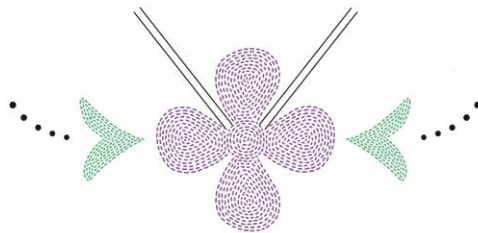


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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 Statement Gathering  
Fort Garry Hotel  
Winnipeg, Manitoba**



**PUBLIC**

**October 2, 2018**

**Statement - Volume 484  
Cheryl Ann James,  
In relation to Shirley Ann Eliza James  
& Kinew James**

**Statement gathered by Terriea Wadud**

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**II**  
**NOTE**

Where not required by other statute, redactions to this public transcript have been made pursuant to Rule 55 of the Commission's *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*, which provides for "the discretion to redact private information of a sensitive nature where it is not material to the evidence to be given before distributing the information to the Parties. The National Inquiry will consider the public interest in releasing this type of information against the potential harmful impact on the individual whose personal information is at issue."

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Statement Gatherer: Terriea Wadud

Documents submitted with testimony: none.

**Cheryl Ann James**  
**(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

Winnipeg, Manitoba

1  
2 --- Upon commencing on Tuesday, October 2, 2018, at  
3 10:00 a.m.

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** My name is Terriea  
5 Wadud, and I am a statement gatherer with the National  
6 Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and  
7 Girls. It is Tuesday, October the 2nd, and it is 10 AM.  
8 We are at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg. In the room  
9 with me, I have?

10 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Cheryl James,  
11 C-H-E-R-Y-L J-A-M-E-S.

12 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** And where are you from?

13 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Oh, I'm from Anishinaabe  
14 from Roseau River.

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Perfect.

16 **MS. MATILDA ROULETTE BEHM:** My name is  
17 Matilda Roulette Behm, M-A-T-I-L-D-A Roulette,  
18 R-O-U-L-E-T-T-E-space-B-E-H-M. I'm Anishinaabe from  
19 Samibaywichekoi (ph) Nation.

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Thank you.

21 **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:** My name is Madeline  
22 Gamblin, M-A-D-E-L-I-N-E G-A-M-B-L-I-N. I'm Inui from  
23 Norway House Cree Nation.

24 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Welcome. Thank you.

25 **MS. MARY CRATE:** I'm Mary Crate, C-R-A-T-E.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 I'm from the Fisher River Cree nation. I'm also  
2 Anishinaabe.

3 **MS. JASMINE SMITH:** I'm Jasmine Smith,  
4 J-A-S-M-I-N-E, and I'm a support here from Medicine Bear  
5 from Ka Ni Kanichihk.

6 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay. Thank you. So  
7 Cheryl, wherever you would like to start today.

8 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** (Anishinaabe spoken.)  
9 My name is Dancing Bear, and I'm from the Bear clan family,  
10 Anishinaabe, (Anishinaabe spoken). My mom was murdered  
11 when I was nine years old.

12 I don't remember much. I don't know how.  
13 I -- I remember being in a -- in a foster home. In a  
14 receiving home, I think they called them then. And I -- I  
15 believe that my mom and dad had come to Winnipeg to -- we  
16 were in Brandon. I believe my mom and dad had come to  
17 Winnipeg to -- for work, to find work. And they  
18 went -- they went out one night and went to a bar, the  
19 Occidental.

20 And they had -- I think there was a couple,  
21 from what I remember -- I don't even know if it's what -- I  
22 don't know what is what, actually, but I -- I remember  
23 hearing that these two women were trying to fight my mom,  
24 and my dad, he tried to help her. And he managed to hold  
25 one woman, but another woman still kept fighting my mom and

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 had knocked her down to the ground. And she banged her  
2 head or had her head banged a couple times.

3 And it was my dad who took my mom to  
4 my -- to his parents, his grandparent -- my grandparents,  
5 and sometime throughout the night, my mom's breathing  
6 started becoming difficult. They heard that, and they  
7 decided that they should take her to the hospital. She had  
8 a hairline fracture.

9 I don't remember seeing her at the hospital.  
10 I don't know how long she was in the hospital. I don't  
11 know if any of my siblings know. I was the oldest. My  
12 brother, George, eight months old when my mom was killed.  
13 That's one of the biggest reasons why I'm here is because  
14 my mother, George, wanted to tell his story --

15 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Okay.

16 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- his experience, what  
17 it was like to grow up without a mom. He doesn't  
18 have -- he didn't have any memories of her. And he died of  
19 cancer. He was the baby of our family.

20 I have faint memories of being in the -- in  
21 that foster home. It was -- they had -- it was dark. They  
22 had dark furniture. And they sat us down, and they said  
23 that something had happened to my mom. And -- and then I  
24 can remember my dad being in -- in my dad's station wagon,  
25 and my dad -- not my dad, but my uncles telling me that my

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 mom was gone, and she wasn't coming back.

2 I don't remember a whole lot.

3 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay. Okay. How --

4 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I don't know if anyone  
5 provided or offered supports or anything for us, for the  
6 kids, for -- for my dad, for my siblings and me. I don't  
7 know if anyone offered support to my dad. I know my uncles  
8 were there and my aunties were there.

9 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

10 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** His -- his family  
11 rallied around him.

12 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** So how long were you in  
13 the foster care system? How old were you?

14 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I was nine.

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** You were nine? Okay.  
16 Were you with your mom before that?

17 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Yeah.

18 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

19 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Yeah. We were with my  
20 mom and dad, because I remember growing up, and we were in  
21 Rolling River. I don't remember being in Roseau  
22 River -- actually, yeah, I do remember being in Rolling  
23 River. And I also have memories of -- of being a -- a  
24 victim of sexual abuse --

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- when my mom was  
2                   alive.  There's a lot of realizations.  Like -- like,  
3                   because I don't remember a lot, but, like, I have a lot of  
4                   anger sometimes, and --

5                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Of course.

6                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- just a lot of  
7                   sadness.  And a couple years ago, I went to see -- well, I  
8                   talked to my doctor.  I'd been off and on suffering from or  
9                   experiencing depression and anxiety and PTSD and --

10                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

11                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- I was talking to  
12                  [Doctor] at the St. Boniface Hospital.

13                  **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:**  Is he --

14                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    The -- she.

15                  **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:**  She.

16                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Psychiatric.  I think  
17                  she's a psychiatric nurse or psychologist.  I can't  
18                  remember.  But anyways, when I was -- we were -- she was  
19                  supposed to be assessing me.  And I was telling her about  
20                  my childhood and about losing my mom, and -- and she said  
21                  that -- she said that I have a unique form of depression  
22                  that's -- it's -- it's unique to women who have lost  
23                  their -- their moms violently as children.

24                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

25                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And that their



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 depression is -- it's a depression -- if you can  
2 quantify -- I hate doing it, but if you can quantify  
3 depression, it's like this. And our depression is like  
4 this. There's no big highs and lows, but it's like that.

5 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

6 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And -- and  
7 there's -- there's -- they did a study on this, apparently,  
8 or I'm assuming that it's probably not on us, Indigenous.

9 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

10 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** So I was, like -- I  
11 don't know. I mean, what kind of -- what is -- how -- how  
12 will that kind of study impact us --

13 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

14 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- as Indigenous women  
15 or -- or our Indigenous girls who are losing their moms  
16 and -- or their dads violently. You know, I -- I brought  
17 it up. I think it was a Krista and a couple other people  
18 out to the commissioners when we -- when we crashed a  
19 meeting. Haha. (Laughter).

20 **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:** Oh, yeah.

21 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Yeah. We crashed a  
22 meeting, and I brought it up.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

24 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And I said, Well, you  
25 know, something like this, this is what -- I don't know

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           what was there for us. I don't know if anyone was there.  
2           I know my family was. I -- I don't know what happened,  
3           like, with my mom's family. I imagine it was pretty  
4           traumatic for them, because we didn't get to see them a lot  
5           after. I don't know. I never got -- I never asked. Just  
6           recently reaching out, because my brother George wanted  
7           to -- he wanted to transfer it to Rolling River. He wanted  
8           that connection to my mom.

9                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm. And, just for  
10           the record, what is Rolling River?

11                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Rolling River is my  
12           mom's --

13                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Rolling River.

14                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- First Nation.

15                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay. Cheryl, is there  
16           anything else you'd like to share about your time growing  
17           up?

18                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Yeah.

19                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

20                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I know that my dad did a  
21           lot --

22                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

23                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- because I know I'm  
24           like -- I remember seeing my dad, you know, working in the  
25           community and doing those kinds of things and going to

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 ceremonies. So now I know, like, that he was working on  
2 himself and his own healing.

3 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

4 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And he did things to  
5 raise awareness about residential schools. And I'm really  
6 grateful for that stuff because it brings so much more  
7 awareness to me and where -- where I'd gotten unhealthy  
8 ideas and -- and attitudes and where I need to kind of,  
9 like, pull back and kind of choose differently.

10 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay. M'hm.

11 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** But my dad and -- I -- I  
12 don't know what happened to him. I just felt so lost after  
13 my mom was gone. I ran away from home. I think the first  
14 time I was 11. And I didn't want to go back home.

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

16 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** My dad had re-married,  
17 and I had a little sister already, my sister Kinew. And I  
18 hated her. I hated Grace. I didn't want -- I didn't want  
19 her around. I didn't know. So I just -- I went out and  
20 started hanging out with friends and stuff and staying out  
21 late and running away, drinking and drugging.

22 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

23 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I spent a lot of time  
24 running away from my family to be on the street. The first  
25 time I ran away when I was 11, I remember we were living in

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 Portage, and my dad had gotten mad at me because I'd gotten  
2 into a fight.

3 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Oh.

4 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** It wasn't me actually  
5 fighting, but it was -- I was there. And I got -- and my  
6 dad got really upset because he was working at that -- that  
7 same school. And he threatened me. And he -- and I was  
8 scared to go home. So I left, and I walked around the  
9 perimeter of Portage la Prairie until I had to pee, and  
10 then I had to go knock on somebody's door, and I ended up  
11 in a receiving home.

12 But I remember walking around, even, like,  
13 so many times, just wishing that somebody would see that I  
14 needed help, and that it -- I had so much pain inside me,  
15 can somebody please help me. I just, like, was wishing  
16 people could just step in and come and help me. I didn't  
17 even know what kind of help I needed. I just kept running  
18 away.

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** So were you between  
20 your dad's home and the foster care system? You mentioned  
21 receiving home.

22 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** M'hm.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

24 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And then my dad had to  
25 just finally say, like, I don't know what to do and decided

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           trying to turn me over.

2                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Okay.

3                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     But I wouldn't even stay  
4           there. I ended up running --

5                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Yeah.

6                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     -- running back home.

7                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Yeah. What was your  
8           experience like with the foster care system?

9                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Nobody listened. I  
10           remember running away to Regina. I think I was 12.

11                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

12                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     I checked out there.  
13           What was in Regina, what was north of Regina. I can't even  
14           remember. It was kind of like around Lestock area. That  
15           was the name of the -- that school.

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

17                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     That was around there.  
18           But -- and anyways, I got picked up over there and flown  
19           back here. And my -- my CFS worker, the Children's Aid  
20           Society then --

21                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

22                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     -- I can't remember his  
23           name. He told me -- he says, when he came and got me at  
24           the airport, because they had to fly me back, was that,  
25           You're going to end up in -- you're going to end up in

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 Kingston. You're going to end up killing somebody. You're  
2 going to end up -- you're going to spend the rest of your  
3 life in jail. I was going to amount to nothing.

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm. Your social  
5 worker said this to you?

6 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Yeah. I can still  
7 picture his face.

8 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

9 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** The hair parted on the  
10 side and everything. But I ended up, like, going into the  
11 youth centre, and then going into Seven Oaks where they  
12 locked up the CFS kids that had no charges. Do you  
13 remember that place?

14 **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:** M'hm.

15 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And yeah. Running away  
16 from there, and --

17 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** So just for  
18 clarification, Seven Oaks, what is that?

19 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** It's -- Seven Oaks  
20 was -- was a Children's Aid Society institution.

21 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

22 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** They locked up children  
23 that had no charges there.

24 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

25 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Like, they had nowhere

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 else to put them. It was kind of like --

2 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** High-risk?

3 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Yeah.

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** That they would  
5 identify as high risk?

6 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Yeah. Yeah.

7 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

8 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And -- yeah. We ran  
9 away from there.

10 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

11 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** They were changing the  
12 locks. I don't know. They locked up kids but forget to  
13 lock the door. Someone's going to see. Anyways, yeah. We  
14 ran away. But I got caught right away.

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

16 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** But I am -- just like  
17 stuff like that, being on the -- like, surviving on the  
18 street, and it was a lot of people that -- even back then,  
19 like, that knew my dad and my family, and I didn't realize.  
20 And I ended up hanging around with -- family that, like,  
21 the older sisters dated, like, my -- my uncles --

22 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

23 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- at some point, so  
24 they kind of like -- they knew who I was, but I  
25 didn't -- like, I had no idea until later. So they kind of

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 looked after me. And actually, I just ran into one of the  
2 guys yesterday on the bus. I says, yeah, you know what? I  
3 lied to him. I was 16 when I was hanging out with you  
4 guys. I was 12. (Laughter). But, I mean, they kept me  
5 safe. They kept me from -- they did -- like, they did  
6 their stuff. They sold their drug. I didn't know.

7 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

8 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I was young. But they  
9 did all that stuff. And --

10 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** It sounds like they  
11 were a source of support for you?

12 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Yeah. They kept --

13 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay. Yeah.

14 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- me safe. I mean,  
15 because I -- I remember seeing -- there was one instance  
16 where these guys, me and my friend, another -- I think she  
17 was a couple years older than me. I was 12. She was 14.  
18 There was these guys that became friends with us.

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

20 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Started hanging out with  
21 us and buying us drinks and stuff, and then they tried to  
22 put us out on the street.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

24 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** She wasn't so lucky.

25 The guy -- I remember his name. [K.B.]



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

2                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     I remember his name.

3                   And he was either Métis or a white guy. I don't even know.

4                   But he put me -- he took me to -- that's when the Patricia

5                   was still standing. The Salvation Army wasn't there, but

6                   there was -- the Henry was there.

7                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

8                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     I remember that building

9                   that he took me to, and we were -- it was a small building.

10                  He took me there, and he was standing there with me,

11                  waiting for me to get a john or whatever. I had no idea.

