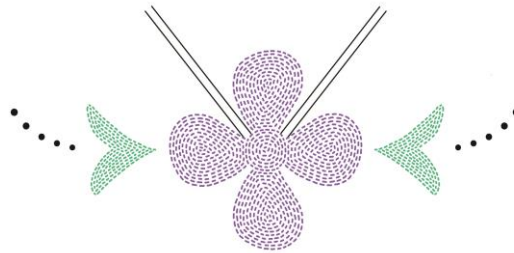


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls  
Truth-Gathering Process  
Part 1 Public Hearings  
Hotel North Two, Conference Room  
Happy Valley-Goose Bay,  
Newfoundland-and-Labrador**



**PUBLIC**

**Thursday March 8, 2018**

**Public Volume 55  
Amena Evans Harlick,  
In relation to Mary Evans Harlick**

**Heard by Commissioner Qajaq Robinson  
Commission Counsel: Christa Big Canoe**

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## II

### APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations	Jeremy Kolodziej (Legal Counsel)
Eastern Door Indigenous Women's Association	Non-appearance
Government of Canada	Tania Tooke (Paralegal)
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador	Brian Harvey (Representative)
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami	Elizabeth Zarpa (Legal Counsel)
Naskapi Nation of Kawawachi- kamach	Non-appearance
Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network	Odelle Pike (Representative)
Newfoundland Native Women's Association	Non-appearance
Nunatsiavut Government	Kaila de Boer, Michelle Kinney, Tracey Evans Rice (Representatives)
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada & AnânauKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women's Association (ATRIWA)	Beth Symes (Legal Counsel for Pauktuutit & ATRIWA) Anita Pokiak (Representative for Pauktuutit)

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1	Folder of seven digital images displayed during Amena Evans Harlick's public testimony	27
2	CBC News article "Gauthier to serve 17 years without parole" posted August 21, 2006 1:31 PM NT, last updated August 21, 2006 1:30 PM NT (sic)	27

1 Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador  
2 --- Upon commencing on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 9:53 a.m.

3 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Good morning. Good  
4 morning, we're about to get started. Good morning,  
5 Commissioner Robinson. I was reminded today that I should  
6 actually introduce myself by one of the Elders here. So  
7 good morning, I'm Christa Big Canoe. I'm one of the  
8 lawyers with the Commission, and my job is just to assist  
9 any of the -- the people sharing their story. To help them  
10 through, and ask questions as needed. Commissioner  
11 Robinson, this morning I'd like to introduce you to Amena  
12 Evans Harlick. Amena will be talking about the murder of  
13 her mother in September 2002. Her mother, Mary Evan  
14 Harlick passed in 2000 [sic] -- was murdered in 2002. And  
15 Amena was just a young girl when her mother was murdered,  
16 but she has a lot to share with us.

17 Before we begin, I would ask that the  
18 Registrar promise Amena in.

19 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Okay. Good morning,  
20 Amena.

21 **AMENA EVANS HARLICK, Affirmed:**

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

23 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And -- and before we  
24 get started, Amena, I understand you'd like to introduce  
25 your support and friend that's with you. Could you please

1 do that for us?

2 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Yeah. This is my  
3 best friend, Samantha (ph). She comes everywhere with me,  
4 and she's my side-kick through everything.

5 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thanks for coming,  
6 Sam. So, Amena, can you just start by telling us a little  
7 bit about yourself and your background?

8 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I'm 21 years-old.  
9 I was born in St. John's. My mother was Inuit, so I'm half  
10 Inuit. I didn't really learn much of the culture since I  
11 grew up in St. John's, and, yeah.

12 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Is it okay if I ask  
13 what your mother liked?

14 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Yeah.

15 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Was your mother also  
16 from St. John's?

17 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** My mother was from  
18 North West River. She was adopted when she was very young,  
19 and brought into a non-Indigenous family.

