
14 dollars, and they need to start pulling out. "Well, how
15 do we do that?" And I said, "Well, you're a teacher.
16 Write a proposal. Get it. You know what to do. Don't
17 ask me to do your work because that's your work to take
18 care of our children and do it properly and effectively.
19 Not send them home after they just watched a brutal
20 massacre of our people on a video."

21 When women are reporting sexual violence to
22 police, they're never going to be safe. We're never going
23 to get to the proper numbers that are actually out there
24 of women that are actually being trafficked, because we
25 have a system designed that the perpetrator gets out on a

1 \$10,000 bail or a \$20,000 bail. Our law is not designed
2 to keep our perpetrators behind -- you know, again, it
3 goes to the human rights again and they have human rights.
4 So our women don't have nowhere safe to go. And this is
5 what we're seeing. We're seeing a constant -- they're not
6 safe.

7 One of the big ones we need is a 24/7 safe
8 space. I couldn't even say it enough. And if we call
9 putting one in each province just a Band-Aid solution by
10 saying, okay, now you've got your 24/7 safe space. But
11 you need to look at the capita. How many exploited people
12 are in that region or that city?

13 So one might not do it, but two, there's a
14 capacity at each place. But they need to be -- there
15 needs to be survivor led component. We need to have
16 mental health workers there, we need to have -- for the
17 detoxing. We need an Indigenous-led detox centre that's
18 there's a cultural component to it. Yeah, and the
19 criminal records was my last one. That's always been an
20 ongoing issue about that.

21 And I just have some other ones that I'm
22 not sure that were from a lady.

23 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** You can give us one
24 more.

25 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** I think they're pretty

1 much the same. Yeah. We need an exiting plan.

2 You know, I could sit here and say that
3 exiting is the most -- hardest thing to ever do, whether
4 it's for survival, sex work, or whether it.... For us,
5 however we put it, we need a woman...

6 Nobody's going to exit in a day. And I
7 have never met a worker come up to anybody and say, "Well,
8 you know, you shouldn't go out and work." You know what?
9 If you tell a woman in 30 days every single day you love
10 her, "I love you, you're beautiful, and you know what,
11 you're very gifted, you're strong", and you nurture that
12 woman, you're going to find her brain's going to shift and
13 she's going to walk out of an exit on her very own. When
14 we don't have enough love and we don't have enough people
15 to tell our women that they're valued, we're not going to
16 have no exiting plans.

17 It doesn't take anybody -- a rocket
18 scientist to know what it takes to surround a woman with
19 love and have her exit on her own. And you know what?
20 They find themselves. Because I did. I know what it
21 takes. It takes a dedicated team, who you trust and who
22 you feel -- and we're feelers -- to know that they're
23 going to have you. Whether -- I'm always part of the
24 team. I always knew that I can go there at any time. So
25 like I felt around and I was very untrusting.

1 But we need exiting plans. And -- you
2 know, you don't sit down and do a case plan and say, okay,
3 well you need to get off the speed. It doesn't work like
4 that. It takes time. And engaging in communication,
5 keeping constant case planning, but behind the scenes, you
6 know, just wrapping them with love. Eventually, the women
7 get it, and that's done through day-to-day to day-to-day
8 work.

9 You know, I've seen transformation of many
10 women, and they're listening right now, and they're
11 watching, and they know who they all are, and they know I
12 love them to death. And we fight like heck, but they
13 still know I love them. So at the end of the day, those
14 are some of the recommendations for that, you know, I --
15 on human trafficking.

16 We need space and we need it now. We can't
17 just cover up, the Band-Aid solution, and give us a little
18 place. I mean, we've showed you the model that I feel is
19 really good and inclusive to all women, not just
20 Indigenous women. Women all around the country matter,
21 and it's about time that Canadians wake up and say, you
22 know, let's start putting the money....

23 People are worried about Portage and Main.
24 I said, oh, who gives a shit about Portage and Main, build
25 us a damn shelter. You know. Who cares about that?

1 That's been like that for years. Oh, just happen to go
2 underground and walk still. It's not going to make it any
3 better. Give us what we need, because at the end of the
4 day our lives matter. And it's so important for people to
5 say.

6 You know, like how long are we going to
7 wait for a safe space? You know the one we have is open
8 three hours or four hours a day? I said, you know what
9 this is? This is just a place to come and lay your skinny
10 bag of bones, that's all it is. There is no effective
11 work being done because there's not enough workers because
12 everybody's running off.

13 We need a huge facility that can
14 accommodate our people and our women. And you know what?
15 I can guarantee it's not only going to be Indigenous women
16 using that. Because if we show the diversity that we have
17 in Winnipeg, it's not only Indigenous women dealing with
18 violence, it's all types of women. They just don't know
19 how to go about it because there's no 24-hour facilities
20 to say, hey, my husband's really drunk right now, and you
21 know, I just need to get to safety for a few hours. Those
22 women will utilize that, you can guarantee it.

23 Thank you.

24 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you so much,
25 Rachel.

1 This, obviously, concludes the examination
2 in-chief. I know that people have been very patient
3 waiting for lunch and are probably quite anxious to get to
4 lunch. I am going to ask for a shorter lunch, if you are
5 willing to grant it, so we have time this afternoon for
6 cross-examination and your questions. So if we can be
7 back right at 2:00.

8 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Two
9 o'clock please.

10 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.

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

12 --- Upon resuming at 2:12 p.m.

13 **PANEL 4, Resumed:**

14 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Good afternoon,
15 Chief Commissioner, Commissioners. So the next part of
16 the process we're about to go into is the cross-
17 examination.

18 And just as a friendly reminder, and also
19 to remind even the witnesses on the stand so they
20 understand why the lawyers that led them may not be
21 answering their questions, is at this part, now that the
22 examination in-chief is done, we can't talk to the
23 witnesses about their direct evidence. We can talk to
24 you. Would you like water? Would you like this? We just
25 -- we can't talk to you about your evidence, so the

1 evidence you've already given, until the parties with
2 standing have had an opportunity to ask you questions.

3 I'd also just like to put in another
4 reminder for the gentleness and kindness and respectful
5 questions which I know all of the parties have been very
6 kind to continue doing. I have a short list, and we will
7 have the larger list distributed in hard copy momentarily,
8 but so that we can proceed.

9 At this point, I would like to invite, MKO.
10 Ms. Jessica Barlow will have seven-and-a-half minutes.

11 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. JESSICA BARLOW:**

12 **MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Good afternoon. I'd
13 like to begin by acknowledging the spirits of our sisters,
14 families and survivors, Elders and grandmothers, and
15 sacred items in the room, and the Commissioners, and the
16 Inquiry staff. Thank you.

17 The witnesses. Thank you so much for being
18 here and sharing with us today. Rachel, thank you for
19 sharing your journey with us, and Matt as well. Thank
20 you.

21 I want to express gratitude for the lands
22 that we're on and to the Beothuk, Mi'kmaw, Innu and Inuit
23 peoples of these lands for welcoming us here.

24 My name is Jessica Barlow, and I am
25 privileged to legal counsel on behalf of MKO. And I would

1 also like to thank AFN in Nunatukavut for providing us
2 their time today.

3 All of my questions today will be for you,
4 Chief Smyth. And in the interests of time, I might jump
5 around a little bit. So apologize in advance.

6 But as you know, my client represents
7 numerous sovereign First Nations in Northern Manitoba.
8 And it's been consistently identified throughout this
9 Inquiry, and also, it's a well-known fact that there are
10 specific realities in the North that lead a lot of people
11 to come to Winnipeg. You've identified some of those
12 factors today, but some of those include things like
13 access to healthcare, dental, education, employment,
14 people are also evacuated for natural disasters and they
15 come to Winnipeg. Would you agree with that?

16 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

17 **MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Thank you. And so my
18 clients outlined for me that in the beginning of this
19 Inquiry process that there's a very large importance on
20 urban transitioning, and also, violence and exploitation
21 prevention. And so that's very important to them, and I'd
22 like to speak more about that today with you.

23 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Okay.

24 **MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** And you kind of
25 visited that in your early testimony.

1 And so are you aware that there are some
2 Indigenous women and girls that are coming to Winnipeg
3 that have maybe never been to an urban centre before?

4 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

5 **MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** And so they may not
6 have ever seen a crosswalk or a skyscraper?

7 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Yeah, I'm sure it's very
8 overwhelming at first.

9 **MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Thank you. And so
10 this might be a particular vulnerability for them?

11 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

12 **MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** And so you've
13 also identified in your testimony, and you've acknowledged
14 that women, and Indigenous women and girls particularly,
15 can be vulnerable, and I'd like for you to identify
16 specifically in your experience what types of
17 vulnerabilities you see in -- either in Winnipeg or coming
18 to Winnipeg, please.

19 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Well, certainly --
20 I used the one example this morning about the young woman
21 that we encountered who was struggling with the rent, so I
22 won't reiterate that. Another one that I encounter, and
23 we see it a fair bit, is social media. So, many of the
24 youth up north, they have access to all the same apps and
25 all the same platforms that we do in the urban centres,

1 they're connecting with one another through social media,
2 and my observation is sometimes when they come down to
3 places like Winnipeg, they're more trusting than perhaps
4 they ought to be, and at times, it puts them in a
5 vulnerable position. We certainly experience that with
6 the file regarding Christine Wood.

7 **MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Okay. Thank you.
8 And so, what is the Winnipeg Police Service doing to
9 protect these women and girls knowing this?

10 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Well, certainly,
11 it's all about awareness, particularly on the example I
12 just used with social media. So, in part, we can message
13 that, but that's something that we need to message with
14 the community, so that the communities themselves can
15 safeguard and warn their children before they come down.
16 I had a long talk with George and Melinda Wood when I went
17 up there, and George talked about that, you know,
18 recognizing the vulnerability of many of the youth coming
19 down.

20 **MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Thank you. So,
21 you spoke about the resource guide for the outreach
22 network, and in your PowerPoint, it contains a map with
23 contact information for different support organizations in
24 Winnipeg; is that correct?

25 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes. Just to --

1 that was put together by the network itself, not by the
2 police.

3 **MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Thank you. And,
4 are you aware, in your experience, if this resource guide
5 is widely distributed in northern First Nations
6 communities in Manitoba?

7 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** No, I'm not sure.

8 **MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Okay. Thank you.
9 And, would you agree with me that even if these women,
10 let's say they haven't been to the city often or ever, if
11 they're receiving this map or this information and with
12 nothing else, that this -- while it is a great step, and I
13 do recognize that, that it may not be the most
14 understandable way or the most navigable way to access
15 programs and services or know how to stay safe when coming
16 to Winnipeg?

17 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I would agree with
18 that. In fact, I would think the transition centres
19 themselves, I referenced Eagle Urban this morning, to me,
20 that's the gateway to learn more about a centre like
21 Winnipeg.

22 **MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Wonderful. Thank
23 you. And so, you spoke about different outreach
24 presentations, Staff Sergeant Ramkisson you spoke about
25 that as well, and I'm just wondering if there is

1 presentations done in northern First Nations communities
2 and in those schools -- in the schools in the north, does
3 the Winnipeg Police do those?

4 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** We typically don't
5 travel much outside of our jurisdiction. Our jurisdiction
6 is Winnipeg. So, it would be rare for us to be doing
7 presentations systematically in the north.

8 **MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Do you think that
9 that might be helpful, if the Winnipeg Police would travel
10 to the northern communities knowing that they come to
11 Winnipeg often? Do you think it might be something that
12 would be helpful?

13 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I think the
14 message would be helpful. I'm not sure that it needs to
15 necessarily be delivered by the police, but I think it
16 would be a helpful message.

17 **MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Wonderful. Thank
18 you. And so, you made a recommendation earlier that there
19 be long-term and sustained funding for urban transition
20 centres in Winnipeg; is that correct?

21 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct.

22 **MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Would you extend
23 that recommendation to include providing long-term and
24 sustained funding for centres in First Nations communities
25 in the north, to provide programs and services on urban

1 transition, education on risks and prevention, job
2 training and skill development, supports in organizations
3 for navigating urban centres before people come to
4 Winnipeg?

5 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Certainly sounds
6 reasonable. I don't have a lot of experience up north.

7 **MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Is that something
8 that you would recommend though, in knowing all of the
9 things that we just talked about, is that something to
10 prepare people to come to Winnipeg?

11 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** It certainly
12 sounds reasonable, yes.

13 **MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Wonderful. Thank
14 you. I don't have much time left, and so I think I'm
15 going to leave that there for today. But, I thank you all
16 so very much for coming and I thank you for the work that
17 you're doing.

18 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you, Ms.
19 Barlow. Next, we would like to invite up Families For
20 Justice. Ms. Suzan Fraser will have six minutes.

21 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. SUZAN FRASER:**

22 **MS. SUZAN FRASER:** Commissioners,
23 grandmothers, elders, Inquiry staff, witnesses, family
24 members of the public who are here, I am grateful to be
25 here in the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaw, the

1 ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, and also recognize the
2 Inuit and the Innu as the original people of Labrador.

3 I also, in the spirit of my
4 conversation with Ms. Gabriel, acknowledge today on the
5 last day that we're here for evidence, that I wouldn't be
6 here today without the assistance provided to my family
7 over in the 1700s with the assistance of the Haudenosaunee
8 people, which led me to be here today and the privilege
9 that my family members enjoy.

10 Witnesses, I represent a group of 20
11 families. So, within the families, there's many people.
12 And, I'm here on behalf of those families, I'm grateful to
13 be here on their behalf to ask you some questions.
14 Rachel, you will know of Alaya McIvor who is a member of
15 our group, and she gave evidence almost a year ago,
16 Commissioners, on her experience as a survivor. And, you
17 can agree that, if you remember, she made many of the same
18 recommendations that you have made here today. Do you
19 remember Ms. McIvor making some recommendations?

20 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Yes.

21 **MS. SUZAN FRASER:** Right? And, those
22 recommendations, one of those included that the justice
23 system understand the trauma inflicted on those exploited
24 by the justice system and who were re-victimized by the
25 justice system. And, would you agree that continues to be

1 a really important point of our focus?

2 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Yes.

3 **MS. SUZAN FRASER:** Right. And, I take
4 it you would agree as well, Diane, if I can call you
5 Diane, that the justice system really needs to understand
6 the exploitation and the trauma suffered by those who are
7 exploited sexually?

8 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Absolutely. And,
9 in fact, it's vital that the justice system has more of an
10 awareness and understanding of what happens to the brain
11 when trauma happens, and the long-term impact that that
12 has to that particular individual.

13 **MS. SUZAN FRASER:** Right. And, I
14 think when Alaya gave her evidence last year, she talked
15 about the services that would help survivors identify
16 their gifts would be of great value to them, and that's
17 part of what you have been talking about today, Diane?

18 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes, absolutely.

19 **MS. SUZAN FRASER:** Okay. And, I think
20 -- I'm happy to see you endorse so many of the things that
21 she talked about. And, Commissioners, in my final
22 submissions, I'll draw you some connections to those.
23 But, Chief Smyth, it's not a surprise at this point in our
24 history that women are coming to cities from First Nations
25 communities in the north across Canada, is that fair?

1 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes, there's --
2 it's been pointed out a lot of different reasons why
3 people are coming.

4 **MS. SUZAN FRASER:** Right. And,
5 everybody working in policing and everybody working in
6 civic government knows that Indigenous people will and may
7 leave their home communities for various reasons to come
8 to the cities?

9 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's true. They
10 just may not realize how much of a struggle that can be at
11 times.

12 **MS. SUZAN FRASER:** Right. But, if we
13 look at all of the studies and all of the roundtables and
14 everything, it's not really a mystery to us what people
15 need to be safe in a city, is it?

16 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I guess it depends
17 on your perspective.

18 **MS. SUZAN FRASER:** Okay.

19 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I live in a city.
20 It may be different for somebody from a remote community.

21 **MS. SUZAN FRASER:** Right. So -- but
22 having worked with people and having established the
23 partnerships that you have made, it's now pretty clear
24 that housing, access to services, access to wraparound
25 services are all things that a city can build in order to

1 make -- to choose to make their place -- their city a safe
2 place?

3 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's a fair
4 statement, yes.

5 **MS. SUZAN FRASER:** Right? And,
6 similarly, cities can choose to not provide a cushion for
7 people who are coming and transitioning from remote
8 communities, and leave people in peril; right?

9 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

10 **MS. SUZAN FRASER:** And, Diane, you
11 would agree that, every day, cities are choosing across
12 Canada, whether their cities are going to provide a safe
13 landing spot for people who are transitioning from the
14 north or from remote -- environments that are remote to
15 the cities? Every day, cities are choosing whether
16 they're going to be safe places, would you agree?

17 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Absolutely.

18 **MS. SUZAN FRASER:** All right. And, would
19 you also agree with me that we have known for a very long
20 time, the kinds and types of services that we need to
21 provide to keep women safe.

22 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Absolutely. We have
23 known that our -- for generations.

24 **MS. SUSAN FRAZER:** Okay. And I'm going to
25 just ask you this because the -- the survivor led

1 component, and having survivors at the table, has been key
2 to your success. I think, Chief Smyth, you've said that,
3 Diane, you've said that -- you're both noting. And what I
4 want to ask you, Dianne, is am I right that those
5 survivors need to be supported in meaningful ways to
6 participate at those tables?

7 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Absolutely.

8 **MS. SUSAN FRAZER:** Right. Because
9 sometimes they are there at those tables with people who
10 are well paid and well housed, and they come for
11 honorariums.

12 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** You -- we -- you have to
13 be very, very careful and respectful that they are not
14 being re-exploited again for their stories, for their
15 input. Because that -- I've seen that happen often
16 throughout Canada, that it becomes a tokenism type of
17 engagement, whereas it needs to be absolutely meaningful.
18 And in fact, the more survivor led, the stronger the
19 initiative will be.

20 **MS. SUSAN FRAZER:** Thank you very much.
21 Thank you, Commissioners. I'll have to leave early so, a
22 la prochaine.

23 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you. Next,
24 We'd like to invite up the Institute for the advancement
25 of Aboriginal Women. Ms. Lisa Webber will have three and

1 a half minutes.