12                  And then when he told me what I was supposed to do when I

13                  got in that car or he was going to beat me up and kill me.

14                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

15                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     I got into a car, and it

16                  was an Inuit man.

17                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

18                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     He was shorter than me.

19                  But, I mean, I -- as soon as I -- as soon as I closed that

20                  door and we drove away, I started crying. And then the guy

21                  says, Well, what's going on? I says -- he says, you don't

22                  want to be here? I says, No, I don't want to be here. I

23                  don't want to -- I don't want to do this. But anyways,

24                  this guy, we ended up going to his hotel room. And we had

25                  drinks and stuff. And he gave me weed, and he gave me 60

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           bucks and just let me go. I didn't have to, like, have sex  
2           with him or anything like that.

3                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Okay.

4                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     But I hid out for about  
5           a week.

6                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

7                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     And then I went back  
8           down Main Street again and found my friend and found out  
9           that she took -- like, she got beat up because I took off.  
10          And yeah. She ended up -- the last that I heard of her,  
11          she ended up being with a biker.

12                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Okay.

13                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Yeah. I  
14          haven't -- yeah. That was a long time ago.

15                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

16                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     But yeah. Being with,  
17          like, those older people saved me, eh? I mean --

18                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

19                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     -- I imagine now that --

20                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Okay.

21                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     -- I know that there's  
22          people that were praying for me and keeping me safe.

23                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Yeah.

24                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     And that those  
25          situations, they could have been so much worse or -- I

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 mean, I -- I lived, like, a really rough life. But in that  
2 situation, that could have turned out so much more  
3 horribly. Like, I've seen other friends and stuff --

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

5 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- go through and -- and  
6 live.

7 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Of course.

8 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** But it was different for  
9 me. And I believe it was because of the prayers of my  
10 family.

11 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** That's very powerful.

12 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I remember my social  
13 worker telling me that -- because I told him, I said, if  
14 you're going to -- if you let me out -- I was honest with  
15 him. I said, If you let me out of here, I'm going to run  
16 away. Friday? You're going to let me out on a Friday?  
17 You're going to release me to a home on a Friday, another  
18 receiving home? I said, As soon as I get a chance to, I'm  
19 going to run. He says, If that's the case, then you're  
20 going to stay up here. Stay in Seven Oaks until -- locked  
21 up for -- until one day when we come to get you. I said,  
22 Okay. Well, okay. Let's go. And I ran away. I jumped  
23 out the window. I told him I was going to do it, and I did  
24 it. And I went through to Main Street, which was --

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- because that's  
2           where -- oh, [Bartender] used to be a bartender there.

3                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:**   (Laughter).

4                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    (Laughter). He did not  
5           know I was 12 years old. But yeah, he used to greet me  
6           coming in, hey, Smiley. And the -- and the -- all the old  
7           guys that used to sit there. I think about, like, myself  
8           and my situation and that I was so fortunate and my life  
9           didn't travel down some roads --

10                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

11                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- that some of my  
12           friends had to.

13                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

14                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I have a lot of memories  
15           of, you know, seeing girls and stuff, and out there  
16           working, and --

17                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

18                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- friends and -- I  
19           struggled a lot, growing up. I knew that -- I don't know.  
20           I guess, in some way I knew that I didn't -- my life didn't  
21           have to be like that. I didn't have to hurt so much. And  
22           I didn't know how to ask for help, but I was, like, just  
23           praying, somebody please see that I need help. Somebody  
24           please just -- please help me. And I didn't know how to  
25           ask then. I picked up stuff. I remember in the youth

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 centre, Winnie, her name was. She was a black lady.

2 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

3 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** She was there when I  
4 went back, years later, when I was growing up to volunteer.  
5 She was still there. The same with my key worker, Greg.  
6 (Laughter) (indiscernible) when I was a teenager. But they  
7 remembered me. So I was able to go back and volunteer in  
8 the youth centre and talk --

9 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** The -- at the youth  
10 centre?

11 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** The Matchway (ph) youth  
12 centre, and talk to the girls about my own experience,  
13 and --

14 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Wow. Mm.

15 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I remember wanting to,  
16 you know, take my -- my brothers and sisters away from my  
17 dad, too.

18 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

19 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Because I always thought  
20 if I was hurting this much, that they must be hurting, too.  
21 And I just wanted to save them. And I remember talking to  
22 them.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

24 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** You know, I'm going to  
25 find a job, and I'm going to find a house, and I'm going to

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           come and get you guys.

2                           I chose to come here alone today.

3                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.  Why is that?

4                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Because when I  
5           first -- when I first came, when they were -- this -- the  
6           National Inquiry was at the thunder -- at the Thunderbird  
7           House --

8                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

9                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- and I phoned my  
10          brother and my sister, and I says, Okay, it's time for us  
11          to go down there.  And they said, Oh, hey?  We -- two of  
12          you here.  Let's take two of you's in at the same time.  
13          Not a good idea.

14                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

15                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Not a good idea.

16                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

17                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And right then and  
18          there, I was just, like, I don't even know if I can do this  
19          now.  I can't do this.

20                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

21                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    With my sister beside  
22          me.  There's just -- the family dynamics and --

23                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

24                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And I was just, like, I  
25          couldn't even -- I just, like -- they were going to do

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           this, and they were going to talk about what happened to my  
2           mom, what happened to the stepmom, and then what happened  
3           to my sister Kinew (ph), and we were going to have -- it  
4           was this -- like, it felt like I was -- like, it was going  
5           to be this great big giant grandstanding about what  
6           happened to my sister, and there was no way that I could  
7           handle that kind of stuff.

8                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

9                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     And then with family  
10           dynamics, and -- and I'm just, like -- I felt like I was  
11           being pushed and pushed. And then I was just, like, no,  
12           no. I'm going to do this my way.

13                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Good for you.

14                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     You're not going to make  
15           me do it that way. I'm going do it my way. My sister said  
16           to me, I'm going to be there for support --

17                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

18                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     -- but you do the  
19           talking. No. I needed their help. The same thing with my  
20           brothers. I said, I'm not talking anymore.

21                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Okay.

22                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     And I said -- he said,  
23           I'll be there, you do the talking. No. I needed their  
24           help. I wanted them to talk with me.

25                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Okay. M'hm.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   And they were going to  
2                   put it all on me.  And I said, No, I'm not doing that.  I'm  
3                   going to do it my way.  There's still stuff that they don't  
4                   know --

5                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

6                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- that happened in my  
7                   life, and growing up.  And I was so lost, I didn't -- I  
8                   didn't know.  The first time that I had my -- my moon time,  
9                   I didn't know what was happening to me.

10                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

11                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I was in a -- I was in  
12                  a -- another foster home or a receiving home somewhere.  
13                  They didn't even know that I had my first moon time.  Then  
14                  I went home, and I didn't know what was -- still didn't  
15                  know what was going on with me.

16                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

17                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Then it happened again,  
18                  and I just tried to hide it and cover it up.  I used toilet  
19                  paper.  Nobody told me that kind of stuff about being a  
20                  woman or growing up.  And I remember when there was a  
21                  time -- it was before my mom passed away.  We ended up in  
22                  care.  And then they cut me and my sister's hair.

23                               And my sister -- I remember my sister  
24                               telling me stories about that they made her feel dirty  
25                               and -- and in the foster home that she was in Carberry.



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           And she was sad all the time. And -- and my dad, I  
2           remember my mom and my dad telling, you know, don't let  
3           anyone cut your hair, don't let anyone cut your hair, and  
4           then they cut her hair. They cut her hair short. And I  
5           remember hearing that that foster mom, her name was [Foster  
6           Mom] --

7                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

8                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- in Brandon, talking  
9           about me to somebody on the phone and saying that I ate  
10          like a horse. And I didn't know what the hell that meant.  
11          I ate lots. I was a healthy kid.

12                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm. (Laughter).

13                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    (Laughter).

14                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Nothing wrong with  
15          that.

16                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Yeah. Kind of reminds  
17          myself when I see my little guy eating like that.  
18          (Laughter).

19                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    (Laughter).

20                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I have a memory of being  
21          at a school --

22                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm?

23                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- where the boys were  
24          playing on one side, and the girls were playing on the  
25          other side. And I remember being in a -- it was kind of



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           Noella, and we went to go see them at their workplace in  
2           Winnipeg. They were roofers. And my dad said that when we  
3           pulled up, he had to look -- he looked, and he said he had  
4           to look again because he saw my mom sitting there. But it  
5           was me. So I know who -- that I look like my mom. And I  
6           wonder if seeing me causes them pain, my mom's family,  
7           because we never seen them.

8                           I remember -- and I'm sure now that it was  
9           out of frustration, like, extreme frustration, when Grace  
10          said that, when my dad married Grace, and Grace had  
11          mentioned that -- I don't know. I can't remember if I was  
12          upset and I was crying, and -- and then she said, You know  
13          what? Your mom's family didn't want you when your dad was  
14          trying to give you up. I don't know. I remember my dad  
15          saying, after my mom died, that he promised her that he  
16          would never give us up. And then she said that. And it  
17          hurt so much.

18                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah. So it sounds  
19          like it's very hard for you to learn very much about your  
20          mother because your family is not willing to talk about it,  
21          and it also sounds like they're not willing to talk about  
22          what happened when she passed away.

23                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    No.

24                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    So I imagine that you  
25          don't know very much, then, whether the police

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           were -- well, the police were involved, but what that  
2           investigation looked like.

3                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Nothing.  I remember  
4           we -- later, like, I -- like, each of us had done our own,  
5           like, research.

6                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

7                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    In the archives and  
8           stuff, and --

9                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

10                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- we only came across,  
11           like, the news stories.  And it wasn't very much.  And  
12           there was a report -- a reporter that was helping me with  
13           some background stuff.

14                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

15                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And I just had to put  
16           everything away.  It was just too much.

17                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.  Was there any  
18           ever -- was there ever any charges laid?

19                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I believe so.

20                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

21                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I don't know  
22           if -- because Martha Troian -- or I don't know how to  
23           pronounce her last name.

24                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

25                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    The CBC reporter.  She's

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 awesome. But -- or she was with the CBC. But she had  
2 mentioned two names. I can't recall. And --

3 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

4 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- two women, and there  
5 was a man. And she couldn't get, like, a clear answer  
6 or -- in her research and stuff, she couldn't fix her  
7 answer on what happened with them, like --

8 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

9 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- with the charges,  
10 like, what the final result was. Excuse me. I have to  
11 take a break. I have to pee.

12 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay. Let's do that.

13 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** What I wanted to add to  
14 was just, like, my biggest reasons for wanting to provide a  
15 statement was for, like, people like my brother George, who  
16 was -- who was eight months old when -- when my mom died.  
17 He had, like, no understanding, nothing. And, like, for my  
18 sister, when she was six, and then -- like, my sister's  
19 kids, my sister has eight kids. I've got three of them.  
20 She's only got -- she's got two, the two youngest. But  
21 where is, like, the resources for her kids?

22 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

23 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I mean, even in regards  
24 to my nieces and my nephews, the ones that I'm -- that I  
25 have legal guardianship of, there -- they're -- I'm

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 struggling so much to provide for them. [Nephew] came to  
2 me when he was seven weeks old. His mom and his dad, their  
3 house had gotten -- gotten raided.

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

5 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** They brought him -- she  
6 phoned me right away and says, they want to -- they want  
7 to -- they're going to apprehend [Nephew], can you take  
8 him? And I says, Well -- I was just starting university.  
9 It was -- I was six weeks into university. And I'm, like,  
10 I -- I don't know. I can't -- I don't know if I can do  
11 this. And they said, Well -- and she said -- I said, For  
12 how long? And she said, Just for the weekend. They said,  
13 Just for the weekend. And then --

14 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

15 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- and then that -- that  
16 she could stay with me until things straightened out. And  
17 anyways, yeah, it wasn't a weekend. I still have him. I  
18 have legal guardianship of him now. Where's the supports  
19 for him?

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** How long has that been?

21 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** He is six now.

22 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** He's six? Okay.

23 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** He just turned six on  
24 September 7th. This little guy is dreaming. He's -- he's  
25 already telling me that -- he told me that he's going to be

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 working with the Thunders. He told me that -- he tried  
2 to --

3 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** He'll be working with  
4 the Thunders?

5 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** M'hm. His name is  
6 [Nephew's Indigenous names]. But he's -- he -- he's tried  
7 to make a rattle. He put pencils into a balloon, a white  
8 balloon, and he put some things inside the balloon. He  
9 said, Mommy, it's not working. And I'm, what are you  
10 doing? And then he said I'm -- I need a rattle. I'm  
11 making a rattle. It's not working.

12 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Wow.

13 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Like, okay. They're  
14 dreaming. They need their -- their -- their things. They  
15 need their bundles, these -- these little ones. And I  
16 don't have the money to -- I don't even have -- I have a  
17 hard time covering bus fare to get -- for us to get  
18 to -- to -- for me to get them to day care and school.

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

20 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Things like that. I  
21 mean, that's ridiculous. I -- we don't have a vehicle for  
22 us to go to ceremonies. My -- these -- these kids, they  
23 need the ceremonies. They're telling me themselves what  
24 they made.

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Well, for him to go

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 ahead and start making a rattle out of whatever he could  
2 find, it's like that ancestral knowledge is there.

3 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Yeah.

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Showing up. It's very  
5 powerful.

6 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** M'hm. He scared me when  
7 he said, Mommy, I'm going to be working with the Thunders.  
8 (Laughter). And he's, like, no, no, not now, Mommy, when I  
9 get big, when I get big.

10 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Wow.

11 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Because he's -- I was,  
12 like, oh, my God. But -- and he wasn't scared of it.

13 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

14 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And -- and, you know, he  
15 needs things. He needs his things for that. Like, I  
16 know -- like, yesterday, he needs his -- his hand drum. He  
17 needs a drum. I have a drum rim, a big drum rim that's  
18 the -- that's going to be theirs. Like, I need the hides  
19 for that so that I can make their drum, the kids. They all  
20 need their hand drums. There's -- they want to sing.  
21 [Nephew] is starting to make songs, and, I mean, that blows  
22 me away.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

24 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Like, I've been posting  
25 pictures of him, his writings. He's six. He doesn't know



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           what he's writing, and it -- like, when he first did some  
2           writing for me --

3                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Uh'huh.

4                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- and it looked like  
5           syllabics, and he says, Here, Mommy, what does it say?  
6           Those are your words. You need to tell me what it says.  
7           Oh, I can't -- I couldn't read it. (Laughter). And he's  
8           still asking me to do that. And, yeah. He -- they  
9           want -- they're asking me for -- just the other day for  
10          paint. They want to paint. And I'm, like, oh, my God,  
11          because there's -- there's -- they're wanting -- I knew  
12          that they were gifted, and I'm -- like, I feel so, like,  
13          ineffectual. I don't have --

14                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    The resources.