20 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So I know the place  
21 that we want to start talking is about your mom, and what  
22 your fond memories were of your mom. I -- I understand you  
23 were really young when she was murdered, but can you please  
24 share with the Commissioner a bit about your mom so we know  
25 who she is?

1                   **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Yeah. She was a  
2 very kind-hearted person. She was loved by everyone. She  
3 loved animals, she was an artist, she was a beautiful,  
4 beautiful woman. She always had a really kind heart, and  
5 she made sure that me and my brother had the best life that  
6 we could, and made sure that we were always happy. She  
7 would -- she used to bring me to the store and get me  
8 caramel squares, and now they're my favourite snacks. We  
9 used to make Rice Krispies squares, and, oh, I'm sorry.  
10 She used to hide toys around her house as a little  
11 surprise. So there was dinosaurs under the couch one time,  
12 and snow pants on top of her lamp, and everything. And  
13 she -- she made sure that the time we have with her was  
14 special.

15                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I understand your  
16 mother was very young herself when she was murdered.

17                   **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** She was 24 years  
18 old.

19                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And at the time that  
20 she was murdered, how old were you?

21                   **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I was six years  
22 old, and my brother was five years old.

23                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And so -- and take  
24 your time with this, but if you could start to share with  
25 the Commissioner what you recall when you were six years

1 old. How you learned, or how -- what you were told about  
2 what happened with your mother.

3 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I -- I remember  
4 this clear as day. There was one day that my father had  
5 asked me and my brother to come into the room because he  
6 wanted to talk to us. And I knew that it was, kind of,  
7 going to be a little harsh. I could just, kind of, sense  
8 it. So I ran and grabbed a toy from my bedroom that she  
9 had given me. And we came into the room, and he said that,  
10 "Mom will -- we won't be seeing Mom anymore. She had --  
11 she had passed away and you won't be able to see her."

12 As I grew up, I kind of -- and -- well, as I  
13 was growing up, my family made sure that I knew that she  
14 had passed away, and someone had did it. But I wasn't sure  
15 of the full story. And I -- when I got older, I was able  
16 to do a little bit of research. And my family would tell  
17 me that the night that it happened, she was at a friend's  
18 house and she wanted to go home, or something like that.  
19 And she threatened to call the police because this man  
20 wouldn't let her leave. And he, kind of, freaked out  
21 because he had a warrant for his arrest in Ontario. So  
22 he -- in a article, and an interview that he did, he said  
23 that he, "Punched her in the face, and then, it -- it all  
24 snow-balled." And he decided, "Well, now, I'm going to  
25 have to kill her."



1                   So he strangled her with her rawhide  
2 necklace, and then put her in a sleeping bag and then put  
3 her underneath a -- a crawlspace under the stairs.

4                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Now, that -- since  
5 you've touched on the article, I'm going to pass the  
6 article up to the Commissioner. And this is something you  
7 learned years later, after he goes through a trial, right?  
8 At the time, you had no participation in the trial because  
9 you were a child; is that true?

10                  **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** That's true.

11                  **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Can you tell us a  
12 little bit as I'm getting this article to the Commissioner.  
13 You said you researched yourself, like, what -- why did you  
14 want to start researching? And how did you approach your  
15 family about learning more about your mother?

16                  **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I just wanted to  
17 know. I went years and years without knowing what had  
18 happened to her. And in -- I just wanted a little bit of  
19 closure. I wanted to know that she was peaceful and she  
20 went -- like, she's in a happier place. So and I just got  
21 curious one day, and I would, you know, Google her name,  
22 and then from Googling her name I found out his name. And  
23 so I would search up his name, and, yeah.

24                  **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** (Indiscernible).

25                  **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Huh?

1                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And do you want --  
2                   is it okay to say -- isn't it?

3                   **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Yeah.

4                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Okay. So you now  
5                   know who that was, between hearing from your family, and  
6                   talking with your family, and doing your own research, you  
7                   now know his name and it's -- it's in that article. Can  
8                   you share what you now know about what happened after he  
9                   murdered your mom?