2 ---CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. LISA WEBER:

3 **MS. LISA WEBER:** Thank you very much.

4 Good afternoon Commissioners. Good
5 afternoon panelists. And I echo the acknowledgements of
6 my friends before me. Thank you. For the sake of timing
7 I'll be very brief.

8 My questions first to Ms. Redsky, thank you
9 for your presentation. You referenced Bill C-36, Ms.
10 Redsky, which is federal legislation. *The Protection of*
11 *Communities and Exploited Persons Act.*

12 For the sake of time, I'll ask you quickly,
13 first, are you aware if provincial governments are
14 concurrently developing legislation within their areas of
15 jurisdiction to parallel or compliment that bill? And
16 related to that, would you support a recommendation by
17 this Commission that provincial governments to in fact
18 undertake to develop that legislation and reflect in their
19 policies?

20 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** So first of all, I'm --
21 I am not aware of provincial governments doing a version
22 of -- if I understand you correctly, a version of Bill C-
23 36. And I certainly would support strongly that there be
24 as much jurisdictional authority to give the tools that
25 authorities need in order to maximize on supporting women

1 and criminalizing the demand.

2 **MS. LISA WEBER:** Thank you.

3 Thirdly, related to that, would you support
4 a recommendation by this commission that that work by the
5 provinces must involve meaningful consultation with the
6 Indigenous led organizations whose mandate is to include
7 working with Indigenous women and girls?

8 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes. In fact, it
9 shouldn't happen unless we're at the table in a meaningful
10 way.

11 **MS. LISA WEBER:** Thank you.

12 A question for Ms. Willan. Thank you so
13 much for your presentation today. Your story was very
14 impactful. One point in particular that I would like to
15 ask you a question about, because it really -- I can tell
16 you in our province it is an issue as well. You talked
17 about curriculum in the schools. And I wondered then, if
18 you would support a recommendation by this Commission that
19 the development of Indigenous history curriculum in
20 schools must be meaningfully guided by the Indigenous
21 Nations whose traditional territory those schools operate
22 in?

23 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Yes. It must be led in
24 a way by our people. And you know, in a way where our
25 children are not traumatized, revictimized. We have a lot

1 of children in care that are going through schools and I
2 know my children I have at home, where I only observe the
3 behaviours that I was able to think -- to know if
4 something was going on.

5 But it was not -- and the school had no
6 after care plan for children. And I recognize that, but
7 it's been shown to 1,300 children in one school and that's
8 -- how many children are in our -- where my children go?
9 So at the end of the day, I think it must be -- it must
10 change their -- the way they're teaching it, but not stop
11 teaching it, because it's Canadian history, you know?

12 **MS. LISA WEBER:** Thank you.

13 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Thank you.

14 **MS. LISA WEBER:** I agree. Thank you very
15 much.

16 Chief Smyth, you talked about in reference
17 -- I think in one of your slides, the fact that vehicles
18 are seized when there are charges laid. And I'm just
19 wondering -- I'm assuming therefore, that eventually some
20 of those vehicles make their way to auction.

21 And I'm wondering, if that is in fact the
22 case, would you support a recommendation that such funds
23 perhaps be earmarked specifically to go towards programs
24 that support women and children who have been victimized
25 by trafficking?

1 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I'll certainly -- I'll
2 answer that in reverse. I support funding that would go
3 to help programming. I should clarify, with the vehicles
4 seized, they are impounded for a period of time and then
5 they are released to the owner.

6 **MS. LISA WEBER:** Thank you.

7 I see my -- I am out of time. Thank you,
8 Chief Commissioner and Commissioners.

9 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you. Next,
10 we would like to invite up the Congress of Aboriginal
11 Peoples. Ms. Lombard will have three and a half minutes
12 in cross-examination.

13 **---CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. ALISA LOMBARD:**

14 **MS. ALISA LOMBARD:** Good afternoon. I echo
15 the sentiments of my colleagues in their acknowledgement
16 of the land and the spirits here today. My sincerest
17 apologies for any abruptness, but given time restrictions,
18 I'll just jump right into it.

19 Ms. Willan, thank you for reminding us of
20 the importance of little eyes. I think that really
21 conveys a way of life and it's important to keep that in
22 mind all of our work. And I don't just say that because
23 I'm heavily pregnant.

24 My questions are directed to Chief Smyth
25 and Officer Ramkissoon. Yesterday we heard from Lanna

1 Moon Perrin, who said that she didn't know of anyone who'd
2 been charged, prosecuted, and convicted for criminal
3 offenses committed against sex workers. Ms. Willan told
4 us today about how every single conviction on her criminal
5 record involves fighting perpetrators.

6 You're both familiar with the Criminal Code
7 of Canada and its provisions relating to murder, assault,
8 sexual assault, and aggravated assault; correct?

9 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Yes.

10 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

11 **MS. ALISA LOMBARD:** Thank you.

12 Would you agree that the follow -- that
13 following a report made to police, the police's job
14 includes; one, the gathering of evidence and the conduct
15 of a meaningful investigation; consideration to the
16 swearing of an information; passing the file to the Crown
17 for it to determine whether it will exercise its
18 discretion to prosecute; and importantly to keep the
19 survivor or family apprised throughout of both
20 developments and decisions. Is that about right?

21 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's a general
22 framework, yes.

23 **MS. ALISA LOMBARD:** Excellent, thank you.

24 Would you agree that discretion, or
25 judgement calls, on behalf of police and the Crown, play a

1 significant role in how the process just described
2 unfolds, and if it unfolds at all in practice?

3 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

4 **MS. ALISA LOMBARD:** Would you agree that
5 the existence, perceived or real, of trafficking,
6 exploitation, or sex work, does not displace the need for
7 police and the Crown to consider other provisions of the
8 criminal code previously mentioned in the investigation
9 and prosecution process?

10 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I'm not sure I heard a
11 question in there. So I'm -- could you reframe that?

12 **MS. ALISA LOMBARD:** So if there's any
13 perception of activity in trafficking or sex work, that
14 doesn't necessarily, or does not, displace the obligation
15 of police and the Crown to consider the existence of other
16 crimes, such as sexual assault, aggravated assault, et
17 cetera.

18 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I would agree.

19 **MS. ALISA LOMBARD:** Thank you.

20 A recurring theme that we've heard is that
21 Indigenous women don't think that anyone will believe
22 them. Does your force take these beliefs into account in
23 assessing the credibility of a survivor?

24 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

25 **MS. ALISA LOMBARD:** Thank you.

1 Ms. Willan spoke about the challenges
2 associated with having a criminal record. Do you support
3 the expungement of a criminal record for prostitution
4 related convictions, since the criminal code provisions
5 attaching to those offences have since been repealed by
6 Bill C-36?

7 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I do. I think it
8 should be considered.

9 **MS. ALISA LOMBARD:** Thank you so much.
10 Since I have a few moments left, I thought
11 I would ask Ms. Willan a very quick question. As a
12 strong, resilient, Indigenous woman, you mentioned that
13 Indian Status stops with you. And so, I was wondering
14 what type of bearing does Indian Status have on your life,
15 if any?

16 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Other than the free
17 medication? I have always identified as Metis, my entire
18 life. My lands, you know, I've grown up knowing that I
19 was Metis, but I never really knew the meaning of it up
20 until I -- you know, my identity was kind of lost or shook
21 along the way. But it was rooted at a young age, but
22 taken away for some time.

23 But I -- for me, I just -- regardless of
24 who we are and who I identify with, I just have so much
25 love for our people, regardless of where they come from,

1 or who they are, that it's hard to -- you can't categorise
2 people. And for me I'm Indigenous. You know, I'm Métis
3 and I'm very proud to be and I've always been, regardless
4 of the ugliness and the racism that we endured for many
5 different systems. I'm not going to let them to steal my
6 pride away ever.

7 **MS. ALYSA LOMBARD:** Thank you.

8 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Thank you.

9 **MS. ALYSA LOMBARD:** Thank you, everybody.

10 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.

11 Next we would like to invite up the Regina
12 Treaty Status Indian Services Incorporated. Ms. Erica
13 Beaudin will have three and a half minutes for cross-
14 examination.

15 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. ERICA BEAUDIN:**

16 **MS. ERICA BEAUDIN:** Good afternoon. A
17 final wela'lin to the Elders, drummers and singers for
18 their prayers, songs and Nakurmiik for the lighting of the
19 qulliq. Once again I acknowledge and thank the Elders for
20 the welcome and -- to the unceded territories of the
21 Mi'kmaw and Beothuk, as well as the Inuit, Innu people who
22 call this home.

23 My name is Erica Beaudin and I hold the
24 position of Executive Director of the Regina Treaty Status
25 Indian Services out of Treaty 4 territory in what is now

1 Saskatchewan.

2 Well, here we are. What a journey. Thank
3 you to the Elders, knowledge-keepers, grandmothers, NFAC,
4 Commissioners, staff, witnesses, the rest of the parties
5 with standing, and most importantly, the families who have
6 supported and trusted all of us with your greatest loss.
7 And hopefully, in the months and years to come, the
8 governments and all other systems will honour your truths
9 as well as your solutions and we can collectively say that
10 we all worked together so that no more families ever have
11 to go through the incredible pain you've gone through.
12 Your survival, as well as your "thrival", as past witness
13 Jeffrey McNeil called it, compels me to continue on with
14 this hard but hard work.

15 Meegwetch to all the panellists this
16 morning. Working in Regina I have so many questions for
17 Diane and Chief Smyth, but we just don't have the time.
18 So the only question I'm going to ask is to Rachel Willan.

19 Rachel, your story is one of courage,
20 resiliency, love and hope. I hope that -- I hope you feel
21 comfort in knowing the difference you needed in your life
22 but didn't receive is now being given to others as you
23 walk with so many. You have given us so many concrete
24 examples of the journey towards reclaiming the spirit and
25 person that was meant to be. Indeed, when you state that

1 exiting takes -- exiting the life is the hardest thing to
2 do, you demonstrate the many years that path takes, but
3 that we should never give up on anyone. No sister left
4 behind.

5 As mothers we always want for our children
6 to live a life better than ours. Sometimes due to our own
7 pain we haven't been able to give them that. That doesn't
8 stop our hopes and dreams for them.

9 Right now, if you could save a magic wand
10 to create that wonderful world that an unborn grandchild
11 would be born into, what would that look like? In other
12 words, what does that ideal life look like for our
13 beautiful brown babies in the future? I believe the
14 answer you give will be a guiding north star that may
15 assist the Commissioners as they put their final report
16 together.

17 So I ask you, what's more powerful than a
18 mother's or grandmother's greatest hopes and dreams for
19 the ones they love?

20 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** I'm emotional. For me,
21 I'm not a grandma yet, but I know that I'm -- it's coming
22 upon me. And I've come to love and, you know, there's not
23 enough love around. And I know that. I wasn't given it
24 so I show it so freely and I wear it on my sleeve and I
25 have so many girls, you know, my girls. And I continue to

1 say "my girls" because they are our girls.

2 And we must, as a Canadian society, take
3 care of our girls and nurture them, you know. They don't
4 have to be our -- we haven't -- like haven't birthed them,
5 but at the same time, it's our job as Canadian citizens to
6 ensure that our girls are safe and nurtured and loved and,
7 you know, are able to just grow up and given the
8 opportunities that we all deserve.

9 **MS. ERICA BEAUDIN:** Thank you. In leaving
10 I send to you and surround you and all the women here and
11 listening in love.

12 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Thank you.

13 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.
14 Thank you, Ms. Beaudin.

15 Next we would like to invite up the
16 Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. Allison Fenesk [sic]. And
17 I'm sorry, I'm getting that last name wrong.

18 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** It's okay. It's
19 Fenske.

20 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you. Allison
21 Fenske will have eight and a half minutes.

22 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. ALLISON FENSKE:**

23 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Thank you. I would
24 like to begin by acknowledging the land that we are on and
25 the people that are hosting us. And in doing so, I wish

1 to recognise the Beothuk, the Mi'kmaw, the Innu and the
2 Inuit.

3 I want to give thanks for the opening
4 prayers this morning and acknowledge the sacred items that
5 are here. I want to also acknowledge the Elders,
6 grandmothers, survivors and families and their strength
7 and resilience.

8 On behalf of the Assembly of Manitoba
9 Chiefs, Rachel, thank you so much for sharing your story
10 and for your strength, your courage and your resilience.
11 Thank you also, Matt, for being here to support Rachel and
12 for the work that you are doing together.

13 I'd also like to thank the number of
14 parties that gave the AMC their time.

15 My questions today are directed to the
16 Winnipeg Police Service. And I'd like to focus on the
17 relationship between missing person incidents and the
18 Child Welfare system.

19 Today you identified, through your
20 PowerPoint, a significant overlap between missing person
21 incidents in Winnipeg and children missing from the CFS
22 facilities; correct?

23 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

24 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** We know from your
25 summary of the Indigenous women safety and protection

1 reports that are at Exhibit 69 -- and thank you for
2 providing that summary -- regardless of the number of the
3 total missing person incidents or the unique individuals,
4 an average of 85 per cent originate from a CFS facility;
5 correct?

6 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct.

7 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** And that's something
8 that's consistent in terms of since the time that the
9 Winnipeg Police Service began reporting these statistics.

10 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yeah.

11 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** It's remained. So and
12 the lowest was 82.6 per cent in the second quarter of
13 2015, the highest was 89 per cent in the third quarter of
14 2017; correct?

15 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

16 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** I understand there's
17 also a high proportion of repeat and chronic missing
18 person incidents within the city?

19 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yeah, it's not unusual
20 for people that are staying in group homes, they get
21 reported and missing multiple times, sometimes in the same
22 week.

23 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** And so if I understand
24 correctly from your statistical analysis, repeated and
25 chronic is five plus incidents -- missing person

1 incidents?

2 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Three I think is what
3 we use as a criteria.

4 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** And is that three
5 within the same quarter or what's the -- is there a time
6 period ascribed to the number of reports before someone is
7 repeat and chronic?

8 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I'm going to turn that
9 one to Darryl because he's more in the day-to-day.

10 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Thanks.

11 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** It's
12 usually within the same month actually.

13 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Okay. And when you
14 started reporting these repeat and chronic incidents,
15 they're -- around 60 per cent of incidents are involving
16 repeat and chronic. Is that about correct?

17 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's
18 correct.

19 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** And sometimes, for
20 example, in the first two quarters of 2017 that reached as
21 high as 93 per cent of all missing person incidents in
22 those 2 quarters?

23 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's
24 correct.

25 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Would it be fair to

1 say then that there is also a significant overlap between
2 incidents originating in CFS facilities and those
3 individuals who would be considered by the police to be
4 repeat and chronic missing persons?

5 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Correct.

6 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Are you aware of a
7 particular proportion around that?

8 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** A
9 proportion or ---

10 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** A proportion of the
11 repeat and chronic missing persons, how many of them would
12 be missing from CFS facilities? No, it's ---

13 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** I would
14 ---

15 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Sorry.

16 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Well,
17 like, the chronic and more repeated ones are out of the
18 total we have per month we would say about 80.

19 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Right. And so it's --
20 sorry, 80 per cent?

21 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** No,
22 sorry, 80 individuals.

23 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Okay. And of those
24 individuals, are you aware of or do you track how many of
25 those are coming from a CFS facility?

1 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** I don't
2 have those numbers ---

3 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Okay.

4 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** --- at
5 this time.

6 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Thank you. Based on
7 both of your experience and your understanding of WPS
8 interactions with youth in care who are reported missing,
9 why are they going missing? What are these kids telling
10 you or telling your officers?

11 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** I can
12 speak.

13 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Go ahead.

14 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** It's
15 varied. At first I used to think it was gang
16 affiliations, drugs, but we've talked to some of the
17 individuals and it's sometimes just boredom. Sometimes
18 they want to go back to their families. Sometimes it's
19 conflicts within the group homes. It could be something
20 as simple as that. We've actually had runaways tell us
21 they want to go to a different group home where they have
22 structure, where they're not bored. And we've worked with
23 the agencies to try and accommodate that. Unfortunately
24 it takes time.

25 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Thank you for that

1 answer.

2 I also understand that there's been a
3 recent reduction in the number of missing youth, and that
4 in your more substantive quarterly reports that are
5 publicly available, you've attributed that to partnering
6 directly with CFS agencies in implementing a reporting a
7 missing child in care form for -- specifically for foster
8 and group homes. I'm wondering about this form and what
9 about this form would account for that decrease?

10 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**

11 Going back to -- we decided to come up with a
12 questionnaire form, because we can't just sit back and
13 criticize these agencies and not try to educate them and
14 train them, what they need to do. So, the form was
15 actually to -- for the group homes, so the workers, to
16 start answering these questions such as, have you checked
17 their social media? Have you gone to look at the previous
18 addresses? Little things like that, before they actually
19 call the police, because what they were doing is they
20 would automatically phone the police thinking that
21 relieves them of any liability.

22 So, now the form kind of step-by-step
23 -- 10 to 15 steps that they have to go through before they
24 actually call the police. And, it's actually working.
25 Sometimes they can phone the last previous number that

1 they were found at and find the child is there and have
2 them come back.

3 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Thank you. So,
4 that would be to basically so that you know that when
5 you're getting a call about a missing person, this is
6 someone that is believed to be missing and not simply
7 someone that the group home or foster home has lost track
8 of? There's a difference between the two; is that fair to
9 say?

10 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**
11 Yes. Or, somebody or someone who just doesn't want to be
12 found at the time, at least, because our officers can
13 spend their whole shift, sometimes 10 hours, looking for
14 these children, which is not a bad thing if we know
15 they're not checking the same addresses that they don't
16 have to.

17 So, if the group homes can kind of do
18 that before they actually call the police, it would save a
19 lot of time.

20 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** And so, when the
21 police do encounter a child who has been reporting missing
22 from a CFS facility, or who has been identified by police
23 as a chronic or repeat missing person, using your
24 language, what action is taken? Are there any specific
25 protocols that the police employ when dealing with these

1 specific children at risk?