15                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Right. To give them  
16          what they need and the things that they need. [Nephew]  
17          was -- so I'm totally skipping over what I was going to  
18          say, but - but [Nephew], his dad made him -- when his dad  
19          went to jail, he made him these little drums, like  
20          to -- like, ornamental little drums. And -- oh, my back  
21          doesn't hurt anymore. It just hit me. But he -- I used to  
22          get a sore back all the time, and he'd say -- I had this  
23          little massager, a wooden massager I never used. But he  
24          grabbed his little -- he attached it, one drum, his little  
25          drum, to that massager, wooden massager thing, and then

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 he'd be, like, singing on it --

2 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Wow.

3 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- and then rubbing up  
4 my back, like doctoring me.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** With the drum. Wow.

6 **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:** Yeah.

7 (indiscernible).

8 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** So he needs his -- his  
9 things.

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** (indiscernible).

11 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** He needs his drums.

12 He's asking, like, his -- all of his -- the other  
13 day -- I'm a little bit nervous to let them use, like, the  
14 feathers, my eagle feathers. Their feathers -- they're  
15 theirs.

16 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yeah.

17 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I'm just holding on to  
18 them for -- for a while. Some of their stuff that was  
19 given to them. And I went to a group, a grandmother's  
20 group, at the family advocate's office and made a smudge  
21 feather. I took the feather home, and I told them, I  
22 says, Here, you guys, here -- this is -- you know, this  
23 can -- this is going to help teach you guys in how to look  
24 after your stuff, and, you know, make sure you take care of  
25 it and know how to look after it properly. And he says,

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           Here, let me use it.    And then he takes it, and he starts  
2           fanning his sisters down with it -- with that feather.  
3           And I'm, like, oh, my God, oh, my God.    And I'm just  
4           going -- like, okay.    Okay.    This is what you do.    So  
5           I'm -- I'm, like, okay, catch up.    I have to tell him what  
6           he's doing, right?    Like, what he -- why he's brushing him  
7           off.    And then he has to fix them up again, right?    And  
8           then because he saw that in brassing arrows when we went.  
9           But these -- like, they made all their things.    [Niece 1]  
10          there's little feast bundles.

11                           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:**    M'hm.

12                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    We don't have any of  
13          that stuff.    We need all of these things.    We don't need  
14          them, but I mean, we're going to make do without them --

15                           **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:**    Yeah.

16                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- because we have to.

17                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

18                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    We're not able to get to  
19          ceremonies as much as we'd like to.    These kids, I was  
20          told, when -- when my niece, [Niece 1], when -- when I went  
21          and got her name before I got her back --

22                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

23                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- with us, was that  
24          because of everything that she was going on -- that was  
25          going on there, that she's going to struggle, and she needs

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 to be grounded in ceremony.

2 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

3 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I don't have any money  
4 to take us to sweats and stuff like that. I don't even  
5 have a vehicle anymore to be able to do that. We need a  
6 vehicle so I can take them to ceremonies. Most of the  
7 time, we're walking to school and to day care. I mean, I  
8 posted so many times on Facebook that -- and for some  
9 people, they say, just transfer them. No. That program  
10 that they're in, I'm -- it's -- I'm really lucky that I got  
11 them into that program. It was a pilot project.

12 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

13 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** An Apsedarian approach.

14 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay. Darian approach?

15 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** ApseDarian. Aps

16 Darian --

17 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Aps Darian.

18 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** A-P-E -- A-P-E-C -- ce

19 Darian -- like that.

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay. Yeah.

21 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** That's how I spell it.

22 But it's -- it's -- it was a pilot project that was down in  
23 the ghetto in the States, Dr. Sparling.

24 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

25 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** First did it down there,

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 and there's -- I think it was in the '60s or '70s or '80s.  
2 I can't remember. I'm not good with telling the story  
3 about it.

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** That's okay.

5 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** But all these kids that  
6 attended this -- took part in this pilot project  
7 is -- there was, like, the -- they have one group that  
8 doesn't, and then the group that does --

9 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

10 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- take part.

11 **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:** M'hm.

12 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And then all of these  
13 kids that took part in this program, the majority of them  
14 went to post-secondary school. The majority of them were  
15 in helping professions.

16 **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:** Wow.

17 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** The majority of them  
18 never got into drugs and alcohol. The majority of them  
19 never got into any kind of criminal behaviour.

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Wow.

21 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Yeah.

22 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** So it sounds like it's  
23 a very successful approach?

24 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Yes.

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    So they started a pilot  
2                   program in Lord Selkirk Park where my kids go.  It was  
3                   supposed to be only kids in -- in the developments --

4                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

5                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- in the -- what do you  
6                   call it?  That housing?  The unit?

7                   **MS. MATILDA ROULETTE BEHM:**    The Dee.

8                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Yeah.  The Dee.  We call  
9                   it the Dee.  But in that unit, the housing units --

10                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Just a moment.  If I  
11                  can --

12                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Oh.

13                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Just for the record --

14                  **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:**    Jasmine.

15                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    -- just -- just spoke.

16                  **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:**    Okay.

17                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And -- and because I  
18                  lived there in the -- in a bachelor suite when I first got  
19                  [Nephew] --

20                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

21                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- he went right into  
22                  the program.  And I was in university.

23                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

24                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    University, U. W. , was  
25                  connected with the program.  So --

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Amazing.

2                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- I got in.  And he got  
3                   in.  So he started right at three months old.  So I was  
4                   taking him to university and stuff with me.  But because of  
5                   the work that they do specifically with those kids, there's  
6                   more on -- there's less -- the ratio is different --

7                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

8                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- for the kids.  There  
9                   is less kids to -- to person.  And they do -- they have,  
10                  like, every week they do, like, okay, this is what I'm  
11                  going to be working on with this -- this little guy or this  
12                  little girl and stuff like that.  So they have, like, a  
13                  work book that they gave me to say, okay, this is what  
14                  we're going to be doing, and then this is what you work  
15                  with at home with them.

16                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

17                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    For the -- this is,  
18                  like -- I haven't been too great at that part, but there's  
19                  a lot of other stuff going on.  But I know the level of  
20                  care that that day care gives them --

21                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

22                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- and the -- because  
23                  they're -- they want the kids ready for -- for school.  
24                  Like, my little one, the youngest one, my youngest is four.  
25                  She could be going to nursery.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

2                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     But they prefer her to  
3                   stay in day care because she'll get so much more in day  
4                   care than she will in -- in nursery.

5                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Okay.

6                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     So that's what we did  
7                   with -- that's what I did with [Nephew] is I -- we tried  
8                   him at -- at Niji Mahkwa. It just wasn't working. He went  
9                   back to day care.

10                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     What have you noticed  
11                  at home with this approach?

12                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     These -- these kids  
13                  are -- their language is really rich.

14                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Okay.

15                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     My little girl comes  
16                  home. Mommy, look, I found a gem. (Laughter). Like, what  
17                  little kid uses the word "gem"? I mean, she was three.

18                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Oh.

19                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     But I mean, they  
20                  have -- their language is really, really rich. They can  
21                  ask -- they can tell me when they need something or when  
22                  they want something. They're able to verbalize it.

23                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

24                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     They're like any other  
25                  kids. They have, like, their struggles and stuff



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 with -- with, like, growing up and their emotions  
2 and -- but they're -- they're going to have such -- they're  
3 going to be -- they're ready, like, for school. They're  
4 way ahead of -- of the other children that are -- that are  
5 not in the -- in the program.

6 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

7 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** So that's why I -- I  
8 struggle so much with having to get them there. Or I allow  
9 myself to have that struggle to get them there, because  
10 that -- because it's beneficial for them. And I know that  
11 because my mom was murdered, because their grandma was  
12 murdered --

13 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

14 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- that they have  
15 those -- they're going to have those challenges. And not  
16 being with -- like, their mom or -- or [Nephew] with his  
17 dad, and hopefully that can -- I don't know. Give them  
18 what they need. They're -- I taught them how to offer  
19 tobacco, and --

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

21 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- pray.

22 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** (indiscernible).

23 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And [Nephew] says to me,  
24 he says, it's okay if I ask for Daddy, right? For a prayer  
25 for Daddy. So I -- I have a daddy, but I can have another

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           one, right? I says, yes, you can. I had two, too. I  
2           said, I had my daddy, and then I had another one, who was a  
3           really special dad for me. That's what my concern is all  
4           those kids. My brother George, who never had anything. He  
5           just struggled all his life, wondering, like, what happened  
6           to my mom, where's my mom, how come I don't get to have my  
7           mom. And then my siblings and me, and I don't know a lot  
8           of what my siblings went through because I spent a lot of  
9           time away from them, on the street, trying to figure out  
10          and trying to -- I don't know. Trying to figure out what I  
11          was supposed to do, figure out what my way was. And that's  
12          the biggest thing is that the resources for the kids. I  
13          mean, no one's even --

14                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Can I ask -- can I ask  
15          a question, just to maybe expand on that? So what do you  
16          believe would have helped you, growing up? What did you  
17          need?

18                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    If -- maybe we were  
19          around other families who, you know, had  
20          experienced -- like, I see now what's helping my little  
21          ones, like, being around the kids, that Medicine Bear at Ka  
22          Ni Kanichihk with the other little kids who, you know, have  
23          they don't even know it.

24                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    So a connection?

25                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    But they don't even know

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           it, but they have that connection. And they -- they -- you  
2           know, it's that -- that -- the -- the mutual losses that  
3           they have, but they don't know it yet. But they're  
4           together, and they're playing, and, you know what, they  
5           have their family who are -- who are there, who are, you  
6           know, hanging out together, eating, beading, or whatever,  
7           and just talking and just hanging out and just being  
8           together. That's what -- you know? I wish this would have  
9           been there for us a long time ago. And I don't know. I  
10          mean, like, my mom's family. I mean, there's such a  
11          disconnect there for -- for me. And my brother George  
12          tried to -- tried to -- tried to -- I don't know, get to  
13          know our family on that side. And my brother George was  
14          really rich in -- in the history of our family. And that  
15          was -- you know, he died with that. That's stuff that, you  
16          know, I was telling -- he would tell me, and I says,  
17          George, I says, oh, I says, you have to talk to the kids,  
18          like my nieces and nephews, the older ones. And, you know,  
19          I tried to encourage them, you know, go talk to him. Now  
20          they ask me. I says, you know what? Uncle George had that  
21          information. I told you to go talk to him. He's gone now.

22                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

23                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    But he had all that  
24                   stuff. You know, trying to figure out where we fit and  
25                   where we belong, our family, and . . .

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    So connection to family  
2                   would have helped you.    What else?

3                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    People who had an  
4                   understanding of -- of -- of -- of -- of me and -- and or  
5                   my -- or my siblings' challenges.    Like, you know, yeah.  
6                   Like, my parents went to residential schools.    They went to  
7                   the -- like, to the one in Canora, and that was supposed to  
8                   have been one of the most horrific ones.    And they were  
9                   there for a long time.    And people never knew how to deal  
10                  with this.    No one -- no one knew.    I was a smart kid,  
11                  but nobody tried to engage me.

12                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yes.

13                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I was bored.    I didn't  
14                  want to be in the classrooms.    It was just, like, nobody  
15                  saw us.    Or they didn't want to see us.    They didn't want  
16                  to see our challenges.    They didn't -- like, people even  
17                  in -- some of our own relatives judged us, as well.    You  
18                  know, we -- they said things to, like, my siblings, like my  
19                  brother George, your -- your family are medicine people.  
20                  Like, why are you guys --

21                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Oh.

22                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- struggling so much?  
23                  You know, I feel like saying, why were you guys judging so  
24                  much?

25                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Like, you know what?  
2                   How about a little bit of understanding about what happened  
3                   to our family, what happened -- all the -- all the  
4                   tragedies that, like, we've experienced?    And nothing has  
5                   ever -- was ever looked at.    We were really judged really  
6                   hard.

7                                There's so much stuff.    There's lots  
8                   that -- that my siblings -- that I saw my siblings go  
9                   through, and struggled.    And my brother [Brother 2] killed  
10                  a little girl, killed a three-year-old girl and raped her.

11                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

12                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And we've had to live  
13                  with that, as well, and that -- that my brother did that to  
14                  someone.    And my sister Kinew, who was accused of -- of  
15                  killing somebody, but she always maintained her innocence.  
16                  You know, there's just so much.    And then these poor women  
17                  who married my dad afterwards and had to put up with me,  
18                  and they didn't know, like, what they were getting into.  
19                  Nobody knew.

20                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

21                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Nobody knew how  
22                  to -- what to do for me or how to handle me.    You know, a  
23                  lot of mean things were said, and -- and I know that now,  
24                  that it was just frustration, that -- that they were  
25                  talking from.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.  A lot -- so they  
2                   said a lot of mean things to you?

3                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Yeah.  I heard a lot of  
4                   stuff from people, and just a lot of judgments.

5                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

6                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    If I could be able to,  
7                   you know -- my nieces and nephews, all of them, you know,  
8                   because they're all impacted, and trying to figure out  
9                   things like relationships.

10                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

11                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I just recently finding  
12                  out that there was a name for all this stuff that I've been  
13                  going through, attachment trauma.

14                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

15                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Who would have known?  
16                  Haha.  Fifty years old, fifty-one years old, and then I  
17                  finally find out.  And then not knowing, like -- I  
18                  understand now, like, things that I heard people saying,  
19                  just -- you know, that -- that -- you know, just not being  
20                  mean, but in the kind way, just trying to, you know, be  
21                  gentle and say, you know, your time will come.  It's not  
22                  going to be like that forever.

23                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

24                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    That's what I needed to  
25                  hear, those kinds of things.  I had so much anger.  I think

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 about -- I don't have -- I'm not a visiting kind of person.  
2 I don't go to people's houses and visit. I don't hang out,  
3 like, with people and stuff.

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

5 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And I know it's because  
6 of the loss of my mom, and then us moving around. And I  
7 get that now, and I want things to be so different for my  
8 little ones. I've got the three -- my sister's three, the  
9 three middle ones, [Niece 1], [Nephew], and [Niece 2]. And  
10 I want things to be so different for them. And I see them,  
11 and I look at them. And I'm glad I'm older. (Laughter). I  
12 have a little bit more patience. What I see in them, I'm  
13 able to see -- or I'm now able to see the things that they  
14 need, the things that they're looking for.

