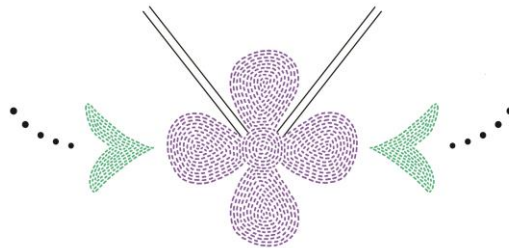


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls  
Truth-Gathering Process  
Part I Statement Gathering  
Radisson Hotel  
Edmonton, Alberta**



**PUBLIC**

**Sunday November 18, 2018**

**Statement - Volume 586**

**Julie Ann Antoine & Jamie Haines,  
In relation to Cheryl William**

**Statement gathered by Marie-Audrey Girard**

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Statement Gatherer: Marie-Audrey Girard

**Documents submitted with testimony: none.**

1 Edmonton, Alberta

2 --- Upon commencing on Sunday, November 18 2018 at 9:37  
3 a.m.

4 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Okay. Hi, my name is  
5 Marie-Audrey; I work with the National Inquiry. We are in  
6 Edmonton and -- November 18 and it's 9:37 that we're  
7 starting this statement. I would like to ask, first of  
8 all, if you're okay if we record this session? We have a  
9 camera and an audio recorder. If you agree both that we  
10 are recording this session?

11 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Yes, I agree.

12 **JAMIE HAINES:** I agree.

13 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Thank you very much.  
14 Can I ask you to introduce yourself, please?

15 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Good morning. I'm Julie  
16 Ann Antoine from the Skeetchestn Indian Band, the Secwepemc  
17 Nation.

18 **JAMIE HAINES:** Good morning. My name is  
19 Jamie Diane William (Ph.). I am from Skeetchestn Indian  
20 Band. I live in the community.

21 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Thank you very much.  
22 Thank you very much for being with us this morning. So as  
23 I said, my first question for you this morning will be what  
24 would you like to share with the National Inquiry? What  
25 would you like to share with us today?

1                   **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** What I'd like to share  
2           is my daughter and how things went for the two weeks that  
3           they held her. It was on April 27th, 2013 that she was a  
4           guest in a house fire. And the -- the man that set the  
5           fire is David Gordon (Ph.). He -- he was living in a -- in  
6           a place that had four units, or he just came there with --  
7           with -- a friend invited them there. And he got into an  
8           argument with his common-law wife and he spilled alcohol on  
9           her. And he threatened to set fire to her and she escaped  
10          and she called 911. And that was the first call to the  
11          residence.

12                   And but sometime during the -- the evening  
13          he decided he -- he decided he was going to set fire to her  
14          clothing -- he was angry with her and he was going to set  
15          fire to her clothing. And he put accelerant on there and -  
16          - or the -- they were trying to -- they said that he used  
17          accelerant. And he -- he set fire to her clothing. He put  
18          the, like, his lady's clothing in a -- in a pile and he set  
19          fire to it. And he didn't bother notifying any them people  
20          that lived in the unit, which was four people. And he  
21          didn't consider that and he just set fire to it. And  
22          apparently he -- he had been drinking along with [inaudible  
23          response] at the time that happened.

24                   And Cheryl, my daughter, she was in the unit  
25          and -- when the fire started. And that was on April 27th,

1           2013. She survived for four days and then we had to make a  
2           decision to take the ---

3                       **JAMIE HAINES:** Life support.

4                       **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** --- life support off.

5           And that was a decision made by myself, and my son Jason,  
6           and my youngest son Earl. The daughters could -- didn't  
7           want to make that decision, or anyone else in the family.  
8           So the three of us had to decide and it was a very hard  
9           decision. And when we made that decision, and they pulled  
10          the life support, it was very hard saying goodbye.

11                      Firefighters had found her. They were there  
12          within minutes and they looked around in the -- in the unit  
13          and they found her. She was already unconscious. Two of  
14          the firefighters took her out from the building, put her on  
15          the ground until the ambulance came. She never -- she was  
16          unconscious until -- until she left. She never regained  
17          conscious.

18                      And the time we were preparing everything  
19          for her burial, we couldn't -- we couldn't do it. We had  
20          to bring her from Kamloops to Vancouver for ---

21                      **JAMIE HAINES:** An autopsy.