2 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** We
3 will talk to the social worker and try to put together
4 some safety plan. So, now it's up to the social worker to
5 actually sit down with that child, find out the reasons
6 why they're going missing, and try and come up with a
7 suitable plan, whether it be to change the group home,
8 care, whatever the reason is. But, we need to have a
9 safety plan in place before.

10 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** And, is this a
11 practice or is this articulated in a written policy for
12 the force?

13 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**
14 It's currently a practice that we are currently doing with
15 the group homes and CFS.

16 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Okay. And, in
17 your PowerPoint, you referred to youth who are designated
18 as high risk. What criteria does the WPS use to assign
19 that label to a child?

20 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** I
21 don't have every step in front of me right now, but it's
22 how many times they run away, if there's a history of
23 exploitation, addictions, those factors come in play
24 before we designate them.

25 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** And, that

1 designation can sometimes be communicated to the public in
2 terms of missing person alerts; correct?

3 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**

4 That's correct.

5 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** And, would you
6 agree that it's possible that being designated as a high-
7 risk individual could cause some stigma to be -- within
8 that label on that child?

9 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**

10 That is possible.

11 **MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Okay. I see that
12 I'm out of town. And so, I appreciate the answers. Thank
13 you.

14 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.
15 J'invite Femme d'autochtones du Quebec. Maître Miller
16 will have 3.5 minutes for her cross-examination.

17 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. RAINBOW MILLER:**

18 **MS. RAINBOW MILLER:** Good day,
19 Commissioners. Good day, witnesses. My name is Rainbow,
20 and I am legal counsel for Femme d'autochtones du Quebec,
21 Quebec Native Women's Association, and I just wanted to
22 say -- I want to acknowledge that we are on Mi'kmaw
23 territory today.

24 Ms. Redsky, you're such an example and
25 I'm so honoured to be asking you questions today. You are

1 a pioneer in the question of sexual exploitation. And,
2 also, Rachel and Matt, thank you so much for your
3 testimony. Rachel, I was so touched by your strength and
4 your beauty today, and how resilient you are.

5 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Thank you.

6 **MS. RAINBOW MILLER:** You're such an
7 example for all of us. My first questions will be for Ms.
8 Redsky.

9 You talked about the safe houses and
10 also the long-term housing that you have in your programs.
11 Could you tell us how it is instrumental in rebuilding
12 girls and women's lives?

13 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** And, I'm really
14 glad that you asked that question because as an Indigenous
15 organization providing, and developing, and offering the
16 services to sexually exploited and trafficked girls, it is
17 really important that they are coming into a resource that
18 welcomes them, that is not -- that is kind, that is
19 caring, that honours who they are, honours where they're
20 at.

21 And, we surround them in a safe place
22 that is rooted in culture, and is rooted in language, and
23 is rooted in our Indigenous values and our knowledge on
24 how we care for one another. And, that has had huge
25 impact and success in girls who have been extremely

1 vulnerable, 40 to 60 placements, and these are the places
2 where they're not running from.

3 **MS. RAINBOW MILLER:** And, in those
4 programs, do you have, like, counselling, or do you help
5 these girls go back to school or finish their high school?
6 Are these some of the programs that you offer?

7 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes. Absolutely.
8 So, the first thing is safety, and we do everything
9 through relationship-building, and that is really critical
10 in their care.

11 The other really important thing is
12 that we're so far from mainstream type of services where
13 even -- and I talked about language. We don't call it
14 case management; we call it care planning. And, the whole
15 goal of her care planning is to support her in regaining
16 her power, because sexual exploitation and sex trafficking
17 is about losing power and not having power, or power being
18 taken away.

19 So, all of the work that we do through
20 the mandatory and the optional programs, and through the
21 way we do things and how we care for one another, is all
22 about reclaiming and creating opportunities for her to
23 reclaim her own power.

24 **MS. RAINBOW MILLER:** Okay. And, my
25 last question, because I don't have no more time, it was

1 set out in the evidence throughout the week that sex
2 trafficking is very lucrative. Do you believe that
3 organized crime is involved in the traffic of women and
4 girls?

5 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Absolutely.

6 **MS. RAINBOW MILLER:** And, is it
7 something that -- because when I look in the documents, it
8 talks about gangs. It doesn't talk about organized crime,
9 which is different, you know. It's not a gang that has
10 three or four girls. It could be, like, 20, 50 girls.

11 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes. Sex
12 trafficking is -- the people that are the traffickers are
13 also very broad. And so, you can go from organized crime,
14 like, that is very, very organized, right through the
15 spectrum of a couple of guys live in Winnipeg, have a
16 cousin in Calgary, and maybe a friend in Edmonton, and
17 they are buying and selling girls amongst themselves. Or,
18 it could be a localized small gang, or an individual, or
19 an old man who is doing the sexual exploitation. So,
20 anywhere along that continuum are who the criminals are
21 that are trafficking our kids.

22 **MS. RAINBOW MILLER:** Thank you so
23 much. I had so many more questions, but my time is up.

24 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.
25 Next, we would like to invite up the Treaty Alliance of

1 Northern Ontario, the Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Grand
2 Council Treaty 3. Ms. Krystyn Ordyniec has 3.5 -- oh, I'm
3 so sorry. I missed one. Thank you. I apologize, Ms.

4 Lomax. I skipped a line, obviously. The
5 Native Women's Association of Canada, Ms. Virginia Lomax
6 has 3.5 minutes.

7 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. VIRGINIA LOMAX:**

8 **MS. VIRGINIA LOMAX:** Thank you.
9 First, I want to acknowledge the spirits of our stolen
10 sisters who are with us here in the room today, and I
11 thank the people of the territories who have welcomed us
12 to their territories today, but I don't have very much
13 time. And so, I want to give all of my time to you today,
14 Ms. Redsky.

15 You spoke to us today about how you
16 created safe spaces for Indigenous trans and two-spirited
17 youth, and I was hoping that you could speak to us about
18 how you created those space spaces? And, if you could
19 share best practises for anybody else who is trying to
20 create those safe spaces?

21 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Well -- and thank
22 you. That's a really good question, because all too often
23 that doesn't happen, and that creates a very unique
24 vulnerability, and even more vulnerability for transgender
25 and two-spirited youth.

1 And so, all of the work that we've ever
2 done at the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, particularly with
3 the safe house and with our rural healing lodge, is the
4 women themselves will tell us what it is that needs to be
5 within programming. So when we developed every one of our
6 resources, it has been done in consultation with the
7 people who will benefit from that service.

8 And so when we developed both the safehouse
9 and Hands of Mother Earth, we had a experiential, a
10 survivor group, and within that survivor group, we always
11 make sure that there are transgender, two-spirited women
12 that are involved in the decision-making and planning what
13 the resource is going to look like and what needs to be in
14 there. And that is a critical and vital step in any kind
15 of program development, any kind of resource development
16 that is going to be done, particularly when it comes to
17 trauma inform services.

18 **MS. VIRGINIA LOMAX:** And since I have a
19 little bit more time, I'd love to ask you, we sometimes
20 hear about tokenizing trans people and two-spirit people.
21 And I was hoping you might be able to comment on the
22 difference between tokenizing and create -- and making
23 space?

24 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Well, yeah, and
25 tokenizing is you get invited to a meeting, you get your

1 money, and you leave. And there's really, you've asked
2 the question, you maybe didn't write anything down, or you
3 wrote something down and you didn't really mean it. And
4 that actually does happen more often than when trans and
5 two-spirited are being meaningfully involved into the
6 development of any resources.

7 And so it is really critical that we are
8 having them sit at the table in a meaningful way, working
9 in the safehouse, like working within the resource, of
10 being compensated properly for their voice and for -- and
11 that they're being cared for in a trauma inform way. All
12 of those things are really important and we have to value
13 and respect what they bring because they are the ones that
14 are the experts.

15 **MS. VIRGINIA LOMAX:** Certainly. And
16 yesterday, we had a witness testify that it would be a
17 good idea to have research done on Indigenous sexuality
18 prior to colonialism and contact. Would you agree that
19 that is a very important next step in addressing an
20 epidemic of violence?

21 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yeah. I -- like I know
22 very little about myself, pre-contact, and so that would
23 be a learning for me too.

24 **MS. VIRGINIA LOMAX:** Thank you very much.

25 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.

1 Now, we would like to invite up the Treaty
2 Alliance Northern Ontario, Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Grand
3 Council Treaty 3. Ms. Krystyn Ordyniec will have three-
4 and-a-half minutes.

5 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. KRYSTYN ORDYNIC:**

6 **MS. KRYSTYN ORDYNIC:** Good afternoon,
7 Chief Commissioner, Commissioners. I would echo the
8 sentiments of my colleagues and thank you very much for
9 the warm welcome onto the territory today.

10 I don't have a lot of time, but I am
11 honoured to be here on behalf of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, as
12 well as Grand Council Treaty 3, who are here together as
13 the Northern Treaty Alliance.

14 So I thank you, Diane, so much. I know
15 you've done a lot of important work, and our clients say
16 thank you so much. As well, Rachel, thank you for your
17 story and your bravery.

18 Chief Smyth, thank you for your humility
19 and your humanity. As you are no doubt aware, there is --
20 the Thunder Bay Police Service is the subject of an OCPC
21 investigation, the Board, as well as an OIPRD
22 investigation into the actual service.

23 And my question for you is before those
24 reports come out, before looking at recommendations, your
25 opinion on what municipal police services can do to begin

1 to address historical systemic issues that are so
2 prevalent?

3 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Well, I think the first
4 thing you need to do is establish a relationship with
5 those that were harmed and those that can share their
6 experience.

7 **MS. KRISTYN ORDYNIEC:** Thank you. And my
8 next question would be, there is a search for a new chief
9 of police for the Thunder Bay Police Service, and I
10 wondered what you would say to that individual who would
11 ultimately be appointed to that position on the first day
12 of their job?

13 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** It's not going to me.

14 **(LAUGHTER)**

15 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** You know, depending on
16 where that person comes from, in my own experience,
17 relationships developed into the various communities in
18 Winnipeg long before I became chief, and I think that
19 allows you to sort of hit the ground running. So I'm a
20 proponent of sort of homegrown, if you will, if it's
21 appropriate.

22 And you know, there's so much involved in
23 selecting a chief, it can become very political as well.
24 But certainly, having established contacts and
25 relationships in the community is half the battle.

1 **MS. KRISTYN ORDYNIEC:** Thank you. And
2 there's a saying in the law that says, "Justice must not
3 only be done, but also must seem to be done." Are you
4 familiar with that?

5 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** I am.

6 **MS. KRISTYN ORDYNIEC:** And would you agree
7 that this would also apply to police services and how
8 service is given to the public?

9 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Certainly. I'm always
10 aware of perception.

11 **MS. KRISTYN ORDYNIEC:** And that perception,
12 I think you alluded to it already, is also hinged on trust
13 with communities; correct?

14 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Indeed.

15 **MS. KRISTYN ORDYNIEC:** And would you agree
16 that the historically disadvantaged relationships of those
17 with Indigenous communities, trust is even greater of an
18 issue?

19 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Yes. It can be a very
20 big challenge to re-establish trust.

21 **MS. KRISTYN ORDYNIEC:** And would you also
22 agree that just because something isn't reported it does
23 not mean it is not happening?

24 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** No. I mean, I agree with
25 you that something can happen and it wasn't necessarily

1 reported.

2 **MS. KRYSZYN ORDYNIEC:** And in a situation
3 where a police service would come out and say that
4 something is not happening because it is not reported, can
5 you just speak on the -- how that would affect the trust
6 between a police service and a community?

7 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Well, I guess it depends
8 on the credibility between the service and the community.
9 You know, we know much of the content that we've been
10 talking about here today -- exploitation, sexual assault -
11 - those are all very underreported things. So you know, I
12 would agree that things can happen and you may not
13 necessarily see them through a report.

14 **MS. KRYSZYN ORDYNIEC:** Thank you very much
15 for your time. Thank you to everybody.

16 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.

17 Next, we would like to invite up Awo Taan
18 Healing Lodge Society. Mr. Darrin Blain, who is already
19 at the podium there, has three-and-a-half minutes.

20 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DARRIN BLAIN:**

21 **MR. DARRIN BLAIN:** Chief
22 Commissioner Buller and Commissioners, good afternoon.

23 What a beautiful welcome we've had from our
24 host communities, our host nations, and our Elders this
25 week. And I want to also thank Audrey for the cedar that

1 she gave me this morning. I think we all needed a bit of
2 cedar after yesterday.

3 There's a bit of sadness within the parties
4 with standing mulling in the hallway, it's a sad day for
5 us to say good-bye. We are a newly formed family. I now
6 have about 70 new sisters and about 3 new brothers.

7 (LAUGHTER)

8 **MR. DARRIN BLAIN:** And lots of new
9 grandmothers. Yes.

10 Good afternoon, Chief Smyth. Are you
11 drawing a link -- pardon me. In your materials, you draw
12 a link between the missing and murdered -- the missing
13 girls that are the result of being sexually exploited.
14 Are you also drawing a link that as a result of being
15 sexually exploited and trafficked that one of the
16 unfortunate results of that is also that some of these
17 unfortunate women and girls would end up being murdered?

18 **MR. DANNY SMYTH:** That's certainly a
19 possibility.

20 **MR. DARRIN BLAIN:** Thank you, Sir.
21 Ms. Redsky, good afternoon.

22 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Good afternoon.

23 **MR. DARRIN BLAIN:** I want you to imagine
24 for a second a 13-year old girl in her bedroom in a
25 northern community. She happens to have Internet, she

1 happens to have a computer. She's just about to put
2 herself to bed for the night. She wants to check her
3 Facebook, she wants to check her Instagram, and whatever
4 else a 13-year old would want to check on social media.

5 A predator, a criminal finds his way
6 into her computer somehow and starts planting seeds to
7 lure her into what we're talking about today. In the
8 limited time that you've got with this Commission, namely,
9 the next few minutes with me and your only time here
10 today, can you tell the good Commissioners what on earth
11 we need to do for that little girl, what resources need to
12 be in place in her community, and how on earth we can
13 prevent these seeds from germinating?

14 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Thank you, that's a
15 really good question. The first thing is that this
16 happens all the time. It happens more often than people
17 think. And, when I go across the country, wherever it is,
18 particularly in the north, that every community I have
19 been, there has been at least one story of at least one
20 girl who has disappeared or has been lured to an urban
21 centre.

22 And so, there's two things I want to
23 say about that. The first one is that there needs to be
24 resources in First Nation communities that are adequate,
25 that are building on her protective factors to know how to

1 protect herself online, that parents can have
2 conversations and know also how to support to protect them
3 online. That's the first thing.

4 **MR. DARRIN BLAIN:** Right. And, the
5 Commissioners are noting these as you go. Go ahead.

6 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** The second one,
7 which is critically important, and we can't forget that
8 there are bad people who are targeting our kids. And so,
9 while we can do all of the resources and put -- do a lot
10 of education, we can't forget that there are bad people
11 who are targeting our young Indigenous girls and counting
12 on them to be vulnerable, or uneducated or not knowing how
13 to be safe online, that these individuals are there.

14 And so, we need enforcement, we need
15 to be raising strong boys, we need to be educating and
16 creating opportunities for men to be part of the solution
17 and involved in meaningful ways. And so, while we look at
18 this issue, we're thinking about her first and foremost,
19 but let's not ever forget about the people who are
20 targeting our kids solely for the purpose of planning to
21 victimize them.

22 **MR. DARRIN BLAIN:** Thank you. And,
23 good afternoon to you all.

24 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.
25 Next, we would like to invite up Pauktuutit, et al. Beth

1 Symes has three-and-a-half minutes.

2 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. BETH SYMES:**

3 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Thank you very much.
4 I'm Beth Symes and I represent five Inuit organizations,
5 but most importantly for this cross-examination, the
6 Manitoba Inuit Association.

7 Chief Smyth, you're aware that there
8 are Inuit in Winnipeg?

9 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

10 **MS. BETH SYMES:** And, you're aware
11 that each year, over 15,000 medical visits from, sort of,
12 central Inuit Nunangat come to Winnipeg?

13 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes, I think it's
14 -- I don't know if the pronunciation is right, but
15 Kivalliq. Yes, I'm aware of the transition centre.

16 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Right. And, you're
17 aware then that some of these people who come south, some
18 of these women and girls who come south speak no English
19 or very little English?

20 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

21 **MS. BETH SYMES:** And, I watched the
22 videos, and I have to say, where they are housed, whether
23 it's in a hotel or in a boarding house, is in one of those
24 pink areas in Winnipeg.

25 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Indeed, on

1 Burnell.

2 **MS. BETH SYMES:** And, these are very
3 dangerous areas?

4 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Well, it can be.
5 I should point out, it's also close to the hospital as
6 well.

7 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Well, exactly. But,
8 nonetheless is that there are traffickers, pimps, whatever
9 we want to call it, who are waiting outside that hospital,
10 hotel or the boarding house to try and lure a young Inuk
11 girl; right?

12 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's certainly
13 possible.

14 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Okay. And, not only
15 do we have the medical visits, we also have Inuit young
16 people, children, coming south to go to finish high school
17 and to go to college and university, you agree?

18 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I wasn't aware of
19 that, but it's -- certainly I'm aware of a lot of young
20 kids coming down from the north to do things like school,
21 employment and medical visits, yes.

22 **MS. BETH SYMES:** And, are you aware
23 that there are Inuit children in care in Winnipeg?

24 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I wasn't aware,
25 but it's not surprising to me.

1 **MS. BETH SYMES:** I'm going to remind
2 the Commissioners that when we were in Rankin Inlet, we
3 heard the story of two Inuit girls, one from Chesterfield
4 Inlet, one from Rankin Inlet, who were apprehended when
5 they were about 13 in Winnipeg from an incredibly abusive
6 situation. I'm going to commend you, sir, your female
7 police officer was outstanding in acknowledging, and
8 reaching out and assisting these two young girls get
9 treatment, physical treatment, mental treatment, and to be
10 safe.