10                  **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I don't really  
11                  know how to say it.

12                  **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** It's all right. So,  
13                  maybe, that -- that wasn't a great question. Let me try  
14                  again. He went to trial. Was he convicted?

15                  **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Yes.

16                  **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Okay. And was he  
17                  sentenced for the murder of your mom?

18                  **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** He was sentenced  
19                  to 17 years with -- without a chance of parole.

20                  **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** But again, this is  
21                  all stuff that you only learned after the fact. So you  
22                  can't really speak to, necessarily, the justice system, or  
23                  how it treated your family, other than what you heard from  
24                  your family. Did your family ever share with you anything  
25                  about that process?

1                   **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** No, not really.

2                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** When you were  
3 younger, how did your family protect you from the media, or  
4 the news, or the information that was happening at the  
5 trial?

6                   **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I remember one day  
7 my dad had brought me and my brother into the living room  
8 and told us that we weren't allowed to watch T.V. for a  
9 little while because there -- and -- her case was going to  
10 be televised and everything. And he just wanted to make  
11 sure that we wouldn't be exposed to that.

12                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And so I understand,  
13 that in addition to talking about your mom, you also, like,  
14 as a young Indigenous woman, have some concerns regarding  
15 the high rate of domestic violence that's experienced by  
16 Indigenous women. Do you want to share a little bit about  
17 how you feel about that with the Commissioner?

18                   **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** It kind of scares  
19 me. When I was younger, I -- I remember being scared of  
20 myself. I -- I was in class one day, and I heard sirens  
21 and I -- I just got really scared. And my classmate had  
22 noticed. He asked me what was wrong, and I said that I was  
23 scared that he had got out of jail and he was going to --  
24 he was going to mistake me for my mom. And I didn't --  
25 I -- I thought that he would end up killing me as well. I

1 remember being really scared and that has stuck with me  
2 since that day. And I wish things were different because  
3 I -- I don't want to feel that scared. I don't want to  
4 feel, like, on high alert all the time.

5 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Is it fair to say,  
6 that you're still worried that when he is released -- so he  
7 was sentenced to life, but he was eligible for parole in 17  
8 years. He was sentenced in 2006. So do you worry in the  
9 future that you may ever run into him, or come across him?

10 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Yeah. I -- I  
11 worry about it a lot. In a -- I don't know --

12 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** It's okay. Take  
13 your time. It's okay. We can move on if you want me to.

14 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** You know, that I  
15 shouldn't have to feel scared. I -- I shouldn't have to  
16 have that worry. And I -- I wish I was able to have a say  
17 about his sentencing, and make sure that this man will  
18 never walk outside of a jail ever again because I -- I  
19 don't know, it's -- it's too much.

20 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Amena, we can just  
21 do the pictures and have you describe the -- the memory  
22 around them; is that okay?

23 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Okay.

24 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** The pictures so you  
25 can describe (indiscernible); is that okay?

1                   **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Yeah.

2                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** We're -- we're going  
3 to ask if the pictures can be pulled up. And if Amena can  
4 walk through and describe them because she wants to share  
5 some of her fond memories of her mom as well. So if she  
6 could see them? I do too.

7                   **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** I -- I see  
8 them there too, so --

9                   **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Okay.

10                  **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** If I look over  
11 there, I'm not --

12                  **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Okay.

13                  **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** -- ignoring  
14 you.

15                  **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** That picture right  
16 there is my absolute favourite picture of my mom.

17                  **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Oh, yeah.

18                  **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Yeah. And I find  
19 it captures her a lot, her beauty and her -- it -- she just  
20 looks very down to Earth and happy. And whenever I think  
21 of my mom, that's the picture that I see.

22                  **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** How old was  
23 she in that picture?

24                  **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I'm sure.  
25 Probably around the same age I am right now. This picture,

1 my grandmother told me that she dressed up as Mother Nature  
2 for Halloween, or just for fun, and, yeah.