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

16 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Like [Nephew] is trying  
17 to make songs.

18 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

19 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** The day care told me.  
20 [Niece 1] told Karly at the day care last week, I was  
21 running late -- oh, we went to go do an action. We went to  
22 shut down the pipe line, at line 3 for an hour.

23 **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:** Okay.

24 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I was late coming back.  
25 And then she says, Karly says to me, the day care worker,

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 she says, Cheryl, she goes, you know, I just want to take a  
2 moment to tell you something. I said, okay, what? And she  
3 said, do you know what [Niece 1] said? She said, I asked  
4 her, so how are things? How are things with you? She  
5 goes, Good. She goes, How are things at home? She goes,  
6 Good. Are you happy? I'm happy that I'm with Auntie  
7 Cheryl now. When I was in that other place, they hurt me  
8 all the time. On -- I'm not being hurt here anymore. It's  
9 good to know that she's good where she's at. She's happy  
10 where she's at. They don't understand. We seen  
11 her -- their mom last week. And it's been so hard trying  
12 to get their mom to come and visit or to get their dad  
13 to -- to get [Nephew]'s dad to visit. They don't  
14 understand that stuff. They just know that Mommy and Daddy  
15 is not coming to see them. And I can see it's impacting  
16 them. And I want to give them everything that they need.

17 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

18 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** My little guy needs all  
19 his -- his stuff, his little bundle, his little smudge  
20 bundle. They need their feast bundles. They need -- they  
21 need all those things. My girls need their -- their copper  
22 vessels. They're ready. They're showing me that they're  
23 ready, and I can't -- I don't have what I need to be able  
24 to get them all these things. I don't have money for a  
25 car. I don't have money for gas to be able to get us to



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 ceremonies. And -- and it's so frustrating.

2 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

3 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** It's hard to have to  
4 ride with somebody else. I mean, there's four of us. It  
5 takes us such a long time to -- I mean, you know what I  
6 mean? There's -- I find that there's so many barriers --

7 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

8 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- trying to -- my  
9 niece, [Niece 1], is -- goes for therapy. And we struggle  
10 to have bus fare. I'm trying to get a hold of child  
11 victims unit. The last person was supposed  
12 to -- that's -- I'm going to stop there with that.

13 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

14 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Because I'm going to  
15 leave that to private.

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay. The kids, they  
17 want to dance. They want to dance powwow. If I had a  
18 sewing machine, I could make their own stuff, you know,  
19 things like that. They -- they want -- they don't want to  
20 live in the city anymore.

21 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

22 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** We went to Grassy  
23 Narrows for a women's gathering, Anishinaabe gathering, and  
24 that's where they want to be. They want to be on the land.  
25 They want to be free like that. They want to -- they don't

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           have those opportunities to -- they know what frog leaf was  
2           and they know what it's for, because we were walking by it.  
3           And just things, like, around us. And I want to get  
4           the -- yeah. We want to move out of the city. We're ready  
5           to leave. They don't want to be in the city. It's -- we  
6           want to be in ceremony. We want to be close to ceremony.  
7           We want to be, you know --

8                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     (indiscernible) in  
9           ceremony --

10                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     -- living it.

11                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     -- and also on the  
12           land.

13                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Yeah. And -- yeah. We  
14           can't do that very well in the city.

15                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

16                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     That's where our next  
17           move is is that we're going to move. We're in the talks of  
18           building a language camp in White Shell.

19                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     I'm sorry?

20                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Building a language  
21           camp, a culture camp, in the White Shell.

22                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

23                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     We're going to take over  
24           some Crown land. (Laughter". /KRAU /\* /\*) yes. We're  
25           going to take over some Crown land.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     For the record.

2                   (indiscernible).

3                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     We were -- they were  
4                   talking -- there was -- there was a lady that was thinking  
5                   about buying -- purchasing some land close to where this  
6                   Crown land was. But then we were guided to, you know, just  
7                   go -- make your camp on the Crown land.

8                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

9                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     So that's where we're  
10                  going to go, and that's where I want to head to, and that's  
11                  where we -- that's how I see the kids is they're -- that's  
12                  what they need is that. They need that all the time. They  
13                  want to go to home schooling. And I'm just, like -- I  
14                  talked -- I asked about that, and there's just, no, they  
15                  kind of need the socialization right now.

16                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm. M'hm.

17                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Is what I heard. So I  
18                  was, like, okay. I'll keep them in school. But  
19                  they -- they want that. They -- that's where they need to  
20                  be. That's where -- that's the best -- I think the best  
21                  place is that my dad ever could have taken me to was those  
22                  places, the Sundance and Rolling River, Hunting Hawk,  
23                  and --

24                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Okay.

25                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     There's cultural camps

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           that were in Oroseau, those places were the best things  
2           that he could have ever done for us, and I'm really  
3           grateful that he did that. And I -- I see, like,  
4           how -- how my little ones are when I take them out or when  
5           I -- when -- you know how much they want to be a helper and  
6           how much they want to be involved, and I need to be able to  
7           provide more opportunities like that for them, and I can't.

8                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

9                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I'm struggling. I'm  
10           really struggling.

11                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

12                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I never knew  
13           what -- like, people say, you know, everything happens for  
14           a reason. And I struggled for years and years and years.  
15           How would -- is the reason for me losing my mom at such a  
16           young age? What am I supposed to learn from it? What am I  
17           supposed to do? I've met other women who've lost their  
18           moms young, too.

19                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

20                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And then my sister,  
21           [SISTER], her mom -- well, was -- was murdered when she was  
22           six. How we found out about it was on the radio.

23                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

24                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    My sister phoned me up,  
25           and she says, Come over, Cheryl, just got to talk to you.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 I was, like, okay. So I walked in, and the news just  
2 started on the radio. And then I heard that  
3 Noella -- Noella Blinder (phonetic) James was  
4 found -- Noella Blinder James of no fixed address or  
5 something about homeless or something was found murdered in  
6 St. Boniface. They dumped her body by the river.

7 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

8 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Someone actually took me  
9 there. I don't know why I went. I don't know why the hell  
10 that person would, like, take me there, take me. Yeah. I  
11 don't know. It still boggles my mind, but I don't know why  
12 I went. But, I mean, all of -- just everything, like -- my  
13 mind is just going because, you know, all this systems  
14 everything that's been involved in our -- in our  
15 family -- in my life's life --

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

17 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** For me at a young age,  
18 like, even in -- in schools and -- like, the schools didn't  
19 know what to do. They didn't know what the hell to -- they  
20 had no idea. Schools, you know, there's so many of us now,  
21 so many children that don't -- that are living without our  
22 parents, and children being raised without their parents  
23 because their parents need healing. My sister doesn't  
24 understand all of this stuff that she's going through, and  
25 I seen her, and I -- she doesn't -- I don't -- I'm -- I'm

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 not sure that she understands it, either. She says that I  
2 don't want my boys to forget me. I don't want my kids to  
3 forget me. And I think in her mind, it's like  
4 these -- these kids have forgotten about her, why she's not  
5 around or coming around. I don't know. But she doesn't  
6 come. It's always something. And these little kids,  
7 they -- they don't know. They don't understand.

8 I don't even know what to say. You know,  
9 that lady that was a reporter from the Winnipeg Sun -- or  
10 was it the Tribune? I can't remember. But me and my  
11 sisters showed up at -- at the trial, and, you know,  
12 she -- she talked to us. And I said, you know  
13 what -- I -- I was upset. We were upset.

14 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

15 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And remember, that's  
16 when I first met chicka-Dee Richard and them. They came  
17 and supported us, and I remember going to the trial for a  
18 day or two, and then I couldn't go back. But I remember,  
19 you know, sitting there. And -- but that reporter back  
20 then had -- you know, we were upset. They were saying  
21 that -- that, you know, in the sense that nobody cared  
22 about Noella, nobody cared about her, that, you  
23 know -- that she was -- she was out there, she was a  
24 homeless person and had no family. She had family. She  
25 has family. She had children. And we were upset by that.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           And I remember this lady talking to us, and we were telling  
2           her about Noella and that -- and she took pictures of us,  
3           too, you know, and tried to paint a different picture of  
4           her for -- you know, like portray her the way that we saw  
5           her.

6                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

7                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Which was nice and  
8           different, I guess, because a lot of families didn't get  
9           that. We still don't.

10                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     So it sounds like there  
11           was a misrepresentation of Noella --

12                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     M'hm.

13                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     -- by the media?

14                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Yeah.

15                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     And that that's pretty  
16           common?

17                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Yeah, it is.

18                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

19                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     I mean, my -- my dad and  
20           her had split up already. And she had asked -- you know,  
21           we were -- I went to go see her on Port Adami (phonetic).  
22           She was -- she was hanging out in the bars and stuff.

23                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

24                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     And I was already old  
25           enough to get in the bars and stuff. So I'd go and hang

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 out with her. She was doing coke and stuff, and we partied  
2 together. And she was very -- wouldn't let me -- she let  
3 me drink and that was it. Wouldn't smoke up. But she  
4 wouldn't let me get into the -- like, the harder stuff.  
5 She didn't know that I was already doing it.

6 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

7 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** But, you know, I could  
8 see when they were -- they were trying to protect me and  
9 stuff --

10 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

11 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- all of those older  
12 ones over the years and stuff. And, you know, she asked  
13 me -- she asked me to look after my brother and my sister,  
14 [Sister] and [Brother], and to make sure that they'd be  
15 okay. And I said I would, I promised. And I went. We  
16 found out -- my brother [Brother] just came back to the  
17 family five years ago, six years ago. And we found out  
18 that the foster parents where -- they were in a foster  
19 home, [Sister] and [Brother] . They told [Brother] -- they  
20 told my little brother that my -- my dad had killed their  
21 mom.

22 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Oh. Oh.

23 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** So he held onto that,  
24 and he didn't come home for a long time.

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Oh.



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   After my dad died. My  
2                   dad died in 2000, and he only came home five, six years  
3                   ago.

4                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**   Okay.

5                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   A grown-up.

6                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**   Oh.

7                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   Well, my dad said they  
8                   would come home.

9                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**   Okay.

10                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   Said they'd all come  
11                  home. And he told us that they said that.

12                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**   M'hm.

13                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   And I can't believe that  
14                  they told him that. My dad had nothing to do with Noella's  
15                  murder or my mom's.

16                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**   Okay.

17                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   And they led my brother  
18                  and sister to believe that.

19                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**   M'hm.

20                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   And we found out later,  
21                  too, that my brother [Brother 2] dated [Sister] and  
22                  [Brother]'s CFS worker when they were teenagers. So -- and  
23                  I think they were dating when my brother committed that  
24                  crime.

25                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**   Okay.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Or it was just before  
2                   that. So -- and I didn't even know that he dated -- or he  
3                   was with this -- this woman. And then -- but then I found  
4                   out from my sister, [SISTER], that -- that this worker told  
5                   her that. And I'm just, like, okay. Well, what's going  
6                   on? Like, there is, like, so much stuff. I remember a  
7                   worker -- oh, I can recall those workers, the ones who take  
8                   kids on visits and stuff. She said that -- like,  
9                   my -- because my -- the kids ended up getting taken away  
10                  from my dad. There was allegations of one of my uncles  
11                  had -- had done something to [SISTER].

12                  **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** (indiscernible).

13                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And -- yeah. So they  
14                  got taken away. And that's how they ended up in care. And  
15                  then years later, we found out that this worker,  
16                  this -- this woman that was their worker, used to go out  
17                  with my brother [Brother 2]. And I was just, like, well,  
18                  that's not right. I mean, that's -- she was biased. She  
19                  doesn't work for the agency no more.

20                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

21                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I tried to get -- when  
22                  my dad died, my sister was 15, 14, 15.

23                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

24                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I was working at Ma Mawi  
25                  Wi Chi Itata Centre and then my sister asked me, she says,

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 I want to come home. And I said, Okay. If that's what  
2 you want, then that's -- I'll make it possible for you to  
3 come home.

4 **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:** Okay.

5 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And I went to Diane  
6 Redsky, and I asked her. I said, [Sister] wants to come  
7 home. She doesn't want to be over there anymore. She  
8 says, Well, Cheryl, she says, you've got the skills and the  
9 tools. She says -- she got me to -- because I was trained  
10 in family group conferencing.

11 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Oh, yeah.

12 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** She says, use all those  
13 skills that you learned and think about  
14 what -- what -- anticipate what they're going to say, what  
15 their -- what their issues are going to be and have those  
16 addressed. And I did. I got all the -- I filled up that  
17 room with supports.

18 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** (indiscernible).

19 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And I filled -- I -- I  
20 did a timeline.

21 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** (indiscernible).

22 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And then I did, like,  
23 the way we do things. I did, like, a presentation on it.  
24 I did four different ways of -- of presenting that one plan  
25 that I had for my sister in -- in, like, the western -- a

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 couple western ways, and then our way. And then  
2 she -- she undermined it. She said to my sister, you know  
3 what? Because we were -- everybody was on table and  
4 everybody was going to go for it. And then she offered to  
5 my sister after the meeting, you know, I can send you  
6 out -- I can put you on independent living.

7 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

8 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** So after all of that,  
9 my sister said that, oh, she's going to get on independent  
10 living, she's going to get all this money and this and  
11 that. And so she chose to go to independent living and to  
12 get all this -- like, get her own place, and they were  
13 going to give her money to do this and that. And she  
14 undermined that whole plan.

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

16 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And my uncle for years  
17 had had issues with the way that things were handled with  
18 not only my brother and sister, [Sister] and [Brother] ,  
19 but ourselves, as well, eh, the five of us. And he wanted  
20 us to talk to lawyers and stuff. That -- that stuff,  
21 getting to that place, is hard.

22 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

23 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I mean, I -- I  
24 never -- I never got to that -- like, saying -- like, I  
25 haven't filed anything with the '60s scoop --

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

2                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- the lawsuit.

3                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

4                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Because it's -- it's  
5                   hard.    Like, there's so much stuff that has come up  
6                   recently.    I mean, my sister died in prison.    And it was  
7                   a preventable death.    That's another person that I want to  
8                   talk about, as well, is my sister Kinew and what  
9                   those -- and -- you know, it was their biases  
10                  that -- that -- I have to use the washroom.

11                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

12                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I have to use the  
13                  washroom before I can start talking again.

14                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    We're going to take a  
15                  break.

16                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

17                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Okay.    I'm thinking  
18                  about, like, things -- like, all the running away that I  
19                  did when I was young.    A lot of situations  
20                  that -- that -- that I'm lucky I didn't get into.