11 But, one of the things I want to ask
12 you is that, in Exhibit 76, which is, you know, all your
13 partners and agencies, et cetera, you don't list the
14 Manitoba Inuit Association.

15 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** No. And, in fact,
16 I noted that earlier in the week when I was preparing for
17 my testimony, and to be honest, I have not had any
18 personal experience with the Inuit association in
19 Winnipeg.

20 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Do you undertake to
21 me that you will go back in on Monday, call Rachel Dutton
22 and begin to establish some sort of a relationship between
23 the Winnipeg Police Services and the Inuit in Winnipeg?

24 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** You have my word
25 on that, but I think they should be part of the coalitions

1 that I spoke of earlier.

2 **MS. BETH SYMES:** And, is there any
3 Inuit cultural training for police officers in Winnipeg?

4 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I don't know that
5 we have specific training for Inuit, we certainly have a
6 lot of Indigenous training. I would have to check to see
7 if there's an Inuit component to that.

8 **MS. BETH SYMES:** And, over and over
9 again ---

10 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I'm sorry, Ms.
11 Symes, you're out of time.

12 **MS. BETH SYMES:** I'm sorry. Okay.

13 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.

14 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Thank you.

15 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Next, we would
16 like to invite up the Association of Native Child and
17 Family Service Agencies of Ontario. So, you're still
18 here, but you're in another capacity, so I would like to
19 reset the time for six minutes. Well, she's acting as
20 agent for another party, in this capacity. So...

21 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. BETH SYMES:**

22 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Okay. I just want
23 you to imagine that I am Katherine Hensel. I am tall and
24 I am trying to occupy her very large shoes. And so,
25 Katherine apologizes that she -- her younger daughter is

1 ill and she had to go home early. I am with Deanna Jones
2 Keeshig who is helping me formulate these questions.

3 In terms of the Association of Native
4 Children and Family Services Agencies in Ontario, the
5 first thing that Katherine wants you to know is that youth
6 that are in care under her agencies come to migrate to
7 Winnipeg, and children in care in Manitoba and Winnipeg
8 migrate to Ontario, to Northern Ontario. The border is,
9 kind of, permeable, would you agree?

10 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

11 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Okay. Now, I wanted
12 to ask you, Chief Smyth, using Tina Fontaine, not as,
13 like, the worst case example, but as a way of exploring
14 some issues, because you have given evidence today about
15 human trafficking in Winnipeg from the perspective of the
16 Winnipeg Police. And, Katherine now would like to ask you
17 questions about the same exploitation and human
18 trafficking, but this time from the perspective of the
19 Indigenous children. And, I'm going to purposely call
20 them children because, to me, that's who they are.

21 Now, in terms of Tina Fontaine, at the
22 time of her death, she was a child; right? She's 15.

23 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct.

24 **MS. BETH SYMES:** And, she was grieving
25 from the death of her father?

1 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

2 **MS. BETH SYMES:** And, she also had
3 some mental health issues and those were the reasons that
4 she came into care, that there were not appropriate
5 services to deal with these?

6 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I wasn't aware of
7 that, but I'll take your word for that.

8 **MS. BETH SYMES:** But, she had
9 obviously been found to be a child in need of protection,
10 that's how she got into Child and Family Services?

11 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

12 **MS. BETH SYMES:** And, she had come to
13 Winnipeg to try and establish a relationship with her
14 birth mother?

15 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's my
16 understanding.

17 **MS. BETH SYMES:** And, as a child, a
18 15-year-old child in need of protection, Tina was housed
19 in a number of hotels. That's where she was placed in
20 care.

21 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's my
22 understanding.

23 **MS. BETH SYMES:** And, the Charterhouse
24 Hotel, is it also in one of those pink areas?

25 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** No, the

1 Charterhouse is right downtown.

2 **MS. BETH SYMES:** It's on an edge;
3 right? Not far from the one in the west?

4 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Not too far.
5 Certainly walkable.

6 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Okay. And, would you
7 agree with me that outside these hotels were men who were
8 there to lure, to pimp, to somehow get children like Tina
9 to come into the sex industry?

10 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I don't have
11 direct knowledge of that, but that's certainly possible.

12 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Well, I'm not asking in
13 particular to this one, but the hotels where Tina was
14 housed by Child and Family Services that pimps,
15 traffickers, in fact, hang out around those areas.

16 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** One of the things I
17 should point out, and it may well be one of Tina's
18 legacies, is that hotels are no longer used to house
19 children.

20 **MS. BETH SYMES:** But, the traffickers, the
21 pimps, know where to go and look for these children.

22 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes, I think we've
23 heard some evidence of that throughout the week of how
24 they go about their business.

25 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Now, we know that Tina was

1 involved in a police stop in which she was in a vehicle
2 with a much older man; is that correct?

3 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct.

4 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Now, is this one of these
5 so-called DISC stops?

6 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** No.

7 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Is the DISC stop new?

8 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** No, the DISC stop has
9 been around for a while.

10 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Well, can you tell me, why
11 wouldn't any alarms go off from the police to see a child
12 with a much older man in a vehicle? Obviously, they
13 weren't related, were they?

14 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Certainly, I have
15 addressed this publicly in the past. Those officers
16 didn't perform their duties. They were both held
17 accountable individually.

18 **MS. BETH SYMES:** So, what I'm really trying
19 to say is, this is the ideal time, if possible, to try and
20 identify -- this is a child who is being trafficked, or at
21 least a risk that the child is being trafficked.

22 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** She was certainly very
23 vulnerable. Yes.

24 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Okay. And, in fact, Tina
25 was one of those youth who, in fact, had been reported

1 missing.

2 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I think so, yes.

3 **MS. BETH SYMES:** I was really, really
4 troubled by the answer that you gave to one of my
5 colleagues in which -- or perhaps you gave it to them,
6 that when you said that the police were now downloading
7 the responsibility to the group home to try and search for
8 the child before she is reported missing, and I want to
9 lead up to this by saying in Tina's case, from the time of
10 that stop, that traffic stop, until she was killed was
11 very short.

12 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I believe it was about
13 a week, but she was found and returned to care the
14 following day from that traffic stop.

15 **MS. BETH SYMES:** But, what I'm trying to
16 say is ---

17 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Sorry, Ms. Symes.
18 Do you want to reset the time for Ms. Hensel again? I see
19 you're on the list next for her.

20 So, on behalf of the Independent First
21 Nations, Ms. Symes will be acting as agent for 3.5
22 minutes.

23 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. BETH SYMES:**

24 **MS. BETH SYMES:** So, I'm still wearing
25 Katherine's hat and the shoes are still feeling a bit big.

1 The Independent First Nations have three First Nations
2 very near the Manitoba border. Ms. Redsky, Shoal Lake is
3 one of the independent First Nations, also White Dog and
4 Big Trout. And so, the people who grew up in western
5 Ontario actually look to Winnipeg as that's where we
6 belong, rather than to big bad Toronto, et cetera. So,
7 it's out of those, then, that I continue to ask the
8 questions about Tina.

9 And so, the question I was trying to get
10 at, Chief Smyth, is that for a child who is in a car with
11 a stranger, right, a trafficker, someone who is trying to
12 groom her, to lure her into the sex industry, would you
13 agree with me that in many cases, time is of the essence?

14 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** In that case, Tina
15 should have been taken into care.

16 **MS. BETH SYMES:** And, that it's like the
17 old way was come back in 24 hours if your daughter is
18 missing.

19 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That wasn't the case
20 here.

21 **MS. BETH SYMES:** I understand that. But,
22 do you understand our concern that a missing child, a
23 child that appears at a traffic stop, being potential to
24 being trafficked, is a child that needs immediate,
25 immediate police attention?

1 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I think I just said
2 that.

3 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Okay. And, I understand,
4 then, that she was found subsequently in a hospital --
5 sorry, she was found, taken to a hospital and treated, and
6 then she was returned to a hotel, the hotel where she was?

7 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's my
8 understanding. The police weren't involved in that.

9 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Now, in terms of Tina, she
10 is, I think you said, one of about 10,000 Indigenous
11 children who are in care in Manitoba?

12 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

13 **MS. BETH SYMES:** And, can I ask you, in
14 2014, were there any protocols between Winnipeg Police
15 Services and any of the Child and Family Services that
16 would have applied to Winnipeg's investigations and
17 contacts with Tina?

18 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I'm not sure what you
19 mean by investigations.

20 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Well, in terms of the
21 stop. Were there any ones in or are there any today
22 arising out of lessons learned from Tina?

23 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I'm not sure how to
24 answer that.

25 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I'm going to stop

1 the time for a minute, because I believe that he has
2 answered that question two times now in terms of his
3 response. One of the lessons learned was the change in
4 hotel, but also, one of the lessons learned was that --
5 and he spoke to the discipline of officers. I kind of
6 feel like the same question is ---

7 **MS. BETH SYMES:** I'm not asking that.

8 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Maybe you can
9 reframe it so that it doesn't seem like that's the same
10 question being asked?

11 **MS. BETH SYMES:** That's not the question
12 I'm asking. The question is, were -- are there, today,
13 any protocols in place between the Winnipeg Police
14 Services and Child and Family Services that would protect
15 children like Tina?

16 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Well, there are
17 protocols in place, and there were before that. The
18 officers involved didn't follow those protocols.

19 **MS. BETH SYMES:** What changes, if any, have
20 you made to make children like Tina more safe?

21 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** It's just going to be
22 our ongoing relationship with the groups that I've talked
23 about, the coalitions, where we try to look out for it and
24 protect our children. I expect my officers to follow all
25 of the protocols and follow the rules that wasn't done in

1 that particular case.

2 **MS. BETH SYMES:** Would you -- Ms. Redsky,
3 would you recommend to the ---

4 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Sorry, Ms. Symes,
5 before you started the question, you are out of time.
6 And, if you had asked the question before the time, I
7 would have absolutely let the answer occur. Thank you.

8 Next, we would like to invite up ITK. Ms.
9 Elizabeth Zarpa will have 3.5 minutes.

10 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA:**

11 **MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA:** Good afternoon. My
12 name is Elizabeth Zarpa. I am legal counsel representing
13 Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, which is a national organization
14 that represents the four Inuit land claim regions in
15 Canada.

16 I want to thank and acknowledge the
17 original habitants of these lands, what is now
18 Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunatsiavut, namely the
19 Mi'kmaw and the Beothuk of Newfoundland, the Inuit of
20 Labrador and the Innu of Labrador. I acknowledge also
21 Nunatsiavut elder Sarah Ponniuk.

22 Thank you all for your testimony this
23 morning and this afternoon. That was very powerful and a
24 very difficult week for many of us. My questions will be
25 geared towards you, Ms. Redsky, and you, Ms. Willan. I

1 will try and do it very quickly, because I just have three
2 minutes.

3 Ms. Redsky, in your experiences through
4 programming relating to sexual exploitation and sex
5 trafficking in Winnipeg, have you worked with Inuit women
6 who are involved with sexual exploitation or sex
7 trafficking?

8 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** No, I have not.

9 **MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA:** Okay. And, have you,
10 Ms. Willan?

11 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** I have.

12 **MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA:** And, in your
13 experience, can you please explain whether you are aware
14 of any rehabilitative programs or programs in place for
15 Inuit who are involved in sexual exploitation?

16 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Usually, the Inuit, I
17 would kind of bring them to where I used my services. So,
18 if I used not an Inuit service, but they would be
19 surrounded by the programs that helped me, and I have many
20 great relationships and friends, and to me, I've worked
21 great with the women.

22 **MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA:** Would it be a
23 recommendation that throughout the urban centres where
24 Inuit reside, including in Winnipeg, that there be Inuit-
25 specific healing lodges or rehabilitative programs, or

1 safe spaces where Inuit women and girls who have been
2 exploited can go to heal while accessing their cultural
3 foods, language and customs?

4 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Absolutely.

5 **MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA:** Thank you.
6 Yesterday, we heard from Ms. Moon Perrin that
7 decriminalizing the act of sex in exchange for money could
8 potentially make it safer for Indigenous women who are
9 being sexually exploited or participating in sex work. If
10 you're open to this, can you please explain whether you
11 think decriminalizing sex in exchange for money would make
12 it safer for Indigenous women? And this is towards both
13 of you.

14 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** I'm not for
15 decriminalising exploitation. As a survivor, I never,
16 ever in my life would have thought that I would be
17 standing on a corner to survive, for a place to sleep or a
18 place to eat. By any means, it is not a job. It is not a
19 way for us women to make money. We are women. We are
20 caregivers. We give birth. We know our roles in society
21 -- you know, out in society. And I don't believe that
22 we're putting -- by -- you know, we're not going to be
23 safe either way.

24 We need to end the demand and that's plain
25 and simple. We need to start going after the people

1 purchasing and buying sex and start really pushing and
2 enforcing the -- and changing the legislation to not
3 penalise the women, but decriminalising it would not do
4 it. Because you know what, we're sending the wrong
5 message for our next generation. Enough protecting our
6 perpetrators. We need to start taking care of our women
7 and we need to start showing them the love that they
8 deserve. So I'm not for that whatsoever.

9 Thank you.

10 **MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA:** Thank you and it's
11 open if you're open to ---

12 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Oh.

13 **MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA:** --- discussing it. I
14 asked both you, but ---

15 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Oh, okay.

16 **MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA:** --- it's up to
17 counsel.

18 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Of no form of anything
19 is going to make sexual exploitation safe. It's violence.
20 It's a human rights violation, and certainly when it's
21 forced it is the most extreme form of violence. And it's
22 targeted to victimise Indigenous women. We experience way
23 more violence under sexual exploitation than anybody else
24 does. So nothing can ever be done. And, in fact, it
25 would be 10 steps backwards, as Rachel was saying, in that

1 we have -- again, there's just -- I don't want to take up
2 too much time, but there is absolutely no way that it
3 would make it safer.

4 **MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA:** Thank you.

5 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.

6 Next we would like to invite up the Eastern
7 Door Indigenous Woman's Association. Ms. Natalie Clifford
8 will have three and a half minutes.

9 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD:**

10 **MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD:** Thank you. Natalie
11 Clifford, Eastern Door Indigenous Women's Association.
12 Thank you all for your evidence today. Going to be a
13 little bit abrupt.

14 Ms. Redsky, I just wanted to start with you
15 and say thank you so much for offering such a level-headed
16 and informed explanation about walking us through
17 exploitation and trafficking. And I think personally,
18 from your explanation, I have come to better understand it
19 and actually now see where it's happening around me in
20 places that I didn't see it before.

21 So in light of this, I wonder whether you
22 would support a recommendation to the Commissioners that
23 education in the way you've brought it to us, I mean, of
24 course trauma-informed and age appropriate, be offered
25 with respect to exploitation and trafficking for children

1 across the country from a young age?

2 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Absolutely. And I would
3 only add to that that there would be the safety net in
4 place prior to that education and awareness being done.
5 So, teachers are trained, there's a place to call, there's
6 a place to go when disclosures happen, because they
7 ultimately will. And, again, I've been -- done lots of
8 presentations in schools and every single time there's at
9 least one disclosure that comes out of it -- out of those
10 presentations.

11 **MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD:** Thank you. Okay.
12 Chief Smyth, I -- or actually, I'd like to
13 start with Staff Sergeant Ramkisson.

14 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**
15 Ramkisson.

16 **MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD:** Thank you. We heard
17 Chief Smyth's apology this morning and it was -- I thank
18 you, Chief Smyth, for that apology on behalf of the
19 Winnipeg Police Service. And I understand that you've
20 been with the Police Service since 1991. So I'm guessing
21 that the admitted not so good reputation and then the work
22 toward a better future has spanned your career; is that
23 accurate?

24 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**
25 Absolutely.

1 **MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD:** Okay. So then I
2 noted your specialised training and your work on anti-
3 exploitation and child abuse and I just wonder then, do
4 you recognise, just for the record, that Indigenous women,
5 children and individuals generally often require sort of
6 specialised treatment and understanding ---

7 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**

8 Absolutely.

9 **MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD:** --- in your work?

10 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**

11 Absolutely.

12 **MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD:** Okay. So is this
13 something that you learned in your specialised training?

14 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Yes,
15 it's like a wraparound learning process. It's working
16 with partners and stuff, understanding the trauma informed
17 and becoming more aware of that.

18 **MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD:** So it's been also in
19 your journey of your work experience and your own
20 initiative that you've been able to come to that
21 understanding?

22 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**

23 Absolutely.

24 **MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD:** Okay.

25 So, Chief Smyth, with that in mind, and

1 again, thank you for your apology, I'm wondering if you
2 can offer us some, like, insight into what you do about
3 members who might be stuck in that old frame of mind,
4 because I'm going to assume you do come across them from
5 time to time; correct?

6 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

7 **MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD:** And so what's your
8 policy on when you do find that, I mean, I'm going to call
9 it racism within your police force?

10 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** A couple of things that
11 we've done and certainly we have both respectful workplace
12 conduct and fair and impartial policies that we would
13 treat everybody with dignity and respect, but we also
14 brought in a program that systematically put all our
15 members through that kind of training so that (a) they
16 recognised implicit bias in themselves and were in a
17 position to take steps to try to avoid that. So that
18 program was originally out of Florida. We were -- we
19 brought the folks up here to Canada to teach us, sort of
20 train the trainer. It's an ongoing program so that we
21 introduce it to our recruits and systematically throughout
22 our ranking file.

23 **MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD:** Thank you.

24 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's just one of the
25 things that go on.

1 **MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD:** Thank you. That's
2 my time. Thank you.

3 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** The next party with
4 three and a half minutes is the Aboriginal Women's Society
5 with Carly Teillet.

6 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. CARLY TEILLET:**

7 **MS. CARLY TEILLET:** Tashi, bonjour and good
8 afternoon. I'd like to begin by acknowledging our
9 presence on the ancestral territory of the Beothuk and the
10 territory of the Mi'kmaw and on lands that the Inuit and
11 Innu call home, and to acknowledge the spirits of our
12 women and girls, their families, survivors, the Elders and
13 the medicines and the sacred items that are here with us
14 today.

15 I have the privilege of acting as counsel
16 for the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society and they serve
17 the Kaska Nation, which is in the northern B.C., southern
18 Yukon.