22                      **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** --- an autopsy. She had  
23          one in Kamloops but they did another one in Vancouver.

24                      **JAMIE HAINES:** It took two weeks for -- for  
25          her to come back home from the autopsy.

1                   **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Yeah, two weeks. And we  
2                   couldn't have a proper burial for her -- proper goodbye  
3                   because she was already -- we had to put her away right  
4                   away, couldn't see her.

5                   And then they -- by then they had deemed --  
6                   deemed Gordon under arrest in -- in this -- in Kamloops.  
7                   And at the time of questioning, he -- he said that he set  
8                   fire to the house -- or to -- yeah, to that house. And he  
9                   -- he talked to the RCMP and he let them know that he was  
10                  the one that set the fire.

11                  We brought her back for burial, I didn't  
12                  remember leaving the house, I didn't remember anything at  
13                  the cemetery. I didn't know where she was buried. Then a  
14                  week later, I asked my cousin to drive me there so I could  
15                  see where she was buried because I couldn't remember. I  
16                  couldn't remember anything. I went home, I was there for  
17                  two days, my uncle helped me, my sister came, made sure I  
18                  had something to eat. But it was weeks, months.

19                  We ended up back in court -- ended up in  
20                  court for a week in May. And then they put it off again  
21                  until October. And I was there most of the time by myself  
22                  at the court, and it was very hard. And it was hard facing  
23                  him, it was hard seeing him sitting there. And it just was  
24                  like he didn't have a care in the world, there was no  
25                  feeling. There was no feeling, no thought, no nothing from

1 him. It was just -- it was just there.

2 And then in October it went for a whole  
3 month. That was the hardest. It is like watching a movie  
4 over, and over, and over for me because some of the  
5 statements were repeated often. Then it -- it went on for  
6 a whole month. We had the firefighters, responders,  
7 ambulance people, people that -- that answered the -- David  
8 Gordon's knock on the door for help, "Call 911." They were  
9 there. It was hard hearing things, you know. It was hard  
10 listening to how she wasn't responding and how hard the  
11 firefighters and responders tried the -- giving her CPR.  
12 It was very hard listening to it.

13 The one afternoon I had to leave. I think  
14 it was the third week I had to leave in the afternoon  
15 because I -- I got really sick, I couldn't -- couldn't take  
16 it anymore. And I just left. I couldn't stay for the full  
17 day.

18 Then the whole -- end of October they  
19 decided that there was going to be -- that they were going  
20 to -- to talk about it at -- in December. December came,  
21 it was two years, right?

22 **JAMIE HAINES:** Yeah, it was two years.

23 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Two years in court.

24 Some parts I've missed in the court but I can't remember,  
25 you know. It's kind of hard for me to remember some parts.

1 I don't know if I just block it off. I -- there are parts  
2 that I do remember and it's very hurtful.

3 She worked for the Sk'elep School in  
4 Kamloops, First Nation school. She was a cook there. She  
5 also attended the Simon Fraser University. She was just  
6 another semester, I think, another full semester and she  
7 would have finished her Criminology at Simon Fraser  
8 University. I tried to make her go but she didn't want to  
9 leave her daughter.

10 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** How old is Cheryl's  
11 daughter?

12 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Cheryl's daughters?

13 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Yes.

14 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** She's 25 now.

15 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Twenty-five. Okay.

16 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** The youngest one is 23.

17 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Twenty-three. Okay,  
18 thank you.

19 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** That was very hard on  
20 them because it was so hard watching my children. My two  
21 sons, they loved their sister so much and she was a big  
22 part of their lives. She -- she was everything, you know,  
23 she -- she was a big supporter for them. She was always  
24 there for her brothers. Her daughters, she was there --  
25 and it was so hard watching my youngest granddaughter



1 [Granddaughter]. It was hard watching them both, it was  
2 hard watching the whole family suffering. I did my best to  
3 be strong but I just -- it hurts and I couldn't -- I didn't  
4 have anymore strength left. It was very emotional, very  
5 hard on the whole family for a long time.

6 She was loved by everyone -- everyone. She  
7 was so thoughtful, so giving, sharing, she was kind-hearted  
8 mother, daughter, sister, best friend, best -- she was the  
9 best auntie around to all her nieces and nephews. She  
10 adored them.