21                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

22                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And I'm really aware  
23                  of, like, the things that I got myself into it, as well.  
24                  Well, not got myself into, but where I found myself.

25                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    In -- in trying to  
2                   figure things out or trying to find whatever it was I was  
3                   looking for when I was growing up.    I remember my  
4                   dad -- he even sent me to Norway House.

5                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Oh.

6                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Yeah.    I was in Norway  
7                   House for a month.    And I -- I ended up cutting myself  
8                   there.

9                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

10                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    My dad was so -- I  
11                  think at his -- just the end of his rope, him and -- him  
12                  and his ex- -- his -- well, his ex-wife now, Eleanor.    And  
13                  her, too, that she was -- she was -- just didn't know what  
14                  to do.    I mean, like, I heard her say things, like, about  
15                  me, too.    And I'm sure it was out of frustration and just  
16                  anger for things that I was doing and saying.    And, you  
17                  know, I get it now.    I understand now.    But that stuff  
18                  was, like, so hurtful back then.    And I didn't know, like,  
19                  these adults who were supposed to be looking after me and,  
20                  you know, helping -- guiding me and stuff, and were  
21                  doing -- like, saying all these things and doing all these  
22                  horrible things.    That's all that I saw was, like, all the  
23                  judgment and stuff and just trying to get someone to see  
24                  that, you know, I wanted help or I -- I didn't want to have  
25                  to be like this anymore.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

2                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Like, I cut my wrists  
3                   in -- a few times as a teenager and I think once as -- as  
4                   an adult, just wanting to -- just to stop the pain, stop  
5                   the -- you know, the loneliness and the hurting and I just  
6                   didn't know what to do or where to go, and . . .

7                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

8                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And then I just -- I  
9                   cut my -- I remember I cut my wrists, and then I just went  
10                  to sleep.    And then I woke up the next day, and I was  
11                  just, like, no.

12                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

13                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I didn't want to wake  
14                  up.

15                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

16                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    It was just too hard,  
17                  being away from my family.    I couldn't be with them.    I  
18                  didn't want to be with them because I didn't have my mom.

19                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    And how old were you  
20                  then, Cheryl?

21                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I think I was by then  
22                  maybe 12, 13.

23                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

24                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    12 or 13 when they sent  
25                  me to Norway House, and I only stayed there from -- like, I

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 gravitated right to what I was doing in the city. I drank  
2 over there. I remember being bullied, too, because  
3 I'm -- I'm lighter, and they were calling me *mooniyaw*  
4 (Indigneous language spoken). And I didn't understand what  
5 was going on, either. And I just wanted to have -- just  
6 feel safe and at peace. I never did. I did things to,  
7 like, try and grab -- gain attention.

8 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

9 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Because I remember I cut  
10 myself -- at first when I cut myself, I remember seeing  
11 this girl do it. And I says, does that hurt? And she  
12 says, it doesn't hurt. And I tried it, and it didn't hurt.  
13 And -- well, it hurt after, but I understood what she meant  
14 by it didn't hurt because it didn't hurt anymore, because  
15 the pain was here now.

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

17 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** There were times when,  
18 you know, I took pills, and I just didn't want to wake up  
19 anymore. I just wanted to sleep, just for the pain to go  
20 away. You know, this is when I thought about killing  
21 myself or thought of ways of killing myself. And then I  
22 was just, like, I can't do it. I can't hurt my family like  
23 that.

24 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

25 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Yeah. It was just,



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1       like -- everything just, like, a struggle all the time,  
2       just my whole life. Like, trying to be in school and, you  
3       know, just being so sad and teachers saying, like, quit  
4       daydreaming. I'm not daydreaming. I'm sad. I'm missing  
5       my mom.

6                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     (indiscernible).

7                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And I didn't know how to  
8       say that. I didn't know how to say things like that.

9                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah. You didn't know  
10       how to verbalize because you were talking about  
11       your -- your nephew and your niece who now know how to  
12       verbalize because -- verbalize because of this program.

13                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    M'hm.

14                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Back then, you didn't  
15       know how to verbalize how you were feeling.

16                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Yeah. Yeah. I see them  
17       talking to each other and helping each other. It's okay to  
18       cry. They say those things to each other, the things that  
19       [Niece 1] is picking up in therapy or, you know, things  
20       that I -- like, I do with them and stuff, they're doing  
21       that to each other and helping each other. I  
22       asked -- [Nephew]'s been kind of acting out in the past  
23       couple of weeks. I asked him -- I asked her, I says,  
24       what's wrong with [Nephew]? And he's been really clingy.  
25       And I thought it had to do with his dad not coming to visit

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 and -- because he asked for a visit. And I even -- like, I  
2 went there. Nothing. There's just, like, nothing.

3 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

4 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And I know it's -- it's  
5 hard. I mean, I can't be mad at them, but I'm mad at them  
6 because they're hurting these kids. And I'm not -- I can't  
7 be mad at them because I know that they're traumatized,  
8 too. You know, my sister, and then his dad, and, you know,  
9 he -- they don't know. They're doing the best that they  
10 can. But these kids are hurting, and it makes me so mad.

11 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** I don't want to take  
12 you away from --

13 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** [Nephew] was asking --

14 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** -- your -- what you  
15 were sharing about your experience growing up.

16 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I just want  
17 to -- [Nephew] was asking -- I said, [Niece 1], I says, I  
18 know you guys talk.

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

20 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I says, I'm trying to  
21 figure out what's going on with [Nephew]. And I says,  
22 what's going on? What's wrong? He's afraid that you're  
23 going to die. And I says, what do you mean? Because of my  
24 white hair. (Laughter). I'm older. Because I'm older,  
25 eh? And I'm trying to make sure that -- you know, I'm

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 going to do the best that I can to live as long  
2 as -- I'm -- I want to live past 100. I'm going to see  
3 these kids get married and stuff, and that's -- you know, I  
4 want to live. And I'm working on me to be able to do that  
5 kind of -- like, to be able to live longer. I lost weight  
6 and I'm getting stronger. I'm not taking any more  
7 painkillers, medication, I decided. In December, I felt  
8 something started changing in me.

9 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** December?

10 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** This past December.

11 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Oh.

12 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I decided -- I don't  
13 know what happened. My ex -- my now-ex said that I was  
14 walking straighter or --

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

16 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- like, I looked  
17 taller, and I was standing taller and straighter. And I  
18 don't know. And then, you know, weight started coming off.  
19 We were doing a lot of -- like, I had to do a lot of  
20 walking from taking my kids to school and stuff from  
21 downtown to the north end, and -- but it's, like,  
22 I -- I -- I don't know. Like, I was coming out of  
23 something. I was coming out of that, like, that loss, that  
24 period of just where I was at a loss from finding out what  
25 happened to my niece and --

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

2                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     -- you know, struggling  
3                   with the kids not -- not having any help from Mom and Dad  
4                   and stuff, and -- there's stuff that we want to do and  
5                   these kids want to do that we need supports for.  It's  
6                   ridiculous that where I'm living, it's infested with  
7                   cockroaches and bedbugs.  Like, it's -- it's not funny, but  
8                   I try and make light of it by saying, you know, my dad is a  
9                   residential school survivor.  I know how to clean a house,  
10                  because a lot of our people picked up that, and it was  
11                  really an unhealthy way for me before.  We're  
12                  now -- it's -- it's -- like, I own it.  We used to be,  
13                  like, I could go to my sister's house, and I was OCD and  
14                  I'm cleaning her house, right?  But now, it's like I take  
15                  pride in a good, clean house, and -- I've been trying to  
16                  get transferred to closer to the kids' school and day  
17                  care --

18                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Okay.

19                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     -- because it's been  
20                  such a struggle for us, eh?  There are times when we walk,  
21                  and it takes me 20 minutes.

22                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Okay.

23                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     And so it takes, like,  
24                  40 minutes for us together to -- to walk.  And I'm not -- I  
25                  don't want to rush them.  And my little girl, I've carried

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 her lots, and I've just noticed this past spring, because  
2 I'm, like, why? She's -- like, a lot of pictures, you see  
3 me carrying her and walks and marches and rallies and  
4 stuff. And I'm -- she's always been wanting me to pick her  
5 up. And I'm getting mad at her. And no, it's something  
6 else. There's something else. So I'm -- I watch her, and  
7 I noticed, she's got a little bit of a turn in her knee.

8 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

9 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And I'm thinking, she  
10 was in care for three months before I was able to take her.  
11 I'm wondering if something happened to her when she was  
12 in -- in care for three months.

13 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

14 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Because she came like  
15 that. She came where I had to carry her a lot. And then  
16 now I'm noticing that when she's running, she's got a  
17 little bit of a -- like, a twist. And I don't know if she  
18 has pain. I'm going to take her to ceremony to find out if  
19 she's in pain. Does she -- like, has she had this all her  
20 life that she doesn't know that she's in pain, and -- but  
21 she's starting to tell me. Last week she says, my leg  
22 hurts. Can I have some medicine? So I'm, like, okay, I'm  
23 going to give you a smudge. And I'm going to give you a  
24 little bit of medicine, but she'd rather have the smudge,  
25 which is good. I don't want her taking stuff.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

2                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    But I mean, yeah.

3                   That's part of that. Like, quitting all of that stuff. I  
4                   don't even take my sinus medications anymore. I quit  
5                   everything.

6                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

7                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    It was part of me  
8                   wanting to -- needing to clear myself of all of that stuff  
9                   so I can be receptive to what the kids need. And then I  
10                  was able to see [Niece 2]'s-- and then I found out all  
11                  these -- like, two years I was paying for her medication  
12                  and stuff, somebody registered her. I wasn't going to  
13                  register her with Indian Affairs.

14                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

15                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    INAC, whatever they call  
16                  it. I didn't want her registered. How do I unregister  
17                  her? You know what I mean?

18                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

19                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    They registered her. I  
20                  don't know who registered her, because me and her mom had  
21                  talked about it, too, was that we weren't going to register  
22                  her. She was going to be as much -- as much as possible  
23                  away from those systems, eh?

24                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

25                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And then I found out she

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 was registered, and I don't know how to find out who  
2 registered her, because it couldn't have been her mom.

3 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

4 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Maybe. I don't know. I  
5 don't think so. Because she was apprehended at birth, .

6 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

7 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And then I got her at  
8 three months when I had a day care placement for her.  
9 Like, how do I talk to these kids about why their mom  
10 doesn't come around? Why they don't have a connection to  
11 their mom or [Nephew] to his dad? And the girls, they  
12 don't -- like, their dads weren't named. And my sister is  
13 adamant on that, and that they're deadbeats. I  
14 haven't -- like, she says that I don't know them. So the  
15 girls, they want -- they want to know who -- who their  
16 daddy is. How do I -- like, I don't have an answer for  
17 them. And these systems have, like, messed up our lives so  
18 much, impacted our families so much. The residential  
19 schools, CFS --

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

21 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- the justice system,  
22 all of them. And I want to give these kids a fighting  
23 chance. And that, for me, is having to be in ceremony, in  
24 ceremonies. We do it at home. Like, I remember the CFS  
25 worker saying, Well, well, when do you get out to ceremony?

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 I said, we live it. I mean, we smudge every day. That's  
2 part of it.

3 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

4 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I mean, our teachings,  
5 we -- we're supposed to live those teachings. [Niece 1],  
6 my little eight-year-old girl, prayed for this water this  
7 morning. And that's because she sees me doing it. She can  
8 do it. [Nephew], he knows how to smudge the apartment. He  
9 can smudge down his sisters. We're out of sage. We're out  
10 of smudge. And you know how hard it is to have to go and  
11 say, you know what? Can you help us out? We need some  
12 smudge. Hey, you know what? I need bus fare so I can get  
13 my niece to therapy. Can you help us out? We need bus  
14 fare to get my kids to day care, to school. Can you help  
15 us out? That's hard. Ask Welfare for bus fare.  
16 Everybody's advocated for us, and it's just -- it's  
17 ridiculous how much people have to suffer, how much they  
18 have to put up with. I know that I'm a -- I don't -- well,  
19 I'm -- have the ability of -- to be able to verbalize what  
20 I'm going through and what I need and stuff. But still,  
21 I -- you know, I still have a hard time saying, you know  
22 what? Like, child victim -- I asked the AI for bus fare.  
23 Okay. Well, you're going to have to go back to them and  
24 see if they can help you with bus fare first before we can  
25 help you. You know how frigging hard that is? And you



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           just have to keep calling? These people aren't even  
2           updating me anyway with what's happening. Finding answers  
3           for my sister Kinew has been challenging. I was posting on  
4           Facebook, Where's the outcry for my sister Kinew? Where's  
5           the organizations to step up and come and help us with my  
6           sister Kinew? My brother Cecil -- we found out that as  
7           siblings, we had no rights. We had no standing. We were  
8           the ones who grew up with her. We were the ones that grew  
9           up with her, and we couldn't find out any information. We  
10          couldn't talk to anybody because it was only for -- it was  
11          only next of kin. And Grace, like, she admits it, too, is  
12          that she wasn't in Kinew's life for a lot of her life. And  
13          we -- we know why. She told us why, too. And I understand  
14          that, too. But it was us. And we had no rights. My  
15          brother Cecil went and -- he went to -- he petitioned to  
16          gain standing at the -- at -- at my sister's inquest, for  
17          us to -- so that we have -- so that my sister would have a  
18          voice, so that we could ask questions and make  
19          recommendations. And it was such a struggle for my brother  
20          to do -- like, to do that. Like, I -- it's -- it's always  
21          been up to me, okay. I was -- I kind of, like, had to take  
22          the lead and stuff. But he had to do it for this one  
23          because it was, like, six months after. And I said, I  
24          still haven't. He says, well, what's going on? Excuse me.  
25          I still haven't gotten an answer. And he says, okay, I'm

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 going to make some calls. And then he started -- he got on  
2 it, and he started getting answers or -- tried to get  
3 answers. Part of his role as having standing for our  
4 family, he was supposed to have had access to all his  
5 documents and stuff. He had eight hours, but he had to  
6 travel to Regina. There was a lawyer that was working for  
7 Rosa (phonetic) that suggested another lawyer that was in  
8 Regina that could help him, like -- like holding on to the  
9 documents --

10 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

11 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- because they weren't  
12 supposed to leave the lawyer's possession or whatever, and  
13 because my brother wasn't a lawyer, he couldn't take them.  
14 So he had eight hours to go over, I think it was 8,000  
15 documents, which was a -- I mean, just on his own, like,  
16 not in -- not having -- not understanding some of the  
17 terminology and stuff like that. And then some of the  
18 stuff that he read through that -- like, the autopsy and  
19 things like that that he didn't want us to -- me or my  
20 sister to -- or the rest of us to know about the details  
21 and stuff.