3 And this was -- oh, what beach is that? I  
4 think it's Northern Bay Sands, and it was a big family  
5 outing. So it was me, my mom, my brother, and my dad, my  
6 grandparents, I think, my great grandmother was there.

7 That's us eating tarts. They're my  
8 favourite tarts. I don't remember the occasion. I think  
9 our -- my baby cousin was born that day, and we celebrated  
10 with eating tarts and looking at the baby.

11 This was my mom and my dad's wedding day.  
12 And that's the -- that little blob is me.

13 And this is one of our birthdays. It was  
14 either my brother's or mine. And you can see the two of us  
15 devouring the cake. And my grandmother is the one in the  
16 middle up there. Yeah.

17 This was the best Christmas ever. We had  
18 lit candles, we opened up a bunch of gifts, and I remember  
19 walking around the house with the stroller and the toy baby  
20 that I was given. And it -- it was just a lot of fun.

21 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** How old were  
22 you? How old were you in this picture?

23 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Oh, God, maybe  
24 four or five.

25 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you for

1 sharing those memories with us. I know that as you've,  
2 like, decided to come here and share your story -- leading  
3 up to this, you had an opportunity to go to the pre-  
4 Inquiry. And that was really, kind of, the first time you  
5 publicly spoke about your mom --

6 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Yeah.

7 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** -- and shared about  
8 your mom. And your own interest in doing research, other  
9 than the fact that your mother was murdered, has made you a  
10 bit of an advocate and, you know, a role model with young  
11 women your age. Can you tell us a little bit about why  
12 it's important to advocate about these issues?  
13 Particularly, given your age, and what kind of voice you  
14 want to bring to the issues?

15 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I think it's  
16 really important. I am very young, and when I went to the  
17 Toronto meeting, I -- me and Samantha here, were the  
18 youngest people there, I'm pretty sure. But I think it's  
19 important to have a -- a voice so young because there are  
20 other girl -- little girls and young women who are growing  
21 up who may have gone through a similar situation as mine,  
22 and they feel alone because for the longest time, I -- I  
23 felt alone. And just knowing that maybe someone else out  
24 there will, you know, see me talking about this, or  
25 anything, will -- will help them know that they aren't

1 going through this alone. And that they -- they can voice  
2 their opinion, and they can have a voice because they --  
3 their -- their voices shouldn't go unheard.

4 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** *Oui.*

5 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** We -- we talked  
6 about some impacts -- some impacts you experienced. And we  
7 see the pictures and how much love was in the family. And  
8 we know, because you've shared, that you -- you lost her at  
9 such a young age. Can you tell us about the impacts of  
10 losing your mother at the age of 6 has had overall? The  
11 impact and effect it's been in your life?

12 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I've gone through  
13 a lot of milestones in my life. And it would have been  
14 nice to have my mom there. Like, graduating from  
15 elementary school, and then going into junior high. And  
16 then graduating from junior high and then going to high  
17 school, and being at my prom, and everything. It would  
18 have been nice to have my mom there, you know, getting  
19 ready with me for these graduations, and cheering me on in  
20 the -- on the sidelines. And it -- it would have been nice  
21 to have that. And I know growing up that it was difficult  
22 for my family because, you know, my -- my dad was also very  
23 young when this had all happened. And he was able to raise  
24 both me and my brother on his own, and be strong through  
25 the whole time. And I don't give him enough credit because



1           that man is the strongest man that I know. And I -- I  
2           can't thank him enough for the childhood and everything  
3           that he gave me.

4                         He used to go on fishing trips in the  
5           summer, once a year, with his friend for a week. And I  
6           used to go up to my nan's and a family friend's house  
7           during that week. And my nan has said that my -- myself  
8           and my brother would cry before we would go to sleep  
9           because we were scared that our father wouldn't come home.  
10          And knowing that we had lost one parent, and we were scared  
11          of losing another one. And I -- I even remember whenever I  
12          would spend one night away from home, and my dad would be  
13          home alone, or something, I was scared that something would  
14          happen to him. And it -- it's just -- it -- it's been a  
15          lot knowing and -- knowing and being scared of losing him  
16          as well.