19 Chief Smyth, my questions are for you this
20 afternoon. And due to the shortness of time I'll ask yes
21 or no answer, please.

22 So I want to start by applauding you,
23 because this morning you are a chief of police and your
24 primary recommendation was not for more police ---

25 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** No.

1 **MS. CARLY TEILLET:** --- or more money for
2 the police, but was to support Indigenous women's
3 organisations. And that is wonderful, so thank you for
4 that.

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 **MS. CARLY TEILLET:** Now, you showed
7 startling statistics that showed a direct link between
8 children in care and missing children in Manitoba, in
9 Winnipeg specifically.

10 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Certainly there appears
11 to be a correlation, yes.

12 **MS. CARLY TEILLET:** Okay. I'm going to
13 push you a little bit farther on that and say ---

14 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Okay.

15 **MS. CARLY TEILLET:** --- that through that
16 correlation do you recognise that the child protection
17 system is directly contributing to the murdered and
18 missing Indigenous women and girls?

19 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's a strong
20 statement, but you won't get an argument from me.

21 **MS. CARLY TEILLET:** So is that a yes?

22 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's a yes.

23 (APPLAUSE)

24 **MS. CARLY TEILLET:** So you've spoken about
25 the need for partnerships and to move forward and protect

1 Indigenous women. And Ms. Redsky spoke about the need to
2 have a survivor at the table as critical to any movement
3 forward. So would you agree that excluding Indigenous
4 women's organisations and survivors from participating in
5 decision making, in policies and plans has directly
6 contributed to the murdered and missing women?

7 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I don't know if I will
8 look backwards, but certainly I don't think we should do
9 anything without Indigenous women being at the table, the
10 Indigenous community being at the table.

11 **MS. CARLY TEILLET:** So you see it as part
12 of a solution and if it's not there it's a problem?

13 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

14 **MS. CARLY TEILLET:** So all too often
15 Indigenous communities build relationships with people
16 like yourself and invest in people. They train, they
17 build trust and then those people leave, so would you
18 agree that police departments institutionalize, hold, and
19 we would say probably hold sacred, some of those
20 relationships and those commitments to Indigenous
21 organizations and to communities so that they survive that
22 change in leadership?

23 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

24 **MS. CARLY TEILLET:** Thank you. Ms.
25 Willan, I have a quick question for you. This afternoon,

1 you talked about a wraparound service of OPK, and my
2 clients have talked about building healing centres, a safe
3 place in their community based on the land, culture and
4 community where someone could go and get everything they
5 might need service-wise, health-wise, a safe place, an
6 elder, food in one place, so they didn't have to knock on
7 multiple doors and maybe get lost on that path in between.

8 Would you support a recommendation
9 that services that address the whole person need to be
10 funded and sourced within Indigenous communities across
11 Canada?

12 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Yes, I do. And,
13 when I say yes, I also don't just say plop one in each
14 province, because each province has their numbers and
15 their numbers are climbing in Indigenous population, and
16 we need to look at how many numbers we have. So, some
17 provinces may need two or three, some may need one. Our
18 time is running out, we must enforce and put them in place
19 immediately or our numbers are never going to go down.
20 We're going to continue to see violence and we're going to
21 continue to experience violence as women.

22 So, our shelters need to start going
23 up and, you know, in the next -- after our recommendations
24 are up, we need to push Canadians to make sure that us
25 women, and inclusive to all women, are safe. You know, no

1 more violence. It's that simple. Thank you.

2 **MS. CARLY TEILLET:** Thank you for your
3 truth and thank you to the panel. Meegwetch. Merci.

4 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** The next party
5 with seven minutes is the Murdered and Missing Indigenous
6 Women and Girls Manitoba Coalition represented by
7 Catherine Dunn.

8 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. CATHERINE DUNN:**

9 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** Good afternoon.
10 As this is the last day for my appearance, I would like to
11 take a moment to directly thank the co-chairs of the
12 Manitoba Coalition of Murdered and Missing Women and Girls
13 being Hilda Anderson-Pyrz and Sandra DeLaronde who have
14 provided me, as counsel to that organization, an ability
15 to have shared knowledge and to engage directly with the
16 families and survivors with respect to this very important
17 issue. They have provided me direction and they have
18 provided me guidance, and I thank them.

19 My first question is for Chief Smyth.
20 Chief Smyth, you have indicated that you have a number of
21 partners, in fact, on Exhibit, I believe it's 76 [sic],
22 you've listed a number, perhaps 50 or more organizations
23 that are involved in providing the Winnipeg Police
24 Services with assistance in terms of dealing with sexual
25 exploitation, is that fair?

1 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Which document are
2 you referring to?

3 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** The -- I believe
4 it's Exhibit 78.

5 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I don't want to
6 cut your time. Is it the Sexually Exploited Youth
7 Coalition you're referring to?

8 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** Yes. It looks
9 like this.

10 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes, I wouldn't
11 have quite put it that way, but we're a partner with them.
12 Yes.

13 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** All right. Is
14 there a federal government partner that you can look to in
15 terms of your dealing with this issue? Either as a person
16 on the partnership committees such as they are or through
17 a direct funding link?

18 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Well, again, we're
19 just a member of that coalition. That's not something
20 that we lead.

21 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** All right. And,
22 in terms of that coalition, is there a federal government
23 member in the coalition?

24 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That one might be
25 best directed to Diane.

1 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** Ms. Redsky,
2 perhaps you can ---

3 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** No, not yet.

4 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** All right. Ms.
5 Redsky, I have a question for you in terms of Indigenous
6 led community based organizations. In Winnipeg, I am
7 aware that there are a number of Indigenous led community
8 based organizations and there are a number of non-
9 Indigenous community based organizations. Could you tell
10 me what the Indigenous led organizations can bring to the
11 table that the non-Indigenous community based
12 organizations cannot?

13 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** When it comes to
14 services to Indigenous people?

15 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** Exactly.

16 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Well, the
17 Indigenous knowledge and how we care for one another and
18 how that rolls out into service delivery that meets the
19 needs of our people versus non-Indigenous organizations
20 who -- and again, there is varying degrees of non-
21 Indigenous organizations. Some of them will be a non-
22 Indigenous organization, but employ and have a board of
23 Indigenous people and they are able to have a service
24 delivery model that works. And then you have non-
25 Indigenous organizations who employ no Indigenous people,

1 no Indigenous people on the board, and are delivering
2 service to Indigenous people and they do it poorly.

3 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** And so, when it
4 comes to making funding decisions, one of the integral
5 decision should be around the issue of whether funding
6 goes directly to Indigenously led organizations?

7 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** That should be a
8 requirement of all funding partners to ensure that if
9 you're delivering service to Indigenous people, it's an
10 Indigenous organization doing it.

11 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** And, that you are
12 at the table as a partner and not a receiver of money,
13 that you direct money to the programs that you say as an
14 Indigenous led organization should receive that money?

15 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Absolutely. All
16 forms of decision making should be available and provided
17 to us.

18 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** All right. And,
19 in terms of -- this question next is for Chief Smyth.
20 Chief Smyth, you -- this is a series of questions dealing
21 with missing person incidents in Winnipeg, which I think
22 is on page 7 of Exhibit 78. It's not numbered. But, in
23 any event, in terms of missing person incidents in
24 Winnipeg, I believe the number, I'm not sure if this is
25 2018 or in general, is 2,079. I wasn't sure if that was

1 in the year 2018 or...

2 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I'll take your
3 word for it. You're looking at the document, I don't have
4 it open with me.

5 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** No, that's fine.
6 We've heard evidence that a significant number of missing
7 children and youth come from the child welfare system.
8 So, if there were indeed 2,079 children or young people
9 missing in Winnipeg last year, a great deal of those 2,000
10 children or young people would be coming from the child
11 welfare system, is that fair?

12 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** The only thing
13 that I would clarify, that's 2,000 reports of missing
14 persons. So, it could include some of the same children.

15 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** Okay. So, some
16 of these children are being reported missing over, and
17 over and over again?

18 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes. Either way,
19 it's an alarming figure.

20 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** Right. And,
21 people who traffic in children are not dumb, they know
22 where to find their victims, do they not?

23 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I would agree.

24 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** And, they know
25 that the easiest place to find a victim and to induce them

1 into the sexually exploited world in which they are forced
2 to live would be through child welfare?

3 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That would be one
4 possibility, yes.

5 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** And, does child
6 welfare have an individual that comes to you as a police
7 force and say, what can we do specifically to protect our
8 children in care?

9 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** We certainly work
10 with the agencies that are working in Winnipeg. You
11 talked about -- we talked about earlier, sort of, the high
12 risk assessment that's done.

13 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** Okay. Is part of
14 that high risk, does that come from child welfare itself
15 to say, what can we do to protect the children in our
16 system? Is that their responsibility or is it a police
17 responsibility?

18 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I'm going to defer
19 that to Darryl because he works with that on a day-to-day
20 basis.

21 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** Certainly.

22 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**
23 We've had many meetings with the Executive Director, Lorna
24 Hanson, of Child and Family Services in Manitoba, and it's
25 a work in progress. Again, I'm not sure exactly what

1 decision they're going to make, but they are aware of it
2 and they're taking steps -- I talked earlier about the
3 safety plan and stuff that they're starting to put in
4 place.

5 **MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** My time is out.
6 Thank you very much.

7 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you. Next,
8 we would like to invite up the Native Women's Association
9 of the Northwest Territories. Ms. Amanda Thibodeau has
10 three-and-a-half minutes.

11 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU:**

12 **MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU:** Thank you. I echo
13 the sentiments and acknowledgements of my friends today,
14 and I thank all of you so much for sharing your knowledge
15 and your truths with us today. It's appreciated by
16 everyone here. I'm going to jump right into the
17 questions.

18 Chief Smyth, your slide show featured a
19 video from the Heart Medicine Lodge.

20 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

21 **MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU:** I'm wondering how
22 long that has been in operation?

23 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Heart Medicine Lodge?

24 **MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU:** Yes.

25 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** It's been several years

1 now.

2 **MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU:** And, since that has
3 been in operation, has there been an increase in reporting
4 of sexual offences?

5 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I don't know.

6 **MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU:** Okay. My next
7 question is for Rachel Willan. May I call you Rachel?
8 Thank you.

9 Drawing from your experience, in your
10 opinion, what is the one most important thing that could
11 be implemented in the child welfare system that would
12 promote the safety and well being of children that are in
13 care? I know it's a big question.

14 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** It's a good question.
15 There's so many. If I can have one safety is that each of
16 our -- what we deem is -- all of our children are
17 vulnerable. It doesn't matter if you're a chronic runaway
18 or not. To me, children in care are vulnerable and
19 children are vulnerable. So, at the end of the day, I
20 know that -- I do work with child welfare agencies, and I
21 have built great relationships with the social workers
22 that I work with.

23 And, at the end of the day, our ultimate
24 goal is to ensure that our children are safe, and I know
25 that with my work that I do, I am up literally from -- you

1 know, when I open my eyes, whether it be 6:00 till
2 midnight, I run like that for five, six, seven solid days
3 to ensure that the girls on my case, including other
4 girls, are not at harm. And, it takes once.

5 One that I just had two weeks ago was
6 harmed simply going to school, simply coming home on her
7 curfew time, and it really, really woke me, because we
8 like to think that they're getting to age of majority, but
9 they're not. So, if I could change one way is to ensure
10 that each of our children in child welfare are attached to
11 a mentor-like support, and their day doesn't end at 4:00.
12 It ends when she lays her head to go to sleep. That's
13 what the role of a mentor or a support person should be.

14 **MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU:** Thank you. I think
15 that's a wonderful idea.

16 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Thank you.

17 **MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU:** So, I have a
18 question for Ms. Redsky. Drawing from your experience,
19 can you advise what strategies and policies could be
20 implemented to avoid triggering or unnecessarily
21 traumatizing employees that are engaged in frontline work,
22 especially in the context of small remote communities such
23 as the Northwest Territories where these workers are
24 likely to be familiar with many of the clients they are
25 serving and their families? This is in the context of

1 Indigenous persons that may have a background of trauma
2 for themselves.

3 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Well, I think coming
4 from an Indigenous organization, we already care for one
5 another in the work that we do. And so, there is -- and
6 you have to be responsible, particularly if you're having
7 experiential or survivors that are working within a --
8 with other sexually-exploited youth. You have to show
9 some responsibility as an employer to be able to create
10 the environment that is supportive.

11 And so, we do a whole bunch of things in
12 terms of debriefing, making sure women have time off,
13 doing the schedule, double shifting, like, two staff on.
14 There is trauma-informed training that is done monthly.
15 Vicarious trauma is yearly. And so, all of those --
16 there's ceremonies built in. There's family fun days.
17 There's a lot of mental health type of opportunities that
18 exist to make sure that you're helping the helper, because
19 you need those helpers to be able to do the work and to do
20 the leadership. And so, that is really critically
21 important to build those in.

22 And, I think Indigenous organizations, and
23 there's many in this room here that I'm aware of, do it
24 naturally. It just comes natural to care for the people
25 that are doing the heart medicine work.

1 **MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU:** Thank you all so
2 very much.

3 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you. Next,
4 we'll invite up, and it looks slightly different as I'm
5 calling it than it says on the list, I'm going to invite
6 up Mishkeegogamang, because they are represented also by
7 Ms. Bellegham, and it's just an administrative error on
8 this list. It should be Mishkeegogamang and not the other
9 five First Nations. And, Ms. Van Bellegham will have 2 --
10 should be 3.5 minutes.

11 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. WHITNEY VAN BELLEGHAM:**

12 **MS. WHITNEY VAN BELLEGHAM:** I would like to
13 take a moment to give a special thank you to the families,
14 survivors and elders here with us. I'd also really like
15 to thank the Commissioners and Inquiry staff who have been
16 and will continue to work very hard. I'd also like to
17 acknowledge the ancestral territory we are on here today.

18 Ms. Redsky, my questions are for you. This
19 morning, you mentioned that it's very common to have
20 exploitation occur where there are transient men with
21 money. You gave the example of where there are sporting
22 events, and you also gave the example where there's
23 resource extraction worker camps.

24 The Ring of Fire is an enormous resource
25 extraction project that's proposed for northern Ontario.

1 It would bring a huge influx of workers in the area.
2 Concerningly, the majority of vehicles travelling to and
3 from the Ring of Fire would pass directly through
4 Mishkeegogamang's reserve community.

5 Now, in response to a question asked by
6 another party about how generally to protect individuals
7 and prevent sexual exploitation, you gave the examples,
8 for example, of raising boys strong, and education on the
9 dangers of online use. What recommendations might you
10 have for First Nation communities in terms of education,
11 awareness, and other supports to prepare them to deal for
12 -- sorry, to deal with the risks of sexual exploitation
13 and trafficking associated with being near these resource-
14 development camps?

15 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Thank you, and good
16 question. The really important starting point is to build
17 the relationship with the resource company that is coming
18 in, in the first place, and to map out a plan that is
19 proactive. And so, not only are people in the community
20 have access to training, education and awareness, and have
21 the resources to build the systems in advance, because
22 it's going to happen.

23 So, being proactive and being prepared is
24 the way to go. And so, then there is the -- the company
25 has a social responsibility in training and educating the

1 workers that are going to be in these communities. And
2 so, it is a very much of a dual track rooted in the
3 relationships. And so, I would recommend that doing
4 whatever you can to have that relationship so that you can
5 be as proactive as possible.

6 **MS. WHITNEY VAN BELLEGHAM:** Do you have any
7 recommendations specifically, then, as to how to start
8 building that relationship?

9 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** And, you know, very much
10 as what we do, it's reaching out, and I would maybe even
11 go through Chief and Council to set up a meeting with the
12 resource provider, that company that is going to be in
13 there, and start the discussions that way. And, failing
14 to do that, I would ask for help, and I would ask the
15 provincial and federal government, or anybody that has
16 anything to do with the resource development coming in
17 that you're trying to be proactive, and you're trying to
18 reduce and minimize the violence and the exploitation that
19 is ultimately going to happen as a result of transient men
20 with money.

21 **MS. WHITNEY VAN BELLEGHAM:** Thank you.
22 And, just as my last second here ---

23 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** No, I'm sorry.

24 **MS. WHITNEY VAN BELLEGHAM:** Sorry, it's not
25 a question.

1 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Okay.

2 **MS. WHITNEY VAN BELLEGHAM:** I just wanted
3 to thank my clients for giving me the opportunity to
4 represent them here, and again, to thank the Commission
5 and the Inquiry staff. Thank you so, so much.

6 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you. Next,
7 we would like to invite up, please, Ms. Diane Matte, will
8 have six minutes.

9 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. DIANE MATTE:**

10 **MS. DIANE MATTE:** Since we thought that it
11 would be gone, we didn't know that it was going to be
12 short like that, rapid without a break. I have asked her
13 to stand with me, because we prepared the questions
14 together.

15 Premièrement, merci beaucoup aux
16 commissaires, merci aux femmes autochtones qui continuent
17 à tous les jours, depuis fort longtemps à lutter contre
18 toutes les formes de violence envers les femmes. Je sais
19 tous les hauts et les bas qu'il y a eu et ça a été... et à
20 chaque fois que je suis venue et que je vous ai entendues,
21 un honneur de participer à ce processus-là qui, pour nous
22 à tout le moins comme organisation féministe qui travaille
23 au quotidien auprès des femmes qui ont un vécu en lien
24 avec la prostitution, d'une importance capitale pour la
25 suite des choses. On attend votre rapport et vos

1 recommandations avec énormément d'attentes.

2 So I'm going to continue in English. We
3 know that there's a lot of myths about what it means to
4 work towards the abolition of the institute -- what I call
5 the institution of prostitution.

6 We were very glad to hear you this morning,
7 Diane, so with clarity, explain what we do. We also have
8 heard yesterday, more specifically, what it means very
9 often, these myths, and what we are facing in a multitude
10 of places where we are, whether as activists, as students,
11 as frontline workers, as survivors, as professors.