11 When she worked for the Kamloops Indian  
12 Band, she would cook for some of the children and make sure  
13 they all had -- had something to eat. Weekends she made  
14 little packages for them to take home. That's how  
15 thoughtful she was. She shared extra food that was there,  
16 she gave it out. She was so kind to the kids. And the  
17 kids there just loved her. They planted a tree in her  
18 memory. And the sing for her on her -- on the anniversary,  
19 they sing. They drum and sing for her, which is so  
20 beautiful.

21 Like I said, she was loved by all. She has  
22 many cousins that she spent time with. And it's hard to  
23 forget someone like that, someone that's been a part of  
24 your life. I raised her. She was premature, two pounds.  
25 She was born at the Ashcroft Hospital; she was there for

1 five months in the hospital before they let her -- released  
2 her to me. I -- I prayed when she was born that she would  
3 live. I prayed so hard. Someone heard me, I guess, and I  
4 raised her until she graduated and moved on. I raised her  
5 until David Gordon took her life.

6 I prayed on her -- at her bedside that she  
7 wouldn't suffer and that she would leave -- I prayed that  
8 it was the right thing I done letting her go. The jury was  
9 very -- they -- they seen that I was there all the time and  
10 I got to see some of them and it was hard for some of them  
11 because some of them did cry. It was hard for them too.

12 But then the last -- on the days that he was  
13 going to be sentenced, I felt that the time he got wasn't  
14 good enough. Especially when you don't consider other  
15 peoples' lives, you don't have feelings for them, which he  
16 didn't. I feel that his sentence wasn't -- wasn't enough  
17 because they -- they included time served. That was what  
18 was ---

19 **JAMIE HAINES:** Two years already served.

20 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** --- two years already  
21 served.

22 **JAMIE HAINES:** And he only got seven --  
23 seven years. Seven years plus time already served. That  
24 would be, like, time and a half, like ---

25 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** That's, like --

1 usually it's the ---

2 **JAMIE HAINES:** Yeah, time and a half of the  
3 sentence.

4 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And when was he  
5 convicted?

6 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** December 12th.

7 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** December 12th.

8 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Twenty ---

9 **JAMIE HAINES:** Twenty ---

10 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** It would've been 2015.  
11 December 12th, 2015.

12 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** So do you know, like,  
13 because it happened April 27, 2013, do you know, like, to  
14 the best of your knowledge what the time -- because I see  
15 there's a two years difference between the -- the moment he  
16 committed this crime and the moment he was convicted.

17 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Uh-huh. It was lawyers.

18 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I see.

19 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** They -- he had two --  
20 two -- three lawyers. The first two he -- the first one  
21 didn't want to -- didn't want to -- to help him or  
22 whatever.

23 **JAMIE HAINES:** Didn't want to represent him.

24 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** They -- the first one  
25 didn't -- didn't want to -- to -- to help him. And the

1 second one did they same, they didn't want to. And then it  
2 took time because they had to review -- they had to go back  
3 and review ---

4 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I see.

5 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** --- everything, like,  
6 you know, the -- his lawyers had to review everything. All  
7 the -- his statements, everything. And then they had to --  
8 they had to -- I can't remember what I was going to say.

9 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** It's okay.

10 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** The lawyer -- the  
11 lawyers, they had to review all the statements and then  
12 they had to call the people -- the people that were  
13 supposed to come in, the witnesses and his witnesses and --  
14 and all the firemen, everyone. They had to -- they had to  
15 call them up. So that took time -- took time for ---

16 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I see.

17 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** -- for -- for them to --  
18 to get all the people that was supposed to come in -- the  
19 witnesses. And that's what took time.

20 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I see.

21 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Everything -- and -- and  
22 then my lawyer -- or the prosecutor, he -- he did  
23 everything he could, you know, he -- he worked so hard at -  
24 - and I really appreciate all the hard work that he done.  
25 All the questions, everything, you know. It was very hard

1 and he knew it was hard for me at times. And then they'd  
2 call for -- for a recess or some -- but for me, I -- I --  
3 I'm still angry at him. It hurts a lot to see, you know,  
4 what happened. He's probably going to be out shortly, you  
5 know, he'll -- he'd be out around there. My daughter won't  
6 be -- won't be here to enjoy the family, friends.

7 My son was very angry. My youngest son earl  
8 was very angry that the time that David Gordon got. He  
9 felt it wasn't fair.