17                        **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And one of the --  
18          one of the other things we talked about is how uncannily  
19          you look like your mom. Where there's some pictures that  
20          you -- you look like you could be the same person. And how  
21          does that impact you as a young Indigenous -- beautiful  
22          Indigenous woman? Knowing what happened to your mom, and  
23          how does that impact you when you're out in the world? Or,  
24          what are your fears? What are your -- how do you feel  
25          knowing that you also have risks based on the fact of who

1           you are?

2                           **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I get scared.

3           I -- I like to go for walks by myself and -- and have me-  
4           time, of course. But I -- I do really get scared,  
5           and -- and sometimes I think that someone is going to be  
6           right behind me, and so I start running from wherever I am.  
7           And just keep running until I feel safe again. I just have  
8           a thought, but I can't remember it. Sorry.

9                           **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** It's okay. Take  
10          your time.

11                          **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I don't know where  
12          I was going with that. I just -- I don't like feeling  
13          scared. I shouldn't have to feel scared. And a lot of the  
14          times when I'm out walking by myself, I just think -- and,  
15          like, when I -- when I get these feelings of being scared,  
16          I -- I feel like I'm just going to be another statistic.  
17          And that's something that worries me all the time because I  
18          don't want to be another statistic.

19                          **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Can you tell me --  
20          tell us a little bit about the impact it has -- like,  
21          you're -- we had this conversation. I understand your mom  
22          was adopted out as an infant. So we did talk -- if you  
23          could talk a little bit about the disconnect, but the  
24          reality that you walk in an Inuit appearance and face every  
25          day. So what -- what type of discrimination or barriers do



1 is not taught in schools. We are  
2 briefed about basic culture in early  
3 grade school of smudging, drum circles  
4 and the extinction of the Beothuk  
5 people."

6 It is not -- it is not -- what?

7 "It was not until I had met Amena at a  
8 age 16, that I had even -- that I was  
9 even aware about the missing and --"

10 Sorry, I'm really bad at reading.

11 "It was not until I met Amena at age  
12 16, that I was even aware missing and  
13 murdered Indigenous women and girls was  
14 a problem in Canada. We cannot have  
15 justice for our loved ones if we're not  
16 even being given the option to be  
17 educated properly about it. We read --  
18 we need this information in our schools  
19 and for our children to be aware, so  
20 they do not become ignorant to these  
21 issues like I was. If there was no  
22 room for this type of education,  
23 there -- then there is no room for  
24 change to occur."

25 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And having attended

1 school and -- and growing up in a non-Inuit or Indigenous  
2 family, what did you remember learning about Inuit or  
3 Indigenous people in class?

4 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I don't remember a  
5 whole lot. I -- I remember, you know, sitting down and it  
6 would be one day of class where we just learn about the  
7 different types of Indigenous people, so Inuit, and Innu,  
8 Mi'kmaq, and then we would talk about the Beothuks. And  
9 then we would watch a movie or something like that. But  
10 the culture was -- was never really taught, and the history  
11 behind everything. It -- it was just never spoken about.  
12 And I -- I think that's unfair because I -- I find the  
13 culture so, so beautiful.

14 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Have you ever felt,  
15 like -- have you felt disconnected? I know you said you --  
16 you didn't get the culture, but how -- what was that like  
17 for your identity growing up as a youth?

18 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I mean, people  
19 still ask me now if I know any of the language. If I -- if  
20 I know anything cool, and -- and I -- I don't know what  
21 they would -- yeah, I don't know. But people still ask me  
22 that kind of stuff, and I just don't know how to answer it  
23 besides I wasn't taught it growing up, and, yeah.