22 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

23 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Because it -- it's  
24 apparently worse than what came out in the inquest. I  
25 mean, even that. Like -- like, our family is -- we're not,

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           like -- it's not just me and my kids, right? Or Mom and  
2           Dad and the kids, right? It's not like that for us. We  
3           have a bigger family. I've always called on -- [Nephew] on  
4           Facebook so that the community calls him [nickname] so that  
5           he's -- the way that it's meant to be isn't just me that's  
6           raising him. It's the community. So people call him  
7           [nickname]. Some people don't even know why. (Laughter). I  
8           have to tell them why. But that's why.

9                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

10                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     So that everybody has a  
11           responsibility for these kids.

12                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Yeah.

13                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     And it's not just me.  
14           They need their -- their things, eh? I have to go back to  
15           that, the kids.

16                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Okay.

17                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     [Nephew] never had his  
18           walking out ceremony. I asked. There was -- there was men  
19           in our life that I asked that I felt would be able to make  
20           him his tools and stuff, and it never came to be. And I  
21           still want to do that. I -- you know, he's -- he needs  
22           those mile stones and those ceremonies, those -- those  
23           things. They need those things in their lives. And, you  
24           know, he needs that walking out ceremony. He knows that  
25           already he's got, like, responsibilities that are coming to

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           him and stuff, and I want to be able to -- to provide those  
2           things for them. I remember my dad teaching my younger  
3           siblings, [Sister] and [Brother] and Kinew, how to count in  
4           the language, and colours and stuff. And he never taught  
5           us. And I -- I understand -- I get an understanding now  
6           why he wanted us to have, like, different choices and stuff  
7           or -- plus he was afraid.

8                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Of course.

9                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     And through his healing,  
10           he was able to start, like, giving that to -- to my younger  
11           siblings, to teach them those things, eh? My sister Kinew,  
12           we found out later that she had a lot -- she had mental  
13           health issues. Or she -- she developed mental health  
14           issues in prison. And all of the -- they've, like,  
15           included my sister in -- in studies. And she was the  
16           only -- from what I recall, the only person who was named  
17           in an ombudsman report, but it was at her request. She  
18           says, I'll participate in this, but only if you name me and  
19           what my input is going to be. Since -- since my sister's  
20           death, I've been finding out that, you know, there was  
21           other women that were involved with her, women that she  
22           kind of helped to advocate for themselves or -- or this  
23           professional person had worked with her and -- and this  
24           other professional person had worked with her  
25           since -- since her death, eh?

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

2                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    She was doing the same  
3 things that she saw my dad doing growing up, I guess, being  
4 an activist and an advocate in jail. She brought out to  
5 CBC reporter that the guards were exchanging sexual favours  
6 for cigarettes and drugs and stuff like that, eh? We  
7 believe that -- well, people talk. Hey, so-and-so is  
8 coming your way, keep an eye out, you know?

9                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

10                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    We believe that's  
11 all -- that followed my sister in the places where she was  
12 held, and that -- that bias is what led to her death, why  
13 they didn't respond to her, why they didn't respond to her  
14 that day when she was having pains and difficulties,  
15 and -- and the callousness of -- of those people who were  
16 supposed to be providing care. That one guard said, he  
17 climbed up top of my sister to give my sister CPR, and he  
18 had a crack about being up on a big giant waterbed. At the  
19 inquest, we asked for an apology. Nope.

20                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Did you want to name  
21 what correctional facility that was? For the record?

22                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Prince Albert  
23 in -- yeah, PA.

24                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

25                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    It was in PA. She was

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           only there -- she went there with -- she left Grand Valley.  
2           She had -- had already had -- was having health issues, and  
3           they were supposed to be doing some follow-up, which never  
4           followed -- they never followed up with in Grand -- in  
5           Prince Albert, which led to her death. They downplayed  
6           when she was pushing the call button. They wouldn't take  
7           her seriously. There was other women in -- in the other  
8           cells who were yelling for help for my sister.

9                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Yeah.

10                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I think about those  
11           women, too.

12                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

13                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    That one girl, who's  
14           been in there for so long, since she was a little kid,  
15           since she was a teenager. Nobody stepped up for us, for  
16           our family, when we went to my sister's inquest.  
17           Kevin -- Kevin Hart did. And that's because he's a  
18           personal friend. And I know that. That's why he did it.  
19           And he used his position to -- to get us supports and help  
20           over there.

21                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

22                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And that was -- that was  
23           awesome. Like, we've been -- I wouldn't talk to Mel,  
24           (indiscernible) Cameron. Some other supports out there.  
25           That's because we had some ladies come and -- come from the

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 community. I put a call out on Facebook, and there was  
2 some women that came from the grass roots, the grass roots,  
3 we call them.

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

5 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Grass roots -- our grass  
6 roots people --

7 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

8 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- were the ones who  
9 answered the call --

10 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

11 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- and came to help us.

12 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

13 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** They had a -- there was  
14 a camp, an existing camp here, but they sang songs for my  
15 sister and for us at -- at the inquest.

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Amazing.

17 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And I wondered, like,  
18 well, how -- how do you -- how to, like -- how does someone  
19 access native women's -- I mean, people knew our family was  
20 going through this. We're well-known in the community.  
21 And nobody stepped us to help us. I mean, we were asking  
22 for help, publicly asking for help.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

24 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And we did it by  
25 ourself. I mean, Cecil did it.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    What was the outcome of  
2                   the inquest?

3                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    They -- they were -- I  
4                   think it was they only took three recommendations from each  
5                   person.

6                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

7                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And they took one of my  
8                   brother's recommendations -- no, they took three of them.  
9                   But those recommendations were already recommended before.

10                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

11                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I mean, we -- we  
12                  were -- like, in our own research, we saw -- and people  
13                  reached out to us, too. Like, a lady reached out to me  
14                  from -- was it Australia where they had a --

15                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

16                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- they had an inquiry,  
17                  the inquiry, too?

18                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah. With the  
19                  Aborigine?

20                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Yeah. And there  
21                  was -- there was a woman who died in jail, too. Like, I've  
22                  made connections just from people being on Facebook, from  
23                  reading our stuff. And -- but, I mean, these people who  
24                  are supposed to be -- or who are professing to be that  
25                  they're speaking for our people and stuff, no one stepped



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 up to us to help us. We've done it on our own.

2 We've -- if I don't get an answer from this lady from Child  
3 Victim Services, I'm going to go to her boss.

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

5 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Later today. Because  
6 I'm -- I'm -- I'm sick and tired of people not giving us  
7 answers when we want our answers.

8 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm. M'hm. And the  
9 question about the inquest. So there was three  
10 recommendations for each person. Have any of those  
11 recommendations been implemented?

12 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Probably not.

13 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** To your knowledge?

14 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** You know what, I haven't  
15 read them.

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

17 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And as far as I know, my  
18 brother Cecil hasn't read them, either. He says, because  
19 you know what? They're not going to do nothing about that.

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

21 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** They did do something  
22 about one of Cecil's recommendations.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

24 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** But I can't remember  
25 which one it was. But it's ridiculous. People

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           can't -- don't understand that our -- our -- our family  
2           systems or our -- our -- yeah, our family systems are  
3           different. Our kinship systems are different, that you  
4           know what? Like, we shouldn't have had to -- my brother  
5           shouldn't have had to go and advocate for us to be able to  
6           have a voice at the table for -- for us to be able to go  
7           and ask questions for my sister. It shouldn't have to be  
8           like that. It shouldn't have to be me, going to a  
9           supervisor and saying, you know what? No, you're not going  
10          to talk to me like that. You're not going to treat me like  
11          that. I'm going to talk to your supervisor.

12                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

13                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    When [Nephew] went into  
14          care, I was -- I've been always trying to -- when -- when  
15          my niece [Niece 1] got apprehended when -- at ten months  
16          old, I've been trying to -- I wanted to go and visit, but I  
17          couldn't get information from the agency from the DOCFS to  
18          Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services. I couldn't get  
19          past the front reception. Well, if you're not immediate  
20          family, then I can't give you information. We can't even  
21          tell you if she's a child of this -- of this agency. I'm,  
22          like, well, I'm her auntie, and I know that she's been  
23          apprehended and that is a child. No. I went to school two  
24          years for -- at Yellowquill College for First Nation Child  
25          and Family Services worker diploma program, and I started

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 learning my rights. And I'm, like, no. What they were  
2 doing was wrong. They -- they had to -- they should have  
3 come to us for kinship care first. One of us could have  
4 taken her. That never happened.

5 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

6 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Nobody contacted us. I  
7 contacted them. Nobody got back to me.

8 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

9 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And then finally when  
10 [Nephew] was born and apprehended and placed with me as a  
11 place of safety, I talked to Saugeen CFS, [CFS Employee 1],  
12 and I says, Well, you know what, [Nephew] has a sister  
13 that's in care. She's a permanent ward. Do you think we  
14 can start getting visits with her? And she says, You know  
15 what? Let's -- let's get him settled first. And then I  
16 had already told her at that point that I was going to go  
17 for guardianship and that Mom and Dad had supported it. So  
18 I said, Okay, let's do this and then we'll -- we'll start  
19 with the visits. I think we finally got a visit -- I think  
20 when [Nephew] was two, with [Niece 1]. And then they were,  
21 like -- and I had to fight for those visits, too. I had to  
22 call them and then -- and the worker was, well, you know,  
23 these are -- I want the little -- I want the kids to know  
24 each other. I want the siblings to know each other. I  
25 want them to have visits with each other. They

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 want -- it's important that they know each other, to grow  
2 up with each other. I had to fight for that. And then it  
3 was, like, once a month. And then they said, like, one of  
4 the --[CFS Employee 2], one of the supervisors, says,  
5 Cheryl, aren't you -- like, aren't you going for  
6 guardianship of your niece and you're only getting visits  
7 once a month? And I said, Yeah. I said, I've been asking  
8 for more visits and visits away from the agency. And she  
9 goes, you know what? I'll get back to you. And then I  
10 started getting visits twice a week.

11 You know, I don't even know if the agency or  
12 what the agency does for children who are impacted like  
13 this?

14 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

15 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I mean, I've had to  
16 fight just about every step of the way for everything  
17 that -- that I've gotten from them, even, like, the social  
18 worker when [Niece 1] got apprehended in November  
19 was -- came with me -- with such an attitude. And I'm,  
20 like, no. You're not going to talk to me like that. They  
21 were trying to -- someone phoned and had said that I was  
22 doing -- doing drugs, and I was drinking. And I had taken  
23 [Niece 2] out of school because she was being bullied.

24 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

25 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And it was -- things

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           were already, like, starting to get overwhelming for me.

2                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

3                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I just, like, screw the  
4           school. I'm not -- like, I don't want nothing to do with  
5           them --

6                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

7                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- because of the  
8           way -- what was happening with [Niece 1]. She didn't want  
9           to go to school. Anyways. I got called on -- oh, I fought  
10          the drug test because they were trying to impose a drug  
11          test on me. And I said, no. I says, why are you -- okay.  
12          Tell me why you want me to do this drug test. And they  
13          says -- and then I said, well, you're not getting my hair,  
14          for one thing, because traditionally, there's -- there's  
15          ceremonies that -- that we do with our hair.

16                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

17                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And I said -- and  
18          another thing, is you're not getting my fingernails because  
19          that's the same thing.

20                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

21                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And so I refused. But I  
22          talked to my lawyer first, and I said, Well, I says, why  
23          are they going to do this and they can't even -- like, it's  
24          unsubstantiated at this point with, like, the accusations  
25          and stuff. And he says, You're absolutely right. And I

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 Said, why are they asking for my hair and my fingernails?

2 He said, They're trying to establish a timeline. And I  
3 says, Well, that's ridiculous, because they just gave me --

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

5 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- like, I went through  
6 a -- like a home study with Mark Berkowitz. He's supposed  
7 to be, like, one of the best guys in Winnipeg or whatever  
8 to do these things. Like, I already did that. And I was  
9 only -- and I was -- I felt like I was struggling because I  
10 wasn't getting answers for [Niece 1] that I wanted for her.

11 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

12 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And I'm picking and  
13 choosing what I'm saying because I'm trying to condense  
14 what I'm talking about.

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

16 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Plus I need to be  
17 mindful of what I'm sharing with -- in regards to [Niece  
18 1].

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

20 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** But I have, like, so  
21 many issues with what happened and what -- what's been  
22 happening.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

24 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And it's -- and it's a  
25 result of us losing, like, me losing my mom, my sister

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           losing her mom.

2                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

3                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     And our needs not being  
4           addressed, our issues not being looked at. Like, the -- I  
5           don't know. There's so many things that -- different that  
6           they could have done, like the agency. I don't know. I  
7           still have a Family Services file open, and I don't even  
8           know, like, what kind of services that is going to get me,  
9           if anything.

10                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Yeah.

11                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Because I asked about  
12           it, too. They said, Well, we can give you some help with  
13           some food, sometimes, if you need, or -- yeah. I'm not  
14           even really sure.

15                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

16                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     And I think another  
17           friend of mine has had one open for four years, and that's  
18           ridiculous. I mean, women that I see like myself who are  
19           advocates or activists in the community who have Family  
20           Services files open, like my friend, for four years.  
21           That's ridiculous. My friend is working out in the  
22           community and everything, and she still has a file open.

23                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Yeah.

24                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     I mean, it's ridiculous.  
25           And then when I asked them, like, okay, what does that

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 mean? What can you provide me? Oh, well, if you need help  
2 with food sometimes, we can, you know -- well, that's not  
3 very much.

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

5 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Can't give me bus fare  
6 to get to our appointments and stuff. No.

7 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** It sounds like they  
8 also are able to support with the resources for  
9 ceremonial -- to go to ceremonies or ceremonial items --

10 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Right.

11 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** -- that you were  
12 speaking of before.

13 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** M'hm. Because I asked  
14 if we can get -- is -- is there was -- I asked DOCFS if  
15 there was some way that we can get [Niece 1] an outfit  
16 because she wants to dance.

17 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

18 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And yeah. Never got an  
19 answer back.

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

21 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** But it's kind of like  
22 you -- I have to pick and choose what my battles are going  
23 to be with them. Like, what's most important? This week  
24 or this day that -- that my kids need or want?