10 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Wasn't fair.

11 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Yeah, wasn't fair.

12 There were things that we couldn't do in the court was --  
13 one of them was I -- we couldn't wear the t-shirt,  
14 otherwise they'd put us -- they'd arrest us so we had to  
15 cover it up, we couldn't wear it in the court.

16 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And do you remember  
17 who told you you couldn't wear the t-shirt in court?

18 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** His -- his lawyer.

19 **JAMIE HAINES:** Yeah, it was ---

20 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Tessovitch -- the late  
21 Tessovitch.

22 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Yeah. Do you know if  
23 the judge ever said this -- like, ever ordered that? Or it  
24 was just a different ---

25 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** What did the judge say?

1                   **JAMIE HAINES:** Judge just agreed with him.

2                   **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Okay, I see.

3                   **JAMIE HAINES:** Yeah.

4                   **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** They had three different  
5 -- two different -- or three different judges the whole  
6 time. It's kind of hard for -- make -- make some things  
7 and I try -- try to remember some things but it's blocked -  
8 - it's at the very back. It's just -- just one thing I  
9 want to say is if he ever does anything wrong, he will go  
10 back for the ten years and then I will be happy for at  
11 least that. But even ten years aren't long enough. I  
12 totally disagree with time served, I disagree with that. I  
13 don't think that they should -- anyone should get that time  
14 served when it -- when they deserve to pay for the  
15 consequences of whatever they done. [Speaking in  
16 Indigenous Language]

17                   **JAMIE HAINES:** I'm just listening to you.

18                   **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Is there anything you  
19 want to ask me?

20                   **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Yes. You've been  
21 talking a little bit about Cheryl, how she was, how such a  
22 nice person, such a loved person she was. And us at the  
23 National Inquiry, we want to know more about -- about  
24 Cheryl. Do you have any good memories of her you would  
25 like to share? Or a happy moment you had with her.

1                   **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Oh, my happy times was  
2 meeting her for lunch on Wednesdays and Fridays.

3                   **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Oh.

4                   **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Spending that time with  
5 her. And I'd give her money, go to the casino and she'd  
6 win money. She'd come back and she'd share. We had a lot  
7 -- we had -- shared a lot of good -- good times. We'd plan  
8 things together. Sometimes she'd ask me to help her plan a  
9 Christmas dinner or family dinner and she'd ask me what we  
10 should have. You know, she was just all -- always worried  
11 about, you know, having things right there for everybody  
12 when they came for dinner.

13                   And she had so many friends. You know, she  
14 had friends, she -- she never looked down on anyone.  
15 Everyone she'd talk to and respected regardless of, you  
16 know, who they were, what they were. She -- she was just  
17 that kind-hearted. She was with her -- with all the  
18 family, like, her cousins and she made sure that her little  
19 nephew, she made sure she called them, Facebooked then,  
20 just -- just to say, "Good morning," or just to see what  
21 they're doing during the day. She was always like that.  
22 If there was something wrong in the family somewhere, she'd  
23 be right there to help them.

24                   **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I see.

25                   **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** And my proudest moment

1 was when she graduated an SFU and her Bachelor's. And  
2 that's -- she was studying for her Criminology. And she  
3 did her -- her -- do you call that, your exams. She did --  
4 she went online and she found a First Nations person in the  
5 United States and she wanted to know what it's like in  
6 their prison, what their system -- what it is like for  
7 First Nations people. And how many, you know, were there,  
8 you know, and, you know, she had -- she just had a list of  
9 questions. And she -- she did her -- she did her exam on  
10 that. It was through an inmate in the States, just -- just  
11 a First Nations to find out what it's like for -- for them  
12 now -- for First Nations down in the States. She  
13 interviewed him by -- on the phone. And there was only, I  
14 think, 15 or 20 minutes she was allowed. She interviewed  
15 him and he wrote a letter to her and explained other things  
16 to her.

17 So she really enjoyed her -- her work. She  
18 enjoyed going to university. And most of all, she loved  
19 her -- giving her brothers a rough time. And she was the  
20 boss for them. They'd get out of line or do something  
21 wrong, she'd be there to correct them. She was their  
22 little boss.