12 Yesterday, we heard Professor Bourgeois
13 clearly state -- say how she has been ostracized in her
14 work -- in her place of work for the position she is --
15 she hold on prostitution. I would like you to, in a short
16 period, give what are these myths that should be
17 clarified, especially for the Commissioner, and clear the
18 way?

19 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** In terms of being -- of
20 ---

21 **MS. DIANE MATTE:** Of believing that
22 attacking the demand is the -- is of -- of is -- is of the
23 essence, and as you said this morning, the sex industry,
24 attacking the sex industry.

25 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** I'm sorry. You're going

1 to -- you got to lead me a little bit more. I'm not sure
2 what the question is. What kind of ---

3 **MS. DIANE MATTE:** Well, let's say because
4 of the time, especially around the question of safety.
5 Very often it is perceived as if being for the abolition
6 of prostitution or the sex industry don't care for the
7 safety of women who are in prostitution right now, and who
8 are there -- and they want to stay there. So I would like
9 to hear you about that.

10 **MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Okay. The --
11 understanding sexual exploitation and sex trafficking and
12 how it's rooted in violence and how it's rooted in --
13 particularly targeted towards a vulnerable group, there
14 are a number of myths around that, you know, as you said,
15 improving if it was decriminalized everybody is going to
16 be safe. It's -- it doesn't-- it's inherently violent.
17 Like it doesn't matter where you are.

18 If we make any form of, in my opinion,
19 decriminalization, you've just made the pimp an
20 entrepreneur. And that's a very dangerous world to me.
21 It's a very dangerous world to me to think about how that
22 will impact vulnerable people.

23 And at what point do we say that we're
24 going to just stop talking about it and stop the abuse
25 from happening? Like let's focus in on what it is that we

1 need to do in order to ensure that we are protecting the
2 safety of very vulnerable Indigenous women.

3 **MS. DIANE MATTE:** Thank you.

4 The other question would be for you,
5 Rachel, if you don't mind calling you Rachel.

6 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** No, I'm okay.

7 **MS. DIANE MATTE:** You spoke very eloquently
8 about the notion of safe space, and a safe place for women
9 to go. It resonated with me with the women we work with
10 on a day-to-day basis when they come to -- they say
11 clearly to us, "I didn't know there was a place for me".

12 So I would like to hear you about the
13 importance of having a place where you can have peer
14 support, where you can have access to women to help you in
15 the way you wish to be helped.

16 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** To me, I know that it's
17 so important to have a safe place because an event, you
18 know, you could be -- you don't even have to be -- it
19 could be violence, you know, it could be violence in any
20 form. But for me, I know that being surrounded by other
21 survivors is where I learned to find my love and my heart.
22 And my spirit and my identity is -- through all the
23 madness, I managed to find my way and still be alive
24 today. Through all that madness, I found it in a safe
25 space. What we identify, regardless of all of the others

1 hurt and pain, I've managed to find myself within that.

2 And for me, I function by loving others and
3 feeling their pain as well, and just understanding that,
4 you know, the most important thing is somebody meeting you
5 where you're at is important. And there's nothing greater
6 than organizations that simply love you to death and just
7 are grateful and show you, physically show you and
8 appreciate the little things that nobody's ever
9 appreciated in your life. And it's really uplifting to
10 walk into a -- you know, like organizations.

11 I know our shelter here has recently
12 changed, and I walked in a few weeks ago and I was not
13 looked at, I was not acknowledged. But I went in. But
14 all the survivors said, "Hi", but none of the staff did.
15 And I thought, hmmm. "You colonized. All you, you, you,
16 you, you. But I love all of you girls, just know that,
17 and I walked out."

18 You know, another great feeling is to walk
19 in a Mameweh, any one of their sites you could walk in,
20 trust me. You could walk in. If it was open that day I
21 would have took you guys inside. The drivers, I took.
22 But we showcased a different place.

23 At any given time you can walk in, and you
24 could walk in hungry, you can walk in -- but you're
25 acknowledged with love. Anytime you walk in any one of

1 their sites, and there's a lot of sites, you're never
2 turned away or you're never not acknowledged as a person,
3 as a human being.

4 So for me, that's very deep, and no matter
5 what space you're in, what planet you're on, how you're
6 feeling, there's always somebody to acknowledge you, and
7 that's so important. And we need to have spaces like that
8 for people.

9 And you know, when we're managing our
10 people that are in a crisis or in a psychosis state, it's
11 important to remember that our survivors and our people
12 that are struggling in that moment of psychosis, they look
13 for language. They don't look for -- there's certain
14 things that they don't look -- they're actually scared for
15 you to touch them. So sometimes, a little F-bomb here and
16 there, they look for language.

17 And you know, I've never encountered
18 somebody threaten me in any way because you just love them
19 'til they're -- they calm down. And I've been able
20 de-escalate -- and I mean the highest of the high. So
21 just those wraparound approaches of love, kindness, and
22 our whole medicine wheel teachings are instilled in our
23 moral compass. So we need to really, really move forward
24 in a nice kind way.

25 And we need to work together, our

1 governments, regardless. Unfortunately, we got a
2 provincial government that doesn't want to do nothing. So
3 it's important for us to go out and vote. And we have a
4 federal government, you know, that -- that's why we're
5 here, but at the same time, we must work together
6 regardless of how we feel, because we need to get things
7 rolling. And that's what I could say. Thank you.

8 **MS. DIANE MATTE:** Thank you very much.

9 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Chief Commissioner
10 and Commissioners, there's been a request on the panel to
11 have a short break. We have been going for a couple of
12 hours. I know there's only a couple more parties left to
13 go, but if we could please have, you know, a 5 or 6-minute
14 break in order to have a quick health break that would be
15 appreciated.

16 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Okay.
17 Five-and-a-half.

18 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Five-and-a-half.
19 Okay. So we have a five-and-a-half minute break.

20 --- Upon recessing at 4:05 p.m.

21 --- Upon resuming at 4:14 p.m.

22 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Commissioners
23 if we could begin again, I would like to invite up next
24 the Vancouver Sex Rights -- sorry, let me try this one
25 more time. Vancouver Sex Workers Rights Collective, Ms.

1 Carly Teillet will have three-and-a-half minutes.

2 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. CARLY TEILLET:**

3 **MS. CARLY TEILLET:** Tashi. Bonjour.
4 Good afternoon again. And, because it's important to do
5 so, it's one of our laws, I need to acknowledge our
6 presence on the ancestral territory of the Beothuk and the
7 Mi'kmaw, on lands that the Inuit, Innu and Southern Inuit
8 call home. And, the reason that we're here, the spirits
9 of our women and girls, their families, the survivors, the
10 elders, the medicines and the sacred items that are here
11 with us, we can do our work in a good way.

12 I have the honour and the
13 responsibility of acting as counsel for a collective of
14 Indigenous women, LGBTQ, two-spirit and gender fluid
15 individuals who engage in sex work or trade in Vancouver's
16 Downtown Eastside. But, I am here today because my
17 clients have a right to be safe, and the voice of folks in
18 Vancouver's Downtown Eastside who sell or trade sex needs
19 to be heard.

20 And, my clients are strong, they are
21 beautiful Indigenous women and LGBTQ, two-spirit and
22 gender fluid folks, and they have also experienced
23 tremendous violence, and they have had friends and family
24 members killed and some who are still missing. Now, one
25 of my clients when sending me here said, we are not

1 silent. We are not believed about what happens to us.

2 So, Chief Smyth, my clients are over
3 surveilled and underserved. They have shared stories of
4 police being called by a witness when they are being
5 assaulted and then they are arrested. They have called
6 the police with no response or very slow response. And,
7 in one instance, the police were called as one of my
8 clients, an Indigenous trans sex worker, was being
9 threatened with a knife, and it was two days before the
10 police arrived. One of the women said, I don't get to be
11 safe. I don't get to call the police. That's why I'm
12 here.

13 Thank you for your apology and for
14 your efforts to making change in your department. And so,
15 would you agree with me that police departments need to be
16 accountable for failing to respond in a timely manner when
17 violence is reported?

18 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

19 **MS. CARLY TEILLET:** Thank you.

20 Indigenous women are being assaulted and they're being
21 killed, and it's a violation of our human rights and it's
22 against the law. It's written in black and white in the
23 *Criminal Code*, it is 100 percent illegal and yet there are
24 few charges and even fewer convictions for these crimes.
25 And so, you would agree that there needs to be a real

1 mechanism under which we can hold the justice system, of
2 which the police are a critical part, to account?

3 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I agree with that.
4 I'm not familiar with what B.C. does.

5 **MS. CARLY TEILLET:** And, you would
6 agree that it is the duty of the police to meaningfully
7 investigate crimes, and if they are not fulfilling their
8 duty, their needs to be real accountability?

9 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I would agree.

10 **MS. CARLY TEILLET:** Those are my
11 questions. Thank you very much. Meegwetch.

12 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.
13 Next, we are inviting up Commission Counsel, Thomas
14 Barnett. Mr. Barnett, because he represents Commission
15 Counsel and we led two witnesses, is only entitled today
16 to cross the Winnipeg Police Service. He will have three-
17 and-a-half minutes.

18 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. THOMAS BARNETT:**

19 **MR. THOMAS BARNETT:** So, I would also
20 like to acknowledge the territorial acknowledgments that
21 my friends have made before me today. My questions are
22 for Chief Danny Smyth.

23 It is important to see the
24 partnerships with Indigenous women and the Winnipeg Police
25 Service. We have heard how essential this is and how

1 vital the attitude towards these relationships are. How
2 is your police service sharing and educating police
3 services from other jurisdictions about this approach?

4 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Well, certainly
5 there are a number of avenues for us to be able to share
6 information with our colleagues. I remember that the
7 Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, most of Darryl
8 and other members of our service also have colleagues that
9 are working in similar areas, so there is that ability to
10 share, practice that information.

11 **MR. THOMAS BARNETT:** If that ability
12 is there, is it being shared with other police services
13 from different jurisdictions?

14 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I would say it's
15 inconsistently shared. Certainly, as I mentioned in my
16 opening remarks, Winnipeg probably has the biggest
17 Indigenous concentration of peoples in Canada for a major
18 city, other jurisdictions don't have as many and haven't
19 expressed as much interest, but certainly we are prepared
20 to share what we do.

21 **MR. THOMAS BARNETT:** Thank you. Also,
22 Chief Danny Smyth, you have testified out of 1,400 missing
23 Indigenous girls in Manitoba, approximately 1,200 are from
24 group homes. We have also heard that the average age of
25 these missing girls is around the age of 12. We have also

1 heard from other witnesses today that the grooming for
2 sexual exploitation begins around this age of 12 as well.
3 You have also told us that through your partnership with
4 CFS, the 12 highest risk girls from this group out of
5 1,200 are assigned a member of the Counter Exploitation
6 unit to work directly with them. What do you need to
7 significantly and substantially up the number of high risk
8 youth that have members assigned to work with them, and
9 will this happen?

10 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I mean, that's an
11 assessment that changes every week. It's an ongoing
12 assessment based on the criteria that Darryl mentioned
13 earlier. Certainly the numbers are -- they are
14 unbelievable in our jurisdiction. I think there needs to
15 be a real reform in our family services.

16 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** If
17 I could just clarify those numbers. We actually have
18 about 80 girls or missing kids who are designated as high
19 risk, and of those 80, we choose the top 12.

20 **MR. THOMAS BARNETT:** Are there plans
21 to increase the number from 12, and if so, how is that
22 going to happen?

23 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** The
24 capacity of the 12 -- the reason we reach that number is
25 because of the number of investigators we have in the

1 unit, sadly to say. If we had more members in the unit,
2 we can definitely increase it.

3 **MR. THOMAS BARNETT:** Thank you. Staff
4 Sergeant Ramkissoo, this question is also for you, I
5 understand that you have worked on the -- or the viclass
6 (phonetic) implementation unit; that's correct?

7 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Oh,
8 ViCLAS.

9 **MR. THOMAS BARNETT:** ViCLAS, sorry.

10 **STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** I
11 haven't worked in it. I supervise the member that's in
12 it.

13 **MR. THOMAS BARNETT:** Can you tell us
14 how ---

15 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Sorry, Mr.
16 Barnett, you are out of time.

17 **MR. THOMAS BARNETT:** Thank you.

18 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** This actually
19 concludes the cross-examination period. Normally, what
20 would happen here is obviously I'd ask the Commissioners
21 if they have questions, but I understand the Commissioners
22 have come to an agreement in terms of maybe writing -- or
23 putting your questions...

24 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:**
25 Well, first of all, re-examination by other counsel.

1 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Oh, yes. I'm
2 sorry. Commission Counsel will be waiving their portion.
3 But, would you like six-and-a-half minutes? And, I'm
4 sorry, thank you for reminding me to put on
5 the record that all three counsel are waiving their right
6 to redirect and have no questions of re-examination.

7 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:**
8 Okay. Just to state on the record, in order for parties
9 with standing to have more time for cross-examination, we
10 have waived our opportunity to ask questions on the record
11 and we will be submitting questions, if any, in writing
12 through Commission Counsel.

13 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Yes. But,
14 then, I would offer the opportunity for any comments to
15 the panel at this point from the Commissioners.

16 **--- REMARKS BY COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:**

17 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Thank
18 you. Thank you very much. First of all, I just want to
19 thank all the panellists for coming and spending the day
20 with us and sharing your evidence. It's been a long four
21 days for us and I think you all did an awesome job in
22 rounding out the evidence that we heard this week, so I
23 want to thank each and every one of you for being here.

24 And, Rachel, I want to thank you for
25 being brave enough to come back and share some more of

1 your truth with us about your journey.

2 **MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Thank you.

3 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** And,

4 it's been very helpful. And, I want to
5 acknowledge Matt for coming back as well, and for playing
6 that role of support. Thanks for being here as well.

7 So, since we're not asking any
8 questions, I will pass the mic onto my colleagues.
9 Thanks.

10 **--- REMARKS BY COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:**

11 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Merci
12 beaucoup, Brian. I'll speak English, what's left in my
13 brain or my translation device. See, even then it's hard
14 for many reason, but I have to learn that here and now.
15 We say in French, ici et maintenant. And very impressed
16 again to hear you, Rachel, and you too, I heard so much
17 about you, Madam Redsky. We did a tour in Winnipeg one
18 night and another and another night and each time your
19 name came, how amazing you are and how involved you are.
20 So, you know, sometimes lateral love it's nice to receive.

21 And also it's about time. I have to be
22 frank that we hear more and more some initiative where we
23 see a police force or an organisation that works with the
24 police that extend a hand or is showing to us that it does
25 work with the community. We need to have that everywhere.

1 We need to have that in every place across Canada it's
2 missing.

3 So, if you're truthful, if you're sincere
4 in this willingness of working with Indigenous women and
5 organisation, of course, I think it's important and it
6 need to be acknowledged.

7 It was Winnipeg, we can feel the taste and
8 the expertise. And I'm from Quebec, you can tell, and
9 Labrador also. And what we've learned in Winnipeg, also
10 politically, I never saw that before. With my
11 grandmothers, few weeks ago, we went to a pipe ceremony
12 inside the Parliament. I never saw that before. A few
13 years before, we saw a premiere wearing a ribbon shirt.
14 We don't have that in Quebec yet, so there's a challenge
15 for the Quebec government now. I made it public.

16 (LAUGHTER)

17 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And there's
18 a new government today.

19 So, thank you, from the bottom of my heart.
20 And, Rachel, and all the women who were before you here,
21 you're their expert and I'm impressed by you. Merci, all
22 of you. Merci.

23 **--- REMARKS BY COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:**

24 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Hello, hi. I
25 have so many questions and I will write them, but I too

1 want to express my gratitude, Diane, Danny, Darryl, Rachel
2 and Matt. I have to tell you I'm having total, like,
3 hashtag relationship goals, feelings. Just I just -- tu
4 comprends?

5 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** No,
6 everybody's laughing at me.

7 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** I'll tweet
8 you about it.

9 No, just -- I just -- just I'm -- you
10 taught me so much, and not only here, but in Winnipeg and
11 I wasn't there, but -- sounds creepy, but I watched you on
12 TV.

13 (LAUGHTER)

14 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** And just
15 about that support, that support and love and faith and
16 family and community and, yeah, so relationship goals.

17 I have to tell you all that what you have
18 shared with us about what you're doing is what I've heard
19 from so many communities that they wish they could do,
20 that they so wish that they had a seat at the table, a
21 place, a capacity. And I think Ms. Teillet quoted her
22 client yesterday about, you know, we're telling you what
23 we need. Let us do it.

24 And thank you so much for sharing with us
25 how that's done and in what spirit.

1 I want to give a little recommendation to
2 you, Chief, because I suspect that you're in a position to
3 do this more than anyone else.

4 One of the biggest problems, and it was
5 alluded to, is good will that is dependent on people, a
6 good person in the position of power. And if there is a
7 way that you can advocate to change, whether it's the
8 governance system or somehow entrench in legislation,
9 whatever it can be to maintain and create what -- entrench
10 what you created into the bones of your institution, that
11 will be what the grandchildren and great-great
12 grandchildren, all of our great-great grandchildren are
13 going to need.

14 Enough of it being a pilot project or a
15 fringe exercise. It has to go into the bones of the beast
16 of policing.

17 And so I'm not going to make you wait until
18 April for this recommendation. I think that in my mind
19 that is something that can make this good work live in
20 perpetuity.

21 So, thank you all again so much for sharing
22 with us and I wish you safe travels home.

23 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Thank you.

24 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Thank you.

25 **CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Okay, thank you.

1 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Meegwetch.

2 **--- REMARKS BY CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:**

3 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Yes, I
4 just want to quickly add to what my dear colleagues have
5 said and that's to thank you very much for sharing today,
6 for being with us a very long day. I know for you as
7 well.

8 Thank you for your honesty, for telling it
9 like it is and being very blunt, because all of Canada
10 needs to know what the truth is. And you've done a lot
11 today to educate Canada, not only about what the problems
12 are, but that there are solutions. And there are
13 solutions that are working right now.