24 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** But that's one of  
25 the things, I think. Is it fair to say, like, in your

1 continuing healing journey, one of the things that you  
2 really want to do is learn more, and do more with your  
3 culture?

4 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Yeah.

5 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And do you think  
6 that's going to be something that will help you? I mean,  
7 obviously, nothing ever brings back your mother. But what  
8 are the types of things that -- that you think you and  
9 youth -- because you're still really close to youth, can do  
10 to cope and to heal through these types of situations?

11 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I think the best  
12 thing anyone could ever do in a situation like mine, is to  
13 continue to talk about it. And continue to bring awareness  
14 to it because it -- it -- sometimes it feels like it's just  
15 being shoved underneath a rug or something like that. And  
16 it -- it needs to be talked about. And it -- it helps with  
17 the healing to talk about your feelings and the anger, the  
18 sadness, and the grief. It -- it needs to be something to  
19 be worked on.

20 To be able to -- and, like, one thing that I  
21 found helpful when I went to Toronto for the pre-Inquiry  
22 meeting was smudging. And I real -- I really enjoyed that.  
23 And if -- if we could -- if there was a way to teach more  
24 people about different types of healing and the different  
25 types of culture, I think it would help a lot of people

1           because in a -- in non-Indigenous cultures, it's just,  
2           like, hey, talk about your feelings, and -- and like, take  
3           a bubble bath or something like that. And it -- and -- and  
4           you don't really get the same effect as when you're doing  
5           something that helps clean your heart, and clean your head,  
6           and make -- make sure that you're feeling okay and in a  
7           better spot until you move on.

8                           **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Now, in terms of,  
9           like, justice. Your thoughts on justice, or -- or justice  
10          for murdered and missing Indigenous women? We know that  
11          your mother's murderer was convicted, but you didn't have a  
12          big role in understanding the process because of your age.  
13          What kind of role do you think you should be able to have  
14          in any processes moving forward in relation to the  
15          convicted killer?

16                           **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I didn't know that  
17          I would be able to have a say in his parole. That was  
18          brought to my attention very recently. And being able to  
19          have a say in that and make sure that he never walks out of  
20          that jail ever again would -- it would ease my mind a whole  
21          lot.

22                           **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** But has anyone ever  
23          contacted you from Victim Services, or from a Crown's  
24          office, or from any service, to inform you what type of  
25          participation you could have in those processes?

1                   **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** They haven't  
2 contacted me personally, no.

3                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Do you think it  
4 would be helpful if there was more information, or a way  
5 that you could understand how the process works?

6                   **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Yeah.

7                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Do you have any  
8 other things that you want to speak about in relation to  
9 the -- the justice system, or how it impacts missing and  
10 murdered Indigenous women and girls?

11                   **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** We can totally  
12 come back to it.

13                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Just wanted to make  
14 sure (indiscernible). Did you get a chance to think about  
15 some recommendations? (Indiscernible)?

16                   **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Okay. Yeah.

17                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Please feel free to  
18 share. I understand you did make some notes because you  
19 wanted to remember the important things you wanted to  
20 share. And you're welcome to share these with the  
21 Commissioner, or read them. Whatever you're more  
22 comfortable doing.

23                   **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Okay. I -- I just  
24 wrote down a few little suggestions and stuff like that.  
25 I -- I was talking on the phone with my nan last night to



1 get more of an idea of what can be made available for --  
2 for a -- after situations like this. And she said that, in  
3 general, counselling service made available for the  
4 families. After this had happened and -- there was no  
5 counselling services for myself and my brother, which I'm  
6 sure we could have used at that age to help process it and  
7 come to terms with it. And then, I guess, counselling as  
8 you're growing up because it's -- it -- it doesn't just go  
9 away.

10 And I already touched the -- the education  
11 thing. Educating more people about the culture and about  
12 what we're talking about here today. And, yeah, that's  
13 what I have written down.