23 She was a wonderful mother, beautiful  
24 daughter. Her oldest daughter graduated, her youngest  
25 graduated and her daughter got a job at Tim Hortons. And



1 she was -- she worked there -- two years there and she was  
2 a manager. Then she moved on. Now she's a manager for -  
3 [Employer] and they're training her for something else. So  
4 she did a very wonderful job of raising her daughters.  
5 It's wonder -- it's wonderful to see my granddaughters, you  
6 know, but when I go there, I just feel emptiness, like,  
7 yeah. I visit my granddaughters; I love them so much. I  
8 let them know all the time.

9 Everything that she did, she always did for  
10 others. Some of her friends come to her for advice, she'd  
11 give them advice, whether it's about education, work, or  
12 she was just so thoughtful for other people. I miss her as  
13 -- right now, like, I know she'd be helping me. She -- she  
14 used to always just -- she'd buy my clothes for me. She'd  
15 buy me my clothes; she would help me go to the doctor. It  
16 was, like, ah, just whatever I needed, she'd help me. And  
17 if she needed help, she'd call me. Middle of the night  
18 she'd call me, phone me up, talk to me. I miss those phone  
19 calls. Sometimes when the phone rings at night, I expect  
20 it -- her to be calling me. A little break?

21 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Of course. Of course.

22 It's 10:09 and we're taking a small break.

23 --- Upon recessing at 10:09 a.m.

24 --- Upon resuming at 10:28 a.m.

25 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** So we are back. It's

1 -- it's 10:28 and I am with Julie Ann and Jamie, myself  
2 Marie-Audrey. And we are coming back from the break we  
3 just took. So Julie Ann, you've been talking about the  
4 court process, about -- about what happened in the fire  
5 that was started by Mr. David Gordon. Can you tell us a  
6 little bit about the process, from your perspective -- the  
7 court process and how it went? Could you understand what  
8 was going on? Did you have any support from the court?  
9 Can you give -- give us information about that?

10 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** I had support from --  
11 from Neil Flanagan, the prosecutor.

12 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Okay.

13 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** And from Kim (Ph.). And  
14 two police officers, a lady and a male police officer. The  
15 prosecutor, Neil, he informed me everything that was  
16 happening and I -- and he gave me a phone number that I  
17 could reach him if I had questions at any time. And if he  
18 wasn't there then Kim filled in for him. He -- after each  
19 court, he'd come over and he'd explain things to me like I  
20 -- I had any questions he'd explain the process of what the  
21 -- what their -- what the other lawyer was going through  
22 with -- with Mr. Gordon.

23 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hmm.

24 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** And that was after --  
25 that was after every -- every -- every court, after.

1 Sometimes we went until 5:00, started at nine and we went  
2 until nine -- or 5:00. And there were many days like that,  
3 long hours. And they were very supportive and the RCMP,  
4 the -- the female constable, she'd call me at home to check  
5 up on me to make sure I was okay. They both did.

6 There was -- there were times that we'd have  
7 to take breaks and that, and seeing a lot of people that  
8 came for support -- both from the Kamloops Indian Band, the  
9 Skeetchestn councillors, Chief -- and Chief, and from  
10 Boneaparte (Ph.). All three communities, they'd come  
11 together for support.

12 There was one incident that one day that we  
13 were going into court and there were ladies marching  
14 outside the courthouse. And I don't know how they got a  
15 hold of Cheryl's picture but they had her picture and they  
16 were marching outside the courthouse. And Earl had asked  
17 someone to -- to -- to take her picture off there because  
18 it affected the court ---

19 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hmm.

20 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** --- where the court was  
21 going because we couldn't wear our t-shirts so we thought  
22 we -- they had her picture on there and that would affect  
23 the process. But that didn't help, he didn't -- he still  
24 didn't get the -- a full sentence, what he should have  
25 gotten because he only -- he had manslaughter and he had

1 two other incidents. That's what he was charged with  
2 manslaughter. And the two other ---

3 **JAMIE HAINES:** He had a long history of  
4 criminal charges.

5 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Yeah. He's well known  
6 in Vancouver.

7 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And you said on the  
8 night of April 27th that there were three other people in  
9 the unit. Was anyone else injured?

10 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** No.

11 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** No.

12 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Everybody made it out  
13 okay.

14 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I see. I see.

15 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** The smoke in the house  
16 was right down -- right down to -- what, to the floor.  
17 Some of the had to crawl out of their units because there  
18 was four units and four ---

19 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hmm.