14 When I think of you and I see you I see
15 courage in ways that people might never imagine. Because
16 of what you've given us, you've shared your courage, your
17 truth and your stories and your encouragement with us, we
18 have very small gifts to give you in return. They're
19 eagle feathers.

20 We know there are days that are tough and
21 you don't know if you're going to get the job done. So
22 hopefully these eagle feathers will help you on those days
23 that are very, very hard. I know all of you have those
24 days, maybe too often.

25 Also, those days when you can reach a

1 little higher and do a little more than you thought you
2 could, these eagle feathers I hope will hold you up that
3 little bit higher and help you go a little bit further.

4 So on behalf of all of us, thank you so
5 much for what you do and what you've told us today has
6 made a huge difference to our work, so thank you all very
7 much.

8 And thank you. This is the last time I'm
9 going to say this hearing is adjourned. Thank you.

10 **MS. TERELLYN FEAM:** So we're going to
11 move right into our closing ceremony. And at this time I
12 would like to ask Odelle Pike and Paul Pike to join me.
13 Yeah, I got it. And, we've had a request from our elders
14 that as this is the last hearing of the truth-gathering
15 process, which is the Phase I, Phase II and Phase III, and
16 we still have two closing submission hearings, so you're
17 not off the hook yet, but this does wind down our ceremony
18 for the truth-gathering process of those three phases.

19 The elders have asked that we form a
20 circle. And so, we're going to have that circle start
21 from the qulliq, all the way around the room, and we're
22 inviting you, everyone, to participate, because this is
23 the circle of life. And, regardless of what your role has
24 been at a hearing, whether you've been legal counsel, a
25 party with standing, a grassroots organization, a

1 grandmother, an elder, a cultural support, a health
2 support, a family member, survivor, an interpreter, a
3 camera person, an audio-visual person, or a chauffeur, we
4 would like to ask everyone to form a circle here.

5 This is the test to see how Indigenous
6 we are. A circle. We can cross in the middle through the
7 chairs if you need to. And, I just want to acknowledge
8 our elders for guiding us in this way, and directing us
9 with their words and their guidance on how to close this
10 in a good way. So, thank you for that thoughtful advice.

11 While we're formulating a circle, I
12 will hand this over to Paul and Odelle. I believe we're
13 going to sing a couple of gathering songs, or some songs,
14 as we formulate a circle. Looking good, everyone.

15 **(SINGING AND DRUMMING BY PAUL AND ODELLE**

16 **PIKE)**

17 **MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** No one wanted to
18 stand beside me. They said, "Be careful, she'll make you
19 row." It's called dancing. Okay, at this time, I would
20 like to ask our beautiful family members of our National
21 Family Advisory Circle. We have some that are here have
22 been supporting us. I would like to ask Pauline Muskego
23 to come forward. I can bring you the mic or we have a
24 stand, regardless, how you would like to share and say a
25 few words. Okay. Oh, you have your own mic.

1 **MS. PAULINE MUSKEGO:** As a survivor of
2 residential schools and the mother of a missing and
3 murdered daughter, I am thankful to be standing here, and
4 I'm thankful to Commissioner Michèle Audette who called
5 me, I think it was two years ago, to ask me to sit as a
6 member of the National Family Advisory Circle. And, I'm
7 honoured to be here to represent the families.

8 And, I'd also like to thank our
9 Commissioners for all the hard work that they've done. It
10 wasn't easy, all the stories that they've heard, all the
11 opposition, and everything that took place over these past
12 few years. I'm very thankful for what has happened and is
13 going to happen in the future. And, we've almost come
14 full circle now. We're coming to the close of this
15 historic National Inquiry which I believe I will tell my
16 grandchildren what happened here and what took place,
17 because of my daughter. That would be their auntie, my
18 son's sister.

19 Now the hard work begins for the
20 Commissioners and the staff, all the staff that have been
21 faithfully working so hard all this time. They have to go
22 through all the documents, all the testimonies, the expert
23 hearings and the recommendations, and this is not a small
24 task. Even for me to give my testimony, it took a lot out
25 of me, and for them to hear hundreds and thousands of

1 testimonies and to read all the documents that they've
2 started to read already.

3 I look forward to the end of violence
4 against all women and girls, men and boys,
5 and all. Thank you.

6 **MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** Many thanks,
7 Pauline, for your beautiful words and for your courage.
8 And, to the NFAC families and survivors for being at the
9 foundation of this process and guiding us in a good way.
10 We love you and we will continue to love you.

11 At this time, I would like to ask
12 Commissioner Michèle Audette to say a few closing remarks
13 for us.

14 **--- REMARKS BY COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:**

15 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** I hear
16 myself, a double Michèle. That's not good. It depends
17 for who. Bon. I want to start. Thank you for the people
18 of this land who welcomed us in a beautiful way all week,
19 making sure that the ancestors, the spirit of the people
20 who live here and very proud of being from here, made sure
21 that the protocol, the ceremony, the songs, that
22 everything was there. For me, almost everything. I
23 couldn't attend the sweat last night. And, thank you also
24 for helping me, a good friend of Penelope, a colleague for
25 me, she was a fighter. She put in place the first Native

1 Women Shelter Network in Quebec where we included and
2 invited the Inuit women when we were young -- we're not
3 that old, but she was too young to go and left behind a
4 husband and two beautiful boys who are men now. I met
5 them when they were few hours old.

6 And, the legacy is that we have to
7 continue. We don't want shelter in the reality, we want
8 places where we can live instead of surviving. We want
9 places where we can laugh instead always, for me, that
10 keeping anger or frustration. And, this journey, this
11 Inquiry, believe me, I will remember for the rest of my
12 life for many good reason. Many, many good reason.

13 I was guided -- we were guided by
14 grandmothers at the beginning. Strong grandmothers. You
15 remember you and me the first connection? What a beading.
16 Beading, beading. And, I love her so much. And then came
17 Blue, and then came Penelope, Bernie, I play with the
18 language, it's Français English, so didn't mind. And, all
19 the other grandmothers. Wow.

20 NFAC. What a debate, who should we invite,
21 why and how come. And, they were saying every time we
22 call them or they were approached, yes. You have all my
23 respect. And, if we were able, it would have been
24 everybody across Canada. Everybody had a space in those
25 hearings, preparation of those hearing.

1 To the witness who came, who had the
2 courage, I have to say thank you. Thank you so much for
3 sharing your truth. It's more than a story. It's a fact,
4 it's a truth, it's part of the history of Canada, and it's
5 telling us that we have collectively the responsibility to
6 make sure that her, and her children, and grandchildren
7 and great grandchildren won't have to go through that --
8 through that same truth. We have that responsibility.

9 The health support. We had to create a
10 fund or a pot to make sure that we have a trauma-informed
11 -- yes, it is nice to see it in the paper, but the budget
12 wasn't attached to it. We were bald enough to create one.
13 It wasn't perfect, but it's there.

14 Thank you for your staff. Thank you to --
15 for your people who were at the frontline of the crisis or
16 the love of everything, your staff were amazing and still
17 today. Same thing with the legal staff. To sit before
18 they arrive here -- oh, there they are -- and receive the
19 truth. Very hard. You made magic. To be able to bring a
20 part of 500 history of oppression in few minutes and bring
21 that truth so Canada hear it, I say thank you, Christa,
22 and to your staff. Thank you. You might be a judge one
23 day. Supreme Court. Forget Federal. I'll make some
24 phone calls -- no, just kidding. No, no, no, no, no, no.
25 That's my Innu in me.

1 Party with standing, my God, you're tough
2 cookies. Many days and many time. But, wow, you were so
3 brilliant, so passionate. I remember the first hug, it
4 didn't work well. And, now you're grabbing me to get a
5 hug. Wow. It's telling me a lot. That we're all human
6 being. And, there's babies, eh, that pop during the
7 Inquiry or pretty soon come. So, thank you so much.

8 I will see you again. Yes, the public
9 hearing are at the en, and I'm not a broken record because
10 I glue it this morning, but the message is the same. All
11 of us here in Canada, all of us family members and
12 survivors, we deserve to have more time to do it in the
13 right way, where we're not burning ourself, where we're
14 not forgetting or things falling in the cracks.

15 Close to 2,000 people spoke to us and we
16 were close to maybe 170 emerging -- not emerging, but
17 causes, systemic causes. That's a lot. And, we had to
18 make a choice of six to ten to respect a political
19 decision that, for me, wasn't acceptable, but free
20 moccasin I will be soon, I'll remind them that there's so
21 much to do. And, I'll walk beside my sisters and brother
22 who believe that justice needs to happen very soon or
23 today.

24 So, I say thank you. Be ready for the next
25 little exercise that we will have soon. What do we say in

1 English?

2 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Closing arguments.

3 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Come with an
4 open mind. I'm asking you this, come with an open spirit
5 like you did with passion, with determination, because
6 your words, your closing remarks, your closing submission
7 will be part of a chapter that I say all the time of this
8 history that we're making today. Canadian and women,
9 Indigenous women, all of us, are making history. For
10 Lanna, for you, for all the women that came here and the
11 men.

12 So, I'm anxious to hear from you. And,
13 what we'll do -- it's not over. We will travel, maybe you
14 know that us, yes, and we'll say hello and we'll fly on
15 top of you, we will travel and listen other people that we
16 need to hear from. We made that commitment and we will do
17 it until the last second, when we'll have to make sure
18 that we give everything to the research -- yes, they are
19 already writing and working on it, but there is other
20 people I want to hear from, and listen and receive their
21 truth.

22 So, I will pray, I will pray for France,
23 our friend France, and all the women and the men, and I
24 will send love to my family -- I miss my family. And,
25 believe me, yes, I might be tired this week, but it's not

1 a real one. I'll be tired in 2019, I told you.

2 But, let's remember this process wasn't
3 easy, still not easy. But, for me, my dream is that in 20
4 years or 10 years, what's important, it's not how many
5 people resign or left or slam the door, or the hustle --
6 how do you say in English? Or the negative thing. What's
7 important is many people contribute to something
8 historical that will change legislation, laws. Make sure
9 that our daughters are protected, safe. That's the goal.
10 Come on. That's the goal. And, let's be proud of what we
11 were capable to do with the amount of time that we had. I
12 am. I am. And, I'm proud that you were in that journey
13 with us. So, yes, I love you very much. Oh, there's a
14 rule, the men after me. He's after me.

15 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Thank you,
16 Michèle. Wow. What a full four days we've had. I want
17 to say wela'lin. Chi-meegwetch. Thank you. Merci. I
18 just want to acknowledge again the lands we've been
19 gathered on this week, the traditional lands of the
20 Beothuk and the Mi'kmaw, and also I'd like to recognize
21 the lands of the Innu and the Inuit whose traditional
22 lands are in what we now know as Labrador.

23 And, I want to acknowledge and respect our
24 elders that have been here with us this week, helping us
25 get started in a good way and close our days in a good way

1 with prayer and with song, Odelle Pike, Michael Denny,
2 Sarah Ponniuk for helping us with the qulliq, keeping it
3 lit for us.

4 And I especially want to thank our
5 grandmothers that have been doing this work with us from
6 almost the beginning, Blu Waters, Bernie Williams, Louise
7 Haulli, Kathy Louis, Penelope Gway (ph). They've always
8 been with us, travelling with us, providing us with
9 guidance and support. Thank you. And they're here with
10 us today.

11 I really want to thank members of our
12 National Family Advisory Circle as well, Gladys Radek,
13 Barbara Manitowabi, Norma Jacobs and Pauline Muskego, who
14 have been here with us this week as well, for their
15 commitment to walk with us, doing this difficult work
16 together and guiding us and providing advice along the
17 way.

18 And I want to acknowledge all the members,
19 all those that aren't here as well of the National Family
20 Advisory Circle, who have been incredibly strong warriors.
21 They're individuals who have stood up for the voices of
22 Indigenous women and girls who have gone missing or been
23 murdered and they've been doing -- many of them have been
24 doing this work for a very long time and have come to
25 continue their work along with us and walk with us and I

1 appreciate that so much.

2 I just -- I also want to thank and
3 acknowledge the many family members and survivors of
4 violence, for their courage and their trust that so many
5 have put in the Inquiry and coming and sharing their very
6 important but difficult truths with us and for
7 contributing to this work.

8 So a few other people I'd like to say thank
9 you to. I'd like to thank Gerri Lee Pangman and Coralee
10 McPherson for offering their support with self-care
11 through the beadwork, and I'm looking forward to
12 completing my first beaded redress very shortly, so thank
13 you very much.

14 And thanks, Terrellyn Fearn, for being our
15 MC this week and getting us started, keeping us on track.
16 Thanks, Terrellyn.

17 And I especially want to acknowledge and
18 recognise the important contributions made by all the
19 witnesses this week who have shared their knowledge, their
20 expertise, their recommendations with us. In some cases
21 it was not easy this week, but your courage to speak the
22 truth has really helped us with our work here. It's
23 helped us more fully understand the social, the economic,
24 the cultural, institution, historical causes that
25 contribute to the ongoing systemic violence, the violence

1 experienced by Indigenous women, girls and trans and two-
2 spirit people in our country.

3 Thank you again to the parties with
4 standing for your questions, which has helped us uncover
5 and gain further insight into the evidence that was
6 provided this week.

7 And I want to thank everybody that's joined
8 us to learn, whether in person or by webcast.

9 And, you know, at the beginning of the this
10 week I acknowledged that this was our fourth public
11 knowledge-keeper expert and institutional hearing in the
12 space of about six weeks, and it's also our last hearing
13 of this nature, of course, before we move on to mostly
14 focussing on -- or finding some recommendations and
15 putting together the final report.

16 So, again, I want to thank everybody for
17 their very valuable contributions this week and I look
18 forward to seeing many of you at final submissions in
19 either Calgary or Ottawa. And I just want to wish you all
20 a safe journey home to your home fires.

21 Thank you, chi-meegwetch, merci.

22 **---Closing Remarks Qajaq Robinson:**

23 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Thank you. I
24 want to, of course, acknowledge the ancestral territories
25 of the Beothuk, Mi'kmaw, Inuit and Innu. It's been

1 absolutely wonderful to be welcomed in your land again, to
2 feel the wind from the ocean, to smell the salt in the air
3 and all the rocks. I'm from the north where there's no
4 trees, so I love it when we're in a land where there are
5 rocks. So it was very, very wonderful to be here.

6 I want to acknowledge those that kept this
7 space safe, and particularly, Sarah, your prayers, your
8 wise words, your guidance and, of course, the light and
9 the warmth of your qulliq, which is made of Labradorite,
10 your rock, your land, your place. And it's so powerful.

11 Odelle, thank you, Paul, Michael, for your
12 songs. I thank you for your prayers, your presence, the
13 medicines you brought through the room.

14 I also want to acknowledge Andre, who,
15 whether it's a piece of cedar, a ribbon, a hint of
16 peppermint behind the ears to keep you going that final
17 stretch of the day, or a laugh, or a hug, or a song, or a
18 smile. Thank you so much. I love you.

19 Our grandmothers, Louise, Kathy, Bernie,
20 and Blu, thank you all so much for all you do, all the
21 time, kicking my butt, passing me a tissue, laughing with
22 me. It seems to go in that cycle. And I love it. I've
23 learned so much, so much. And every step of the way
24 you've been here to help us. There was no right way;
25 okay? We had no manual. There was no right way. There

1 was just the way. And every step of the way required
2 thought and love and kindness and compassion and
3 togetherness and tough questions to be addressed together
4 and you helped us so much with that.

5 That leads me to the National Family
6 Advisory Circle, those here today, Barb, Norma, Pauline,
7 Gladys and those at home who I know are watching because I
8 get texts. Thank you so much for walking with us, the
9 trust and the confidence that you've given us, and for
10 lifting us up when so many people were trying to take us
11 down on very personal levels sometimes too.

12 We did not know what this was going to look
13 like. No one could have known what this was going to look
14 like, but there was always a feeling that was understood,
15 a space that is safe. And it's been really hard to
16 maintain that space. And we've fumbled, but it's always
17 been the goal for truth to come out in a safe space with
18 the light, with the fire there burning and leading us the
19 way.

20 Those teachings about not what it's going
21 to look like, but what it had to feel like came from NFAC,
22 the families, the survivors, you amazing women and our
23 grandmothers.

24 I want to thank all the communities that
25 welcomed us and helped us create that space along the way.

1 There were so many community partners and relationships
2 that were built along the way. There was no way to do
3 this like a circuit court. And I remember Marion and I
4 talking about that. We both suffered that experience for
5 years. This wasn't going to be that way. We did not land
6 in a community and impose. We knew that we had a basic
7 legal foundation, the checkbox that Michèle talked about.
8 The rest we wanted to find by the land and the people who
9 welcomed us.

10 And I'm proud of what we've been able to
11 accomplish. It hasn't been perfect, but the space has
12 been created and people have come and truths have been
13 shared. So I thank you so much for that.

14 I want to thank our team, our super kick
15 ass team. I want to start with legal, because let's -- we
16 all know that the biggest criticism has been, oh, it's so
17 legalistic. It's so legalistic. And then the other side
18 of it was, well, it needs to be more legalistic. You need
19 to do this, this and this and follow these rules and
20 powers you have.

21 So government put into terms of
22 reference nice words like, you know, you're bound by the
23 *Inquiries Act*, but you have to follow traditional laws,
24 because those are cute words and it's really easy to do
25 that? No. So, I want to acknowledge the work of our

1 legal team in recognizing how we wanted to move forward
2 and taking that momentous task on, working on the creation
3 of our rules with us, you know, and how the process was
4 going to go, and walking that line, that almost impossible
5 line.

6 And then also, all the work you did in
7 bringing forward the evidence. And, I don't know -- if
8 you haven't read the case law, the obligations of
9 Commission counsel is to work in the best interest of the
10 public, to educate, to bring the truth out. And, every
11 step of the way, our team has tried to be -- has been
12 balanced, and focused, and has had that in mind, to bring
13 out the truth for the ultimate goal of the Inquiry's
14 purpose.