14 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And you had said  
15 earlier, your mother was an artist. And one of the -- the  
16 things is, you didn't get a chance to, maybe, learn from  
17 her some of the art skills that she could have passed to  
18 you. Are there other types of programs that you could --  
19 think could be made available to youth about culture that  
20 would help heal in these circumstances?

21 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I'm not sure. I  
22 haven't really thought about that. I find art therapy is  
23 really helpful. I mean, you sit down and you paint for  
24 hours and you feel better afterwards. You get to express  
25 your -- yourself and your emotions while you're painting,

1 and drawing, and doing all that kind of fun stuff. So I  
2 think that would be good too.

3 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** In terms of --  
4 you're 21, and I know that you're often on your -- I -- I  
5 don't even know all of the things, I know like, Snapchat  
6 and Instagram, but what are ways you can advocate using,  
7 like, technology or increase youth and Indigenous voices  
8 around this? Do you have some creative ideas on that? Or  
9 do you think it's important to keep spreading the word, not  
10 just in sessions like this, but through technology?

11 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Yeah. I -- I try  
12 my best to talk about it as much as I can. When I was in  
13 Calgary, there was red dresses, and red shirts, and red  
14 everything hung around the University of Calgary. And I  
15 made sure to post those pictures and show that, you know,  
16 this is a problem and there are people talking about it,  
17 and we should continue talking about it.

18 I've -- since -- since I've known about  
19 coming here for this trip, I've been posting on Snapchat,  
20 and Instagram, and all those social medias, that I was  
21 coming here. And that we -- we should be speaking about  
22 this because it's extremely, extremely important. And  
23 it -- it would be helpful for more youth to be talking  
24 about it, and more people my age and younger even, because  
25 we're going to be the next generation. We're going to be

1           trying to change the world and do something good for the  
2           world. And if -- if we all just kept talking about it and  
3           keep it alive, then, you know, there will be more justice,  
4           and awareness, and everything like that. Yeah.

5                       **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Do you think that  
6           there's more people becoming aware, in particular youth,  
7           becoming aware of the issues? That we can talk more now  
8           than we did in the past?

9                       **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I sure hope so.  
10          I've seen -- I've seen on Facebook more and more that  
11          people are sharing the REDress Project, and more people are  
12          talking about the Inquiry, and more people are lending  
13          their voices. And even just sharing a post, it's bringing  
14          awareness.

15                      **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Am I missing  
16          anything? Like, what else do you want to talk about? So  
17          you're doing great. I just want to make sure we didn't  
18          miss anything, that you (indiscernible). All right. Yeah.  
19          Okay. I'm going to ask you the strength question. You  
20          obviously (indiscernible). So thank you so much for  
21          sharing. I know it wasn't -- I know it wasn't easy today  
22          to actually describe the circumstance, or how you learned  
23          of your mother's murder. I'm so impressed that at your  
24          young age, you've -- you've got so much to share with us.  
25          One of the things though, you know, we've been talking

1 about how we can talk about this more, and how it's  
2 important. And, you know, I -- I wanted to ask you, you  
3 know, how do you find the strength? Like, how did you get  
4 the courage to stand up here today and talk? I know you  
5 think that talking's important, but what are you tapping  
6 into, that inner strength; what is it?

7 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Okay. So I've  
8 written it all down so my thoughts are in one complete  
9 place. I found the strength through support of my family.  
10 They've been patient with me through rough times. They let  
11 me know my self-worth, show me that I can be strong through  
12 whatever life throws at me, and let me know that it's  
13 important to voice my opinion and let my voice be heard.  
14 They have gone above and beyond to give me a great  
15 childhood, even with a big tragedy that potentially turned  
16 our world upside down for a little while. And again, I  
17 have to say a -- say thank you so much to my father because  
18 he -- he's just been great, and he's been strong, and he's  
19 shown me what strength is because -- and as me and my  
20 brother were going through a tough time, I'm sure he was  
21 going through a tougher time. And I'd -- I admire him for  
22 that. And being able to raise me and him on his own, and  
23 still be an awesome dad.