20 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** --- different people  
21 live there, five with Mr. Gordon. But he was a guest in  
22 that place though.

23 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I see.

24 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** The gentleman that owned  
25 the unit invited him because he didn't have a place to

1 stay. So he invited him there to stay until he could get a  
2 place of his own. He ended up doing -- burning that  
3 building.

4 On the last day in court, December 12th, we  
5 had to wait until -- what time was it?

6 **JAMIE HAINES:** Until just about 4:00.

7 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** No, after four. It was  
8 five or something.

9 **JAMIE HAINES:** It was six.

10 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Yeah, six.

11 **JAMIE HAINES:** M'hmm.

12 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** We had to wait until  
13 they announced his -- the time he was getting, the time he  
14 deserved. But the one incident was with his -- with his  
15 common-law wife for beating -- beating her up and ---

16 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Hm.

17 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** --- and they didn't  
18 charge him for -- I don't think it was included in there  
19 where he was trying to murder her. And the other charge, I  
20 don't know if it was -- there was a couple charges that he  
21 was charged with besides manslaughter. And the dirty rat  
22 will be out next month on the 12th.

23 I tried calling the -- his -- at the -- what  
24 do you call those guys? Probation officer.

25 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Uh-huh.

1                   **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** But I didn't get a call  
2 back. So I'm going to try again on Monday.

3                   **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And were you given the  
4 opportunity to make final submission? Like, a -- like to  
5 have, like, a conclusion remarks in court?

6                   **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Yes.

7                   **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Yeah.

8                   **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** I had a statement and  
9 the prosecutor took it and he just took parts of it.

10                  **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Okay.

11                  **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** He didn't read the whole  
12 thing, he just took certain parts in there. And the parts  
13 he took was -- I can't remember what parts he took in  
14 there.

15                  **JAMIE HAINES:** I can't remember either.  
16 It's been so long.

17                  **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** It's okay. It's okay.  
18 But just to know that you had the opportunity.

19                  **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Yeah.

20                  **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Okay. That's good.

21                  **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** The -- one of the -- one  
22 of the things that I brought up was, you know, that life he  
23 took from me was very hard because she would be here with  
24 me yet. She'd be helping me, taking care of me, helping  
25 me. And just being together as mother and daughter. The

1 connection between us was very special.

2 Her brother Earl, and her and Cheryl, they  
3 could communicate without talking. They -- they could have  
4 had ---

5 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Think alike.

6 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Yeah, think alike. And  
7 they -- they'd know a question the other's going to ask  
8 before they asked it. So that's the kind -- kind of  
9 communication they had together. They're very close. And  
10 we shared a lot of things and we -- we even shared dreams.  
11 Our dreams were, like -- that's how close we were.

12 When we waited for the sentence, that was a  
13 long day. It felt longer than the whole month that they  
14 sat in court. It -- I -- it's like I was in a place where  
15 it was empty. That's what it felt like when I was waiting.  
16 Then when they came down with the sentence, that hurt even  
17 more than all the time I sat in the court. It was like my  
18 daughter's life wasn't worth anything. I don't know why he  
19 didn't get sentenced longer.

20 It was brought up in court -- his lawyer  
21 brought it up that he would -- he joined a religious group  
22 while he was in there -- joined a religious group to change  
23 his life around, he said. But I don't think it was fair.  
24 For the time he got, it wasn't fair. But he made me think  
25 about how the system is that -- because they think that a

1 First Nations woman's life isn't worth anything. That's  
2 how I felt about the judge. The jury did their -- did  
3 their best. They really did their best. For them, I'm  
4 very thankful for the work they spent. Two years in that  
5 court is a long time.

6 The whole family was there. And the girls -  
7 - my -- my two granddaughters came. My youngest [inaudible  
8 response] Cheryl's youngest, I think, sat outside. She  
9 [inaudible response] to come in.

10 **JAMIE HAINES:** She came in.

11 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** They were at court the -  
12 - on the day they were going to sentence him. And they had  
13 -- they also had their statements. That's always my  
14 thoughts is First Nations man and woman isn't -- don't even  
15 respect the -- even charge whoever is guilty for their  
16 crimes to -- to our First Nations women. It's not fair.  
17 They think that every First Nations woman is a drunk,  
18 prostitute. A lot of the ladies I see there, they were  
19 workers, hard workers. Some of them that I seen when I was  
20 in Prince George for the Murdered and Missing Women -- my  
21 greatest wish is that they change their thinking about  
22 First Nations, the court system, and think of us as human  
23 beings. And just -- just someone out there. Is there  
24 anything else you want to ask?