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    They ordered -- oh, the  
2                   reason why they ordered the drug test on me, apparently,  
3                   because I asked later when -- because I met with one  
4                   supervisor, didn't get anywhere, didn't feel like I got  
5                   anywhere with her, so I went to another supervisor, which  
6                   happened to be [CFS Employee 2]. And I said, Why did you  
7                   order the drug -- oh, [CFS Employee 3] was saying some  
8                   stuff, like, she was being catty and stuff. Like, why  
9                   don't you want to take the drug test? Your kids might get  
10                  taken away. No, you're not going to take my kids away  
11                  because if you guys thought that my kids were at risk, you  
12                  would have taken them away when you took [Niece 1].

13                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

14                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    So that's where -- and  
15                  my lawyer said, You can fight it. I says, Well, I ain't  
16                  going to fight it. I says, I'll give them a pee test and  
17                  I'll give them a blood test, but they're not having my  
18                  hair, and they're not going to have my fingernails. I  
19                  went -- I just started drinking coffee in January -- or  
20                  actually in December. I started drinking, like, having  
21                  some coke -- I haven't had caffeine in, like, six years.  
22                  So I started drinking coffee. I'm at a visit, and I'm,  
23                  like, whoa. This caffeine is hitting me.

24                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Right?

25                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And I'm just, like, this

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 coffee is so good, you guys, you guys -- and I was playing  
2 around and stuff. And I went back in the room, and she  
3 said, You were acting sketchy at the coffee machine. I  
4 says, you know what? If you would have just asked me, I  
5 would have told you I just started drinking it. I said,  
6 It's all over Facebook. I just started drinking caffeine  
7 again. And, like, yeah. I'm kind of off the wall with  
8 this stuff. And I said, If you would have just asked me, I  
9 would have told you instead of making assumptions. Another  
10 thing, too, was that the worker had -- apparently, they  
11 weren't going to support the relationship that I was in,  
12 but she didn't say that when I said, like, at that moment  
13 when I said, well, we're going to get back together. We're  
14 going to work it out. And she could have at that moment  
15 said no, I don't support that and I won't support that.

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

17 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I mean, it could have  
18 saved us the aggravation of a couple -- me the aggravation  
19 for a couple months.

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

21 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** He ended up cheating.  
22 But that's not funny. But, I mean, even -- like, the day  
23 care knows my struggles financially to get my kids to -- to  
24 school and day care every day.

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yes.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    They wanted to move  
2                   [Nephew] into a day care that's attached to them but would  
3                   cost more.

4                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

5                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I said, Did you not hear  
6                   me, like, what I've been telling you guys?  And would you  
7                   have been advocating -- helping me to advocate for was I  
8                   needed more money for bus fare to get the kids here.  Now  
9                   you want me to pay more?  Well, I mean, people don't know  
10                  or -- there's still organizations or -- like, that day care  
11                  didn't know how to deal with us because of our -- our  
12                  complex traumas.  You know what I mean?  Because of  
13                  everything that had happened, the layers.

14                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

15                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And yeah.  You know, I'm  
16                  going to -- I found out all this stuff after my sister had  
17                  passed away.  I wanted -- I want to -- like, I want to read  
18                  all of those things that my sister was involved with, all  
19                  of those -- like, the ombudsman report, all of those other  
20                  studies that she had taken part of.

21                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

22                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I want -- I want to read  
23                  those things.  I want to know what she was working on.  I  
24                  don't know.  I want to start talking about [Niece 1].  I'm  
25                  really starting -- like --

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.  And this -- this  
2                   is the part of this statement that you want to keep  
3                   private?

4                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Yeah.  Just the -- well,  
5                   like, some of it I want to talk about that -- that's not  
6                   too -- like, just the struggles that I've had in the system  
7                   of trying to get her to come home to visit.

8                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

9                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Like I said, when I  
10                  started talking about her -- her -- having visits with her  
11                  and stuff.  Well, her brother and sister thought that's  
12                  where she lived was at the agency.  They thought that was  
13                  her home.  And I says, you know what?  We can't keep coming  
14                  here for visits.  These kids think that she lives here.  I  
15                  said, can we get visits somewhere else?  Oh, can  
16                  you -- we'll send you to McDonald's.  Well, this wasn't  
17                  what I was thinking, but I don't -- we don't eat a lot of  
18                  junk food.

19                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

20                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    But then they -- they  
21                  were starting to help out with taking them to the museum or  
22                  children's museum, different places where they can have fun  
23                  together and play and be -- be kids.  You know what I mean?  
24                  And without them thinking that's where she lived, you know.  
25                  And that's really sad and really sickening.  In the

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 transition -- oh, when I decided that I was going to -- I  
2 kind of had an idea all the time is that [Niece 1] is going  
3 to come home. I'm going to get her home. I'm bringing her  
4 home.

5 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

6 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** She's going to come  
7 home. So I knew, like, before even then I set up the  
8 visits, that is what my intention was. I want her to come  
9 home. She needs to be with family. The foster -- the  
10 foster mom undermined our relationship. She told [Niece 1]  
11 scary things. And [Niece 1] told me a little bit. And  
12 that I was going to take her away and never -- they were  
13 never going to see her again. And they just -- they were  
14 scaring her with things like that. And then -- oh, and  
15 then I found out the CFS worker, [CFS EMPLOYEE 4], oh, I  
16 found out who has been sued and can never be a social  
17 worker again, apparently. I don't know how true that is.  
18 But --

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

20 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- she -- that's,  
21 like -- [CFS Employee 2] was -- was the supervisor, had to  
22 step in and say, you know what? Let them have more visits.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

24 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And then I found out  
25 that the agency is supporting the foster parents' bid for

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 legal guardianship. And I'm, like, what? I said, you know  
2 that I want my niece to come home. You knew that this was  
3 going to happen. And now even, like, I knew -- like, I had  
4 issues with her trying to, like, hang out on the visits and  
5 stuff, and, like, making little comments and stuff, like  
6 oh, you guys are watching movies? That's some kind of  
7 visit. Like that kind of stuff. You don't -- I  
8 don't -- we don't need that in here. Just, you know,  
9 leave. I'm trying to be -- not rock the boat because I  
10 don't want to lose my visits with my -- with my niece. I  
11 need to be very careful in how I'm presenting myself and  
12 how I'm portraying myself. I cannot be aggressive. I need  
13 to be very careful in what I'm saying. So I called for a  
14 meeting, because this woman was asking -- inboxing me and  
15 asking me a bunch of questions, and she just right out  
16 asked me, are you going to go for guardianship of [Niece 1]  
17 ? And I'm just, like, that's a conversation for the social  
18 worker --

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

20 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- between me and the  
21 social worker and not for us. And I'm feeling really  
22 uncomfortable with this kind of conversation, can we stop.  
23 And then she just kept on going. I have, like, all -- I  
24 have screenshots -- I have all of it, eh? Our  
25 conversation. She was saying at first, just, like, oh, I

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 support her being in -- in -- being at home, being raised  
2 by such a strong Aboriginal woman as you and stuff like  
3 that. And -- and then in the meantime, like, I find out  
4 she's undermining us. And then I find out the agency is  
5 supporting this. And I says, no. I says, no, that's  
6 wrong. You knew -- I told you that I was going to go for  
7 guardianship of her, and all of a sudden this is what's  
8 happening? You're supporting her bid for guardianship?  
9 And she goes, I don't recall you telling me that. And I  
10 said, I told you, and I know you told me -- and I know that  
11 you know. And then -- so that was changed. I got a  
12 lawyer, and -- and then all of a sudden we have to go for  
13 mediation.

14 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

15 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I have to go for  
16 mediation so we can talk to each other. And I was, like,  
17 okay. So I'm going to have to accept this family into my  
18 family for the rest of -- as long as -- because she's been  
19 there for five years. That's her mom and dad. Okay. I'm  
20 going to have to do this because these people are going to  
21 have to be in our lives.

22 **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:** Yeah.

23 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** So it's a pilot project  
24 at mediation services that I got to take part in. I said,  
25 okay. And I'm -- I'm -- the whole time, I'm saying, you

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 know what? This is not the way that things are for our  
2 people. This is not the way that we do things. I'm  
3 telling them this the whole -- the whole way. The -- the  
4 social worker, the supervisor, the other supervisor, and  
5 I'm telling the mediation people, this is not the way that  
6 we do things. This is not how -- this is not our -- these  
7 are not our processes. I'll take part in your processes,  
8 and I'll -- and I'll do it with -- with a good heart, for  
9 the good intentions.

10 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** (indiscernible).

11 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** But I wanted an Elder  
12 there.

13 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

14 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I wanted an Elder to  
15 open it. I wanted an Elder to pray. I wanted an Elder to  
16 smudge and to give those teachings --

17 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

18 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- and to talk  
19 about -- and to -- and to talk a little bit. And they said  
20 okay. So we got a lawyer, and -- I mean, I got an Elder  
21 in, and they had an issue with it. And it wasn't -- it  
22 wasn't a good process. And sitting in mediation, too, I  
23 was told that I needed to go for grief counselling --

24 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

25 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- because I was talking



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 about historically, the things that happened to our -- to  
2 our women and, you know, where that thinking had come from.  
3 And they're saying, well, that has nothing to do with any  
4 of this here, you know, like, shutting me down. And I'm,  
5 like, no, this has everything to do with what's happening  
6 here, and you need to listen to me. And they kept telling  
7 me, no, that's -- it's not, and that I needed to go for  
8 counselling, and that I needed to let stuff go, and  
9 that -- you know, it's in the past.

10 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

11 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And I'm, like, no, it's  
12 not. And you're going to listen to what I have to say  
13 because this is important. This has to do with my niece  
14 and what's brought us to this point. And anyways. Yeah,  
15 that -- it fell apart, anyways.

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** It sounds like they  
17 were trying to tell you what your needs were --

18 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** M'hm.

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** -- instead of listening  
20 to what you were trying to express were your needs.

21 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Yeah, and what I felt  
22 was important for my niece. And -- and whichever way the  
23 judge decided, because at that point, it was going to be in  
24 the judge's hands. And from what I was being led to  
25 believe was that the foster parents were more than likely

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 going to be the ones who were going to get guardianship,  
2 and that it was best that I just make -- start making plans  
3 to accept that --

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

5 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- and to try and figure  
6 out a way that we were going to work around that and  
7 how -- when she was going to come home for visits and how  
8 that was going to look. And, like, the kinds of things  
9 that were important. I said, well -- because they were  
10 church people.

11 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

12 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And --

13 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Who was church people?

14 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** The foster parents.

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

16 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Excuse me. They were  
17 heavily involved in their church. They're Mennonites, I  
18 think.

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

20 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Excuse me. It's all  
21 coming out now, all that stuff in my tummy. And I said,  
22 well, like, they were telling me, like, okay, how our  
23 holiday is going to look, like, who is going to get her on  
24 Christmas, who is going to get her on Easter. And I says  
25 you know what? Well, Easter, we don't do that kind of

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 thing.

2 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

3 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I said, this is when I  
4 want her, this is -- on our traditional holidays. I said,  
5 we don't celebrate Christmas. On the 21st, this is  
6 what -- this is what this is going to look like for us, and  
7 this is when I want her. This is when we do our New  
8 Year's, this is when I want her, and this is when we're  
9 going to have her. And, you know, in -- and the season  
10 changing, stuff like that, like traditionally. Okay. This  
11 is Sundance season. This is when I want her, and she's  
12 going to be coming to Sundance with us, things like that.  
13 And they're -- she -- she just kept trying to -- the foster  
14 mom, I felt like kept trying to -- and the lady -- I can't  
15 remember her name, one of the mediators, we had two, a male  
16 and a female --

17 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

18 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And they both got  
19 so -- I couldn't believe how frustrated they got with me  
20 and --

21 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

22 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- and, like, just  
23 trying to, no, this is not and this is where we need to  
24 focus on. No. That has everything to do with what we're  
25 trying to talk about here.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.  M'hm.

2                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And in court, I said the  
3                   same thing, too.  I said, this -- these are not our ways.  
4                   I'm participating, and I'm going to do it with a good  
5                   heart, with good intentions.

6                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

7                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Because [Niece 1] needs  
8                   to be home with us.  So the whole way, I protested, but I  
9                   participated with a good heart and with good intentions  
10                  because I wanted her to come home.

11                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

12                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    So CFS, schools.  As  
13                  soon as -- when I went to -- picking up [Niece 1] and  
14                  things like that, as soon as they found out that I wasn't a  
15                  social worker, the discrimination, you wouldn't believe.  
16                  Like, it just flipped like that, from the -- from the  
17                  people that I was dealing with.  Once they found out that I  
18                  wasn't a social worker, that I was a parent or receiving  
19                  services from the agency or an agency, the discrimination  
20                  that I faced was ridiculous.  And I even called in -- I  
21                  went to pick up [NIECE 1] once, and I -- and I -- and I  
22                  phoned the supervisor, and I said, [CFS Employee 2], I  
23                  said, this is what's happening, and I says, They're  
24                  really -- once they found out that I wasn't [CFS Employee  
25                  3], that I wasn't the social worker, I said, this is what's

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           been happening, and I told her. I mean, it's, like, yeah.  
2           Every step of the way, it's been a struggle. It's been a  
3           fight where I have to --

4                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Yeah.

5                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     -- have to advocate for  
6           myself or find the strength to try and advocate for myself.  
7           I -- it's -- I went to the advocate's office, the First  
8           Nations Family Advocate's Office for help with [Niece 1]  
9           and my nieces and nephews. It was -- I ended up doing it  
10          on my own anyway. I mean, they were there, and -- and then  
11          I even went to the office, and I was, like, okay. Come  
12          with me. And then be (indiscernible). And -- but I ended  
13          up doing on my own, you know what I mean?

14                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

15                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     They were there, and,  
16          like, medicine bears there, and I think that's -- just  
17          knowing that you guys are there, that Medicine Bear is  
18          there, has given me so much more strength in -- in myself.  
19          And I'm so glad that I reconnected again.

20                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Do you want to speak a  
21          little bit about Medicine Bear?

22                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Yes.

23                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     What did they do?

24                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Medicine Bear, when I  
25          first went, because I'm just -- because I used to be

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           delivering programs and stuff, I'm sometimes hesitant, and  
2           it's humbling to go to a program.

3                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

4                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    But I went.  And it  
5           just -- it's more than the feeling there, I think it is, is  
6           that --

7                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

8                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- it's just acceptance  
9           and love, and there's no judgment.

10                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

11                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And it's just -- it  
12           was -- that it was what drew me back.  My kids got bugs, so  
13           we had to leave for a little while.  (Laughter).

14                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Your kids got what,  
15           sorry?

16                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Lice.

17                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Oh.