15 And, I'm really, really proud of what
16 they've done, and I stand behind them, and I'm proud to
17 stand with them. So, thank you, Jennifer Cox. Thank you,
18 Christa Big Canoe, and your team, and I also want to thank
19 and acknowledge Susan Vella for the work she did in the
20 early years -- in the early years. Whoa. Early months.
21 Thank you, Susan, very much.

22 Every member of our team, the health
23 support team, the operations, logistics, admin, security,
24 AV, translators -- translators. Woo! We had some
25 communities where there was, like, a whole wall of booths

1 and multiple languages, and that was powerful and that was
2 beautiful, because being able to speak your truth in your
3 language was fundamental, and that happened.

4 I just -- I have seen how we have all
5 grown and changed, and I hope that what has happened in
6 these rooms across the country is happening in somebody's
7 living room, at somebody's kitchen table, and that this
8 will spread and grow.

9 Parties with standing, thank you so
10 much for coming and being part of this. I really look
11 forward to your closing submissions, and hearing from you
12 what -- I think we all know the cause. We know the root
13 cause. The systemic causes is the system. That's it, you
14 know.

15 And so, I'm really looking forward to
16 how we move forward and hearing from you, how you've
17 learned and how you understand all the evidence that we've
18 heard, and what direction that takes us in.

19 It's been incredible, and I want to
20 reiterate something that I've said in our first hearing in
21 Membertou. Well, my first public hearing, community
22 hearing in Membertou, which seems really stupid to have to
23 say, but I read articles, and I read comment sections
24 still, and I still know it's a pervasive attitude and
25 belief that somehow the root cause of the violence against

1 Indigenous women and girls, trans and two-spirited is
2 inherent in Indigenous communities. That it's an
3 Indigenous people's problem. And, I hope that everyone,
4 the government, the courts, all Canadian citizens have
5 come to understand over the last two years
6 that there is absolutely no doubt that the problem is in
7 the settler colonial state as it was established 151 years
8 ago and before that, and how it continues to exclude and
9 oppress Indigenous peoples.

10 I don't think there's any asterisks or
11 question mark behind that statement, and we have to move
12 on to, how do we fundamentally change our country so that
13 this fairy tale of Confederation includes the peoples of
14 this land as equal partners? And, I look forward to you,
15 parties with standing, on how we get there, the
16 fundamental, ground-breaking change that we need.

17 So, I'm going to end with that.

18 Wela'lin, merci, thank you, nakurmiik.

19 **--- CLOSING REMARKS BY CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:**

20 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:**

21 Well, you'll be glad to know I'm going to be brief,
22 because I know some of you are standing in uncomfortable
23 shoes.

24 First of all, I want to remember, as
25 always, and to thank the spirits of the missing and

1 murdered -- pardon me -- Indigenous women and girls who
2 were with us this week, and stayed with us through some
3 really hard times. There were moments when I was pretty
4 sure there was at least one, if not more, tricksters in
5 the room, because I'm sure we were very lucky the power
6 didn't go out earlier this week. So, thank you for those
7 spirits for remaining with us during this week and guiding
8 us and lifting us up.

9 Thank you to the Mi'kmaw and Beothuk
10 for hosting us on your beautiful territory. And, also, I
11 want to recognize the Inuit, the southern Inuit and Innu,
12 and their ancestors as the original people in Labrador.

13 Thank you to our respected elders,
14 Odelle and Michael for your knowledge and prayers, and
15 nakurmiik, Sarah, for lighting the qulliq and bringing
16 light to us all and warmth to us all this week. I've
17 always been distracted by the flame and I still am.

18 Thank you to our special grandmothers,
19 Kathy, Penelope, Bernie, Louise and Blu. We wouldn't have
20 made it this far without you.

21 Then there's the National Family
22 Advisory Circle. Wow, what forces to be reckoned with.
23 Gladys, Barbara, Norma and Pauline, thank you for this
24 week, and thank you for every day that you've walked with
25 us. And, for the other members of the National Family

1 Advisory Circle who aren't here today in person, I know
2 you're with us in spirit.

3 Honoured witnesses, thank you very
4 much for joining us this week and sharing with us your
5 knowledge and your time and your courage and your
6 inspiration. I tried to distill this whole week into one
7 or two sentences, because as my colleagues know, I speak
8 in bullet points, and my one bullet point that I can't get
9 past, and it's going to be with me a long time, was what
10 one of the witnesses said, and I'm paraphrasing. If we as
11 a country don't fix the factors or the needs of our women
12 and girls being poverty, isolation and survival,
13 addictions, other issues, those factors that make them
14 vulnerable, the traffickers will. I think that sums up
15 this whole week and a lot of our work. So, thank you,
16 witnesses, for making a difference in our work.

17 Parties with standing, well, like
18 Darrin Blain said earlier, I gained, too, a whole bunch of
19 sisters and one or two brothers, and I feel that I'm a
20 better person for having worked with you.

21 Thank you to the staff of the National
22 Inquiry. There are a lot of them here today, but I want
23 to not only thank them for doing their magic yet again, I
24 want to thank the staff who aren't here that you don't see
25 who work behind the scenes every day, who book our

1 airfare, who make sure we have enough paper clips, who
2 make sure that all the right things are being read and
3 prepared and photocopied and boxed. We have people all
4 across Canada who are working in their homes or working in
5 offices who make this machine work, and I'm grateful for
6 each and every one of them.

7 That's all I wanted to say, other than in
8 some respects, I'm glad we're finished this part of the
9 work that we're doing, because now we're leading into a
10 very critical part of the work that we're doing, and I'm
11 glad that all of you have come this far with us and I hope
12 you come further on this wonderful journey. This is our
13 opportunity. I, too, have had some losses and had some
14 gains during this Inquiry, but I have to say I have no
15 regrets. I'll leave it at that. That's my bullet point,
16 I have no regrets. Thank you. Okay. Now, they're called
17 Buller points. Okay.

18 So, thank you all very much. And, having
19 said that, we just have to keep our heads down and keep
20 working and moving forward. And, having said that,
21 keeping heads down and moving forward and fun-sized, I'm
22 going to pass the microphone to Bernie Williams.

23 **GRANDMOTHER BERNIE WILLIAMS:** I just want
24 to say howa to all of you. We have been talking for the
25 last few days -- first, I want to acknowledge the land

1 that we're on. We've been speaking the last few days, and
2 one of the things that was brought up, how have we dreaded
3 this day. We knew it was coming. One of the things that
4 all the grandmothers and the staff here have really built
5 some really great friendships here with and -- the people
6 with standing here, and I just want to acknowledge all of
7 you for your work.

8 We've -- I have seen -- I can't speak for
9 anybody else. And, I have seen some of you come in, like,
10 heads down and -- it's just really nice to see you really
11 evolve and -- I can't imagine, you know, how you must feel
12 at the end of your day, that you've had to relive so many
13 stories of our survivors and that. And, I really want to
14 acknowledge all of you. And, to the men here too. We
15 were speaking to a few of you lawyers and that and, you
16 know, asking, you know, about your self-care, and some of
17 you don't have that. And, I just want to reiterate, you
18 know, what we said, that we are still here for you.

19 And, we've listened to a few of you, like,
20 you know, how you've broke down, how you felt broken.
21 And, you know, like I said, I don't know, you know, how
22 you feel at the end of your day, to live and to relive,
23 you know, our families' stories and that, and to ask those
24 questions. I really want to say howa to all of you, heck,
25 for, you know, sticking it out and to, you know, walk on

1 this journey with us. And, I'm really, really happy that
2 our elder is Kathy as for the circle, it seems more, you
3 know, fitting for us to end the day like this.

4 I want to acknowledge our family members.
5 I am a family member myself, but I want to acknowledge our
6 warrior women, like Rachel and our other sister over here,
7 so many that have -- are still out on the frontlines,
8 Hilda, so many of you women, and howa for you women for
9 holding us up, because on these frontlines, it's hard. I
10 was asked, like, when you leave from here, what would you
11 do? Well, I fly home, I drop my bag off, I go back on the
12 frontlines right away. Our work doesn't end like
13 Commissioner Audette says, it just keeps going. You know,
14 just because this day is over, the work is just beginning
15 again for another page, another chapter.

16 I want to acknowledge, you know, all of you
17 warrior women and you warrior men for walking with us too.
18 My niece is not feeling well right now. She's pretty
19 overwhelmed right now. It is very overwhelming. Many of
20 you have heard about the copper. I have spoke about the
21 copper. That's the highest gift that you can ever give in
22 my homeland that is called Haida Gwaii. And, I think I've
23 carved over 900 copper pieces that have gone all over
24 Canada, to the north and to the south. And, this is what
25 is healing for me, is to give that gift of copper. But,

1 my art. I love to sit, you know, and design. I don't
2 know what it's going to be sometimes.

3 I want to acknowledge our family members of
4 NFAC, their resilience, and their tenacity, and their
5 strength and their love. And, on behalf of the
6 Commissioners -- and the Commissioners actually would like
7 to acknowledge some of these people here today. Sarah
8 Ponniuk. I'd like to ask the Commissioners to please come
9 -- come up to -- I always get mixed up with these. I have
10 such small little hands, so I got to figure out -- hey,
11 easy now. Easy. And, the Commissioners would like to
12 also acknowledge Odelle Pike. And then they would like to
13 recognize also Paul Pike. And, some of the -- as the NFAC
14 members have already received them, but the ones that are
15 coming from -- have already received them, but they would
16 like to acknowledge Barbara Manitowabi, but also to
17 recognize Norma, and Pauline and Gladys. Those were the
18 three that already received it, but would like to
19 recognize Barb too.

20 And, one of the -- this is a really hard
21 one. The Commissioners would like to acknowledge Christa
22 Big Canoe, Jennifer Cox, Alexandre, Maryse, and Brian and
23 Terrellyn. We would like to ask them to come up. We've
24 watched these incredible humans right from the -- right
25 from the start, and the Commissioners would like to

1 acknowledge -- and it's been a really hard journey for
2 them too, but the work that they've done is so incredible
3 in that. And, I would just like all of you to please put
4 your hands together for these, just, incredible, you know,
5 people that are here, the work that is just so
6 overwhelming and I just want to say hai hai and howa to
7 you all. Thank you for your work.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 **GRANDMOTHER ELDER BERNIE WILLIAMS:** You've
10 got Christa's. Oh, no. That one's Brian's. That's
11 Brian's. Yes, that's Brian's. That one is Christa's.
12 That one is Terrellyn's. And, this one is Alexandre's.
13 And, I think Michèle wanted to -- is she even here? Okay.
14 I just wanted to acknowledge Maryse Picard, as she will be
15 leaving us today. She is Commissioner Audette's special
16 advisor, too, but she's got another job offer. She's
17 going to be the Chief of Cabinet Staff to the Minister
18 D'Amour. I don't know if I said that properly. I don't
19 know if I said that properly, but this is, like, her new
20 position. So, I just want to acknowledge her for also her
21 work in that.

22 Again, I just want to say howa to all of
23 you and that, and to the elders in these communities, and
24 really want to acknowledge our executive directors,
25 grandmother, too, because of all the work that she's done

1 to support this Inquiry. I don't know who I'm supposed to
2 hand this to. If you'd like me to sing, I will. I'll
3 break out in song. Okay. I guess you don't want to hear
4 me sing.

5 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** You
6 don't want to hear me sing either. I understand,
7 according to our agenda here, Odelle, we're going to ask
8 you to lead us in a closing prayer.

9 **MS. ODELLE PIKE:** Before I do that, I want
10 to thank all the Commissioners, all of the staff, all of
11 the family members, the grandmothers, for taking us on
12 this long journey. And, you know, our work begins now.
13 And, I just want to leave you with this poem. It's
14 actually a poem that was written by Nora Bernard, and I
15 don't know if everybody in the room knows about Nora, but
16 Nora was one of the ladies that was instrumental in
17 bringing the class-action lawsuit for the residential
18 schools. And, this poem was sent to me by her
19 granddaughter, and I read it most every day. I may not
20 have the exact words, but it goes something like this.

21 Don't look back, because all you'll see are
22 roads and paths that took you where you are today. So,
23 look straight ahead to the path you're on because this
24 path will lead you to the way, and you can make that path
25 either -- let me get the words right there, now. It can

1 be easy, or it can be hard. The choice will be yours,
2 because I know, because I've been there in my worn
3 moccasins. All my relations. Safe travels home. We're
4 going to do the travelling song. I want everybody to join
5 hands.

6 **MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** While the song is
7 happening, we have some gifts for you that Barb and
8 members of the NFAC have made. Would you like to say a
9 couple of words? We're going to be handing them out.

10 **MS. BARBARA MANITOWABI:** Yes. So, many
11 people contributed and helped from gathering, to making
12 braids, to collecting rocks for me. We joke around here I
13 voluntell you what to do. So, I've had many, many
14 helpers.

15 What's in the bundle are Newfoundland
16 rocks, so that you have a little piece of what we've done
17 here, and you'll keep that with you. I hope I made enough
18 for everyone. There's some cedar and also the leather
19 laces. The bundles are made in a way that you can keep
20 them in your car, so that you're reminded every morning
21 that you, too, are part of sacred creation.

22 I use rocks in many ways. Some of the ways
23 I use them, I'll let you know because you can use them in
24 the same way or add to it. These rocks, you can use them
25 for -- bury them in a sacred place that means something

1 special to you. You can throw it in the ocean and get rid
2 of your rage. Throw it at a window when you're angry.

3 So, I'll be making these rock packages for
4 everyone, and I will continue to make them. I've been
5 gifting everybody since we started -- since I started
6 volunteering for MMIW 2013 with Gladys, and yes, her idea
7 for the rocks this time. I was running around getting
8 ingredients for another little gift I make, and she said,
9 yes, the rocks -- rocks is a better idea. So, there you
10 go.

11 So, keep them in a handy place, in your
12 car; there's a little loop on the back. The leather came
13 from my bundle, but I carry medicines with me, and I
14 believe everything is collecting energy as we add to it,
15 and that leather I was working with in Alton, when we
16 first met with the Inquiry. So, it's a part of the
17 medicine and -- yes. So, I hope I made enough for
18 everybody, and I wish you well.

19 **MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** And, she has a gift
20 for Rachel and Matthew. She wanted to gift you her drum
21 bag. So, we'll close with the travelling song.

22 **ELDER ODELLE PIKE:** Before we do, I'm going
23 to ask Sarah to extinguish the qulliq.

24 **ELDER SARAH PONNIUK:** (Speaking Indigenous
25 Language). What can I say? But, I guess one of the

1 things, if you remember a few days ago, I believe it was,
2 I said the qulliq was -- you know what it means. It's
3 crackling. I think only me hear it. But, before that, I
4 think it's time I share with you, I was sitting down. I
5 usually put my tea here, and I was sitting down, and I
6 didn't -- that was the spirit that rested on my lap. The
7 water. Then later on, acknowledged that they were here.
8 I didn't want to bring that home with me, but I had to
9 share with you.

10 I guess one of the things is that I like to
11 thank all the staff. Not just one, but the whole works,
12 because everyone made a difference, and you work really
13 hard, and you -- you were away from your families. Wow.
14 Especially if you have children. So, I acknowledge you.

15 And, you know, as a survivor of relocation,
16 there are people here as well that are survivors of
17 residential school like me or survivors of foster care.
18 Just so many survivors, you know? Survivors of sexual
19 abuse. Survivors of violence. But, you know, they are
20 the best teachers, better than reading out of a book.
21 But, I guess one of the things that I like to acknowledge,
22 my ancestors for being with me and your ancestors being
23 here, and their spirits, because it's very important that
24 we always acknowledge them.

25 A lot of times I don't know what I'm going

1 to say, I never have nothing written down. I try
2 sometimes, but it don't work. Just comes. So, I
3 appreciate you very, very much. You are making a
4 difference in this world. To all the people, no matter
5 where you guys went. And, you have a lot of
6 recommendations that you are just going to have to look
7 at. Wow. You know what? No matter how many
8 recommendations there are, I believe in you, that you are
9 going to put it into action, you will be the voices of so
10 many people.

11 So, one of the things that I like to say a
12 prayer in my own language and maybe in English as I don't
13 have interpreter. I'll say Inuktitut first. (Speaking in
14 Inuktitut).

15 God, I pray that you will be with us. Some
16 of us already travel and some of us will be travelling
17 home tomorrow, please lead -- still lead the way for us.
18 Lead us in the direction where we need to go and to move
19 forward once again. I also pray for our ancestors,
20 although they are not here, their spirits are here, no
21 matter where we are from. I also pray for the people that
22 are in hospital, I pray for the seniors, I pray for the
23 young people, I also pray for the people that are
24 homeless. They are still our people. Some of those
25 people got no help, but there's a lot of support

1 sometimes. They -- sometimes professionals turn their
2 back on them, I know, because one of my families are
3 homeless. But, I pray, God, that you will take care of
4 everyone here. And, once again, I pray that when we
5 travel, protect our energy from negativity, but give us
6 more positive energy each day. Those things I ask in
7 Jesus' name. Amen.

8 **ELDER ODELLE PIKE:** If everyone could join
9 hands. The travelling song we always sing at the end of
10 the gathering to provide safe journey for the people who
11 have travelling, and we also sing it when a loved one
12 dies, to help them safe journey to the spirit world.

13 (CLOSING SONG)

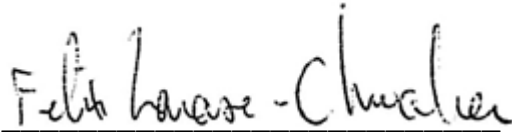
14 **MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** Just before you go,
15 it's important to us -- first of all, wela'lin for that
16 song. And, nakurmiik, Sarah, for your light and
17 extinguishing that qulliik and that light that has kept us
18 warm and bright throughout these past four days. It's
19 important to us that your heart is light when you leave,
20 so we are going to host one final debrief in about 15
21 minutes in the Elder's room for anybody that feels that
22 they would just like to do that check out before they go.
23 Okay. So, safe travels and we'll see you when we see you.
24 --- Upon adjourning at 17:44

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LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Félix Larose-Chevalier, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Félix Larose-Chevalier". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Félix Larose-Chevalier

Oct 18, 2018