25 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I think I'm good. I



1           just had one last question. I just want to point it out  
2           that you brought the picture ---

3                         **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Oh, yes.

4                         **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** --- of your daughter.  
5           Can you -- can you tell about this picture a little bit?

6                         **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** This picture was taken  
7           at her -- at her place.

8                         **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Uh-huh.

9                         **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** She was having fun that  
10          day.

11                        **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Yeah. It's a  
12          beautiful picture.

13                        **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Yes. She had a  
14          beautiful smile.

15                        **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hmm.

16                        **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** And her eyes used to  
17          have a twinkle in them when she was up to mischief. She  
18          was about 18 days away from her forty-fifth birthday when  
19          this picture was taken I think. About -- just about --  
20          just a -- a little over a year before she was ---

21                                 She was her daddy's girl. When shew as a  
22          baby, she was beautiful. She was so tiny and I was so  
23          scared to handle her because she was four -- not quite four  
24          pounds or something when she came out. And she was so  
25          tiny, she made -- we made homemade diapers for her. We

1           made the clothes, doll clothes actually.

2                           Then my son Earl made up those t-shirts.

3           And made -- that we were going to use them in the court but  
4           they wouldn't allow us to use it. They were going to throw  
5           us in jail if we -- if we wore it in court. They said it  
6           was -- affected -- Mr. Gordon's trial. But I wore mine in  
7           there but it was under my jacket. And the lawyer  
8           Tessovitch, he used to give me that look like he knew I had  
9           it on underneath. But there was nothing he could do about  
10          it. That really upset all my -- my sons and all of our  
11          family that was in court when we couldn't wear those t-  
12          shirts.

13                           But I -- I really don't want him -- when he  
14          -- when he's released from jail, I don't want him back  
15          around Kamloops. Just looking at him just totally upsets  
16          me. I can't -- to me, he's just nothing. He's just an  
17          animal with -- without a thought. Even animals can think  
18          but not him. How could someone sit in the middle of the  
19          floor and decide to burn something with other people in  
20          there? There's no thought there. There's no feeling. No  
21          feeling for anybody in unit but himself. He took off out  
22          of the building without trying to help other people. He  
23          said he would leave for help.

24                           Is there any other question you want ---

25                           **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** No, I think for today

1 I'm -- I'm -- like, all the questions I had for -- I've  
2 asked you. But I want to thank you for coming and sharing  
3 Cheryl's story and introduce ---

4 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Yeah.

5 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** --- Cheryl to us.

6 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Yeah.

7 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I think it was -- for  
8 us, it's really important to receive your story and your  
9 truth.

10 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Yes.

11 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** So thank you very much  
12 for trusting in us enough to come ---

13 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** Yeah.

14 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** --- and to tell us  
15 about it.

16 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** I just hope that, you  
17 know, that what I say here today about the court system,  
18 and about time being served for good behaviour or for  
19 however long they're in there should never count in their  
20 sentencing. That's my -- my thought.

21 **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Yeah.

22 **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** One greatest wish it  
23 won't happen again to anyone or anybody. It's a hard thing  
24 to go through to sit there and watch somebody get sentenced  
25 for my daughter's life. And to me that's not justice.

1                   **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Well, thank you very  
2 much. Before I turn on -- turn off the camera, is there  
3 anything -- anything else that you would like to add?

4                   **JULIE ANN ANTOINE:** I can't think of  
5 anything. Do you?

6                   **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** That's okay.

7                   **JAMIE HAINES:** No, I can't think of anything  
8 either.

9                   **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** That's okay.

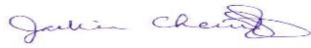
10                  **JAMIE HAINES:** I think we've said all we  
11 needed to say.

12                  **MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Okay. That's good.  
13 So then I'll be turning off the camera. The time right now  
14 is 10:50 and we are turning off the camera and audio  
15 recorder.

16 --- Upon adjourning at 10:50 a.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jackie Chernoff, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.



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Jackie Chernoff

January 7, 2019