24 I found strength through my friends, who  
25 have given me a shoulder to cry, and a person to vent to.

1 And being able to laugh until we're crying because we're --  
2 because of silly jokes. Through therapeutic late-night  
3 drives, and talks, and then letting me break out of my  
4 shell and feel comfortable in my own skin. And the endless  
5 love they continue to show me on a regular basis,  
6 especially on the bad days. Thank you.

7 I found strength through myself. Learning  
8 to love myself, know my self-worth, being brave through  
9 tough times, even if it's just getting out of bed in the  
10 morning. And knowing that I've had an extremely hard life,  
11 and I'm still kicking around. And knowing that every hard  
12 time in my life will pass by as well.

13 Lastly, and the most important event that  
14 helped me build the courage to attend this event today was  
15 the pre-Inquiry meeting. That it -- it really opened up my  
16 eyes. It was the first place I openly talked about my  
17 mother to a bunch of people who I didn't know. I was  
18 able -- able to share her story and make sure her name  
19 would never be forgotten, and feel as if I was making her  
20 proud of me.

21 Since that day, my goal was to make sure her  
22 story was told all -- along with every other loved one's  
23 story. Make sure that these incredible women and girls  
24 wouldn't be forgotten. Every mother, sister, daughter,  
25 grandmother, aunt, best friend and niece who we've lost

1 over the years deserve to be remembered. We are here to  
2 honour our loved ones today. We are here to speak up and  
3 make sure that we are heard. And we are here to give back  
4 the voices that were stolen from our loved ones. And my  
5 hope is that you will now hear them loud and clear.

6 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Wow.

7 **(APPLAUSE)**

8 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you. I don't  
9 have any more questions. I want to make sure we haven't  
10 missed anything before the Commissioner has an opportunity  
11 to ask questions or make comments.

12 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Me already?

13 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** Oh, can I say one  
14 thing before you get started?

15 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Yes, please.

16 **MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK:** I just wanted to  
17 say, happy International Women's Day to all these women --  
18 beautiful, beautiful women who have had the courage to be  
19 here today and to, you know, pull themselves together and  
20 be loud, and clear, and strong through this really, really  
21 hard event. And, you know, to all the women who are  
22 watch -- potentially watching, and to these beautiful women  
23 who have offered help, and it's just incredible. It's just  
24 absolutely incredible. So, yeah, happy International  
25 Women's Day everyone.

1 (APPLAUSE)

2 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Happy  
3 International Women's Day to you too, you phenomenal woman.  
4 I don't have questions. I -- I want to acknowledge you,  
5 and I want to acknowledge your mom, Mary. And we're not  
6 far from where she came from, North West River. Or, I  
7 might be pointing in the wrong direction. It's over there.  
8 And I'm really honoured to be in her territory, in your  
9 territory with you.

10 The -- you are paving a road for other  
11 little girls to become women, and to -- to take that torch  
12 and run with it too. And I just want to -- (speaking  
13 Native Language), I'm so -- I feel overwhelming pride and  
14 admiration. So I'm going to leave it at that. I want your  
15 words to be the last words. So (speaking Native Language).

16 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: There's some gifts  
17 too.

18 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: I have  
19 presents for you.

20 --- Exhibits (code: P01P12P0201)

21 Exhibit 1: Folder of seven digital images displayed  
22 during Amena Evans Harlick's public  
23 testimony

24 Exhibit 2: CBC News article "Gauthier to serve 17 years  
25 without parole" posted August 21, 2006 1:31

1 PM NT, last updated August 21, 2006 1:30 PM

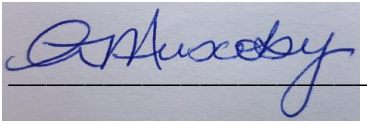
2 NT (sic)

3 --- Upon adjourning at 10:36 a.m.



LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

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



Amanda Muscoby

March 24, 2018