18                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    So we had to leave for a  
19           little while because, you know, you don't want to pass that  
20           stuff around.

21                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

22                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    But we left for a while,  
23           and then I just didn't go back for a while.  And then when  
24           I went back, and it was just, like, I can't believe we  
25           stayed away for so long because it's just the feeling

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           that's there. I mean, you -- you smell the medicines. You  
2           see -- you see just other families. Yeah. It's the  
3           feeling, the acceptance, and that there's just no judgment.  
4           I didn't even know, like, sometimes I have a hard time -- I  
5           have a big hard time asking for help.

6                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

7                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And then I was trying to  
8           get out to a ceremony. And then I was, like, I'm not going  
9           to make it. And then [Staff], one of the staff at Medicine  
10          Bear, said, I can take you. No, you can take me?  
11          And -- (Laughter) then it's the best thing that could have  
12          ever happened to us was for us to get to that ceremony,  
13          and --

14                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

15                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- that Anishinaabe.  
16          Because it -- my kids were -- like, they're asking me stuff  
17          and they're wanting stuff. And -- and I just -- I don't  
18          have the resources for them, to -- to give them what they  
19          need and the things that they're asking me for, and -- and  
20          to be able to take them to that ceremony and just -- all we  
21          have to do is grab our clothes.

22                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

23                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Just grab our clothes.  
24          And then at the last minute I was, like, oh, we don't have  
25          anything to eat on. She says, Don't worry about it. I got

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           it already. And a tent and everything, sleeping bags, and  
2           we just had to go. And that was the best thing.

3                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    The reason why I ask is  
4           because it also matters very much to the Commissioners to  
5           understand what is working, so that that can be expanded  
6           upon. So a Medicine Bear, if there's other things you want  
7           to speak to that you know are working.

8                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    You know what I see a  
9           need is is that the kids, the little ones and their  
10          little -- like, I -- I leave them to their own, but  
11          I -- they come back once in a while with, like, little  
12          drawings of turtles or whatever or, like, a wolf.

13                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

14                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And they're telling me  
15          about, like a teaching. If they could have, like, a little  
16          rattle-making session for the kids, like -- because my kids  
17          are asking for that stuff. Like, [Nephew], trying to make  
18          a rattle.

19                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

20                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And where is he getting  
21          that stuff from? And I'm thinking if -- you know, my kids  
22          are thinking these things. These other kids got to need  
23          these things, too.

24                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

25                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I mean, we all need



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           these things. Like, they can start getting smudge bundles  
2           together, because I was thinking, well, my little girl  
3           is -- I wanted to give them little responsibilities and  
4           just, like, give them something to -- to -- to start  
5           practicing what we're doing at home.

6                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

7                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    What I'm doing, showing  
8           them, so that they're actually doing it hands-on  
9           themselves. [Niece 1] has a little -- a little bag with  
10          her -- with a -- with a little grandmother in it, some  
11          smudge in it, and a little teeny shawl. Well, we're out of  
12          smudge now. But they need the -- each need their little  
13          smudge bundles. They need their feast bundles. All these  
14          kids. I mean, if we could -- if Medicine Bear or  
15          programs -- medicine -- it has to be Medicine Bear.

16                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah. (Laughter).

17                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Because the feeling is  
18          there. But, I mean, they like being with these other  
19          little kids there. They like playing with them. They're,  
20          like, my -- my little kids are making family, a bigger  
21          family, all over the place. One of the little kids, when  
22          we went to -- we went to Dodie's -- no. Dorothy's, the  
23          camp there? And my kids adopted one of their little kids.  
24          So we're, like -- our family is getting bigger and bigger  
25          and bigger, right? Which is awesome. And --

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    It sounds like a family  
2                   of the heart.

3                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Yes.  A little, like,  
4                   rattle-making, drug making.  Like, my kids need their  
5                   things.  And I don't have the resources to get the -- get  
6                   it for them.  They want to dance.  They want to dance  
7                   powwow.  They want to sing.  They need their hand drums.  
8                   They need -- like, all their stuff.  And when I see, like,  
9                   when I -- when I seen [Niece 1] this morning, and I said,  
10                  come on.  This was the last thing I picked up to put in my  
11                  bag.

12                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

13                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And I was -- I looked at  
14                  her, and I says, here, Pray for my water.  And she stood  
15                  there.  And I tried not to look, eh?  
16                  So -- (laughter) -- and then [Niece 2], her sister, was  
17                  "she's not saying anything."  I said, "She's praying in her  
18                  mind.  She's praying quietly to herself.  " And then I saw  
19                  her, how she moved, you know?

20                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Just like you do.

21                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Yes.  And I know that  
22                  [Niece 2] is ready to start, too, because she's watching  
23                  her sister, and she's wanting to know.  Well, what  
24                  is -- like, she's not saying anything.  She wants to know  
25                  what to say, right?  So they need their things.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.  Okay.  Gave her  
2                   that.

3                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    If they had -- like, the  
4                   way that I see Medicine Bear, if we had Medicine Bear a  
5                   long time ago, like, from my family, things could have been  
6                   so different, eh?  I think, in just having -- being around  
7                   other families and, you know, having that support.  It's  
8                   like -- it's -- it's -- it's spoken, but unspoken, too.  
9                   It's unconditional.

10                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

11                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    We have, like, family  
12                  dynamics in our circle, too.  And I think even, like,  
13                  having an understanding of that, that -- that sometimes  
14                  stuff like that is going to happen.  But that's okay.  
15                  That's just part of growth and our growing.  Like, I think  
16                  about my sister Kinew, and watching her when she was  
17                  growing up, and how she was so interested in -- in, like,  
18                  learning from my dad, eh?  And I was learning from -- from  
19                  her when my dad was teaching her how to count and other  
20                  words.  And, like, things that my dad did, like, when  
21                  he'd -- we were having a sharing circle -- I didn't know  
22                  what a sharing circle was, but he'd, like, get us all in a  
23                  circle on the floor, and we'd be talking and sharing,  
24                  talking.

25                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   And, like, I see these  
2                   things now, like, all the things that he did for us. And  
3                   that's what -- I think that all of our kids need. All  
4                   of -- like, they need a grounding and a really solid  
5                   foundation.

6                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

7                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And now I can give that  
8                   to these three little ones. You know, at least they have a  
9                   fighting chance. And they're not going to have  
10                  to -- because I'm so conscious. I want them to be able to  
11                  talk about things. I want them to be able to -- to know  
12                  that it's okay, and that -- that they're going to be safe.  
13                  They're going to be protected. And that I'm there for a  
14                  long time. I don't know how to deal with [Nephew] being  
15                  worried about me dying because I'm older. They know I'm  
16                  older.

17                           My sister Kinew -- I want all of those -- I  
18                           want to know as much as possible. I want everything that  
19                           she was involved with, all of the reports that she  
20                           participated in. I -- I remember my sister, watching my  
21                           sister when she was at a powwow or -- or out somewhere and  
22                           just how she was excited there. And it was -- it's like  
23                           the way that I see my -- my little ones. They're so  
24                           excited, and they want to be involved. They want to help.  
25                           And I saw that. I see -- I see it now, but

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           it -- nobody -- nobody did anything for my sister Kinew or  
2           my brother [Brother 2].

3                           There was an Elder that came to me. It  
4           just -- it just came to me now. When we had the  
5           healing -- jingle dress healing round dance at Portage and  
6           Main for our families when the -- the special investigator  
7           was here? That -- oh, I don't remember his name. The UN  
8           guy. I can picture him. He went special repertoire,  
9           something like that. Anyway, at that time -- I lost my  
10          thought where I was going. The things that my dad got us  
11          involved in, like, introduced us to and tried to keep us in  
12          our lives is what I believe saved me and saved us. My  
13          nephew, one of my nephews, Devon, he said to me a couple  
14          years ago, because I used to take them when I had a vehicle  
15          and I was working, and on weekends I'd go out to Saugeen  
16          every weekend.

17                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

18                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And it was like they  
19          said. You know, they were preparing for ceremony. You're  
20          living ceremony. You're preparing for Sundance all year  
21          along.

22                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yes.

23                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    So every weekend we're  
24          out there. We're doing something for that Sundance that's  
25          going to happen, the next Sundance or for the next meeting.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           They need that consistency, and I can't give that to them  
2           right now because --

3                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     You need what?

4                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     I can't give that to  
5           them right now because I don't have a vehicle. I don't  
6           have the means.

7                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Yeah.

8                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     But when I see, like,  
9           how all of those kids that I used to take out there all the  
10          time, and we'd be preparing -- probably two years we did  
11          that, every weekend, we'd be out there, and just how much  
12          they loved all the kids -- these -- the kids that I took  
13          out there.

14                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

15                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     The kids from group  
16          homes, and just how they just like being on the land. And  
17          the girls, like, you know, being challenging. They're not  
18          supposed to be cutting wood and stuff, and we were cutting  
19          wood because the girls were saying, oh, we can do a better  
20          job than you guys, and we're just -- you know, work just as  
21          hard. And that competitiveness and, you know, I want to  
22          know more, and I want to do more.

23                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Yeah.

24                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     And I see that. That  
25          wasn't -- that Elder said that -- he says, you know, he

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1        says, I knew your brother [Brother 2] before -- before that  
2        happened. I -- he was -- he says, I knew that he was  
3        asking for help. I could see it in his eyes. I knew he  
4        was asking for help. I didn't know what to do.

5                    **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

6                    **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I didn't know what to  
7        do. Well, we have people that know and have an idea. And  
8        I think part of what happened was that he was afraid. That  
9        Elder was afraid back then.

10                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    (indiscernible).

11                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    That he didn't know how  
12        to handle whatever it was that he was -- was placed before  
13        him, eh?

14                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

15                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    But I know that there's  
16        people out there that -- that do have the skills and the  
17        knowledge to be able to work with our people so that we can  
18        live better lives. We don't have to be trying to medicate  
19        ourselves or trying to -- trying to forget.

20                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

21                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    You know? We  
22        can -- they can work with our people and work with our  
23        young people. I just need the means to get there.

24                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

25                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And it's just, like, our

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 whole lives, the systems that we've been involved with have  
2 failed us, and they have -- didn't know what to do. And  
3 now there's people that do know and are stepping up. And  
4 they need to let them do that. They need to let them do  
5 the work. They need to be able to let our people do that  
6 heeling the way that they want to do it, the way that they  
7 see that they do it.

8 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

9 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** My friend told me to  
10 call [Nephew] "[Nephew]." He says, Wake up that blood  
11 memory in him.

12 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

13 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And I took it further.  
14 I prayed lots over the years for my family, my siblings.  
15 My mom's family. I wanted to pray for these kids. I don't  
16 want them to have to experience all this crap.

17 **MS. MATILDA ROULETTE BEHM:** Yeah.

18 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And they're going to  
19 know how to use their voices because they're already doing  
20 it.

21 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm. M'hm. Part  
22 of -- I know now part of why that foster mom was doing all  
23 that, undermining and -- they knew what was happening.  
24 They knew what was happening to my niece. People's fear,  
25 my family knows that [Niece 1] was molested, and they're



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           afraid of her.

2                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Why?

3                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     They don't know how  
4           to -- they don't know how to handle it. They don't know  
5           how to deal with it. But it's not anything. It's just a  
6           little girl that something bad happened to. She's not  
7           going to do it to anybody else. And I know that's what  
8           their fear is. But I know, because she's strong. She's  
9           talking about what happened to her. And they're saying  
10          that's -- that's an amazing thing for her -- for her young  
11          age, for her to be talking about what happened to her and  
12          what her experience was over there. And for her to be able  
13          to say that to the day care worker last week, and that  
14          she's happy where she's at, that she's not being hurt  
15          anymore.

16                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     That's really huge.

17                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Yeah.

18                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Yeah.

19                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     She's eight.

20                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

21                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     She can say that.

22                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     And you had a huge part  
23          in that?

24                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     That's what

25          they -- that's what they say. She felt -- she feels

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 comfortable or safe enough to be able to talk.

2 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

3 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And there's -- from what  
4 I understand or what I'm -- it's -- this stuff is  
5 so -- well, I'm not going to get into details for her. I'm  
6 just going to -- it's -- you know, I get the impression  
7 that there's something bigger with this situation with  
8 [Niece 1] and what -- what happened to her in that foster  
9 home.

10 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

11 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** There was other children  
12 that were there.

13 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Oh.

14 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And I'm coming  
15 by -- coming across these things, like, this knowledge in a  
16 way that I'm not supposed to have the knowledge. You know  
17 what I mean?

18 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

19 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I'm not supposed to know  
20 this stuff. But I do. I don't know how to say that or  
21 even put that or how to articulate it.

22 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Like, it -- do you  
23 mean, like, intuitive knowledge?

24 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Intuitive at first.

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   And then that there was  
2                   something more.   But now I'm -- like, people are not  
3                   telling me everything.   I know there's more, and they want  
4                   to tell me, but they can't tell me.

5                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**   Yeah.

6                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   Like, they're giving me  
7                   a little bit, just to, like -- I don't know.   To quiet me  
8                   down or to give me more so that I want to go after that  
9                   with that -- what is it?   What is it that you're not  
10                  telling me?   What is that you're keeping?   Because [Niece  
11                  1] is talking -- was talking -- like, the stuff that she's  
12                  talking about, where is that going within the  
13                  investigation?   Are they following up on that stuff?   Like,  
14                  I want to know that stuff.   And I haven't been able to get  
15                  anywhere.   August 23rd was the last time -- was the last  
16                  little -- I think the 16-year-old was to go to court on  
17                  August 23rd.   The mom went to court -- the foster mom went  
18                  to court and got two years' probation, six months time  
19                  served at home, where she could only go to church and work.  
20                  And so there's -- I mean, she's out and about all the time,  
21                  basically, because she's involved in the church, right?  
22                  And -- oh, and the 14-year-old boy got two months -- no,  
23                  two years' probation.   He's on the sex offenders registry,  
24                  and he has to go for counselling.

25                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**   M'hm.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   And then there was  
2           the -- this -- this last one, but then she's -- my niece,  
3           like, was telling me that there was other little kids in  
4           there, other things that happened to other little kids in  
5           there.

6                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**   Wow.

7                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   What's happening with  
8           them? I know what happened, like, in regards to my niece.

9                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**   Yeah.

10                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   And that's, like,  
11           for -- for the stuff she put up with, that's, like -- that  
12           really angers me a lot. And to -- I have to pee.

13                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**   Okay.

14                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   And for -- for --

15                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**   Break?

16                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   Yes.

17                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**   Okay.

18                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   Thank you.

19                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**   We're going to take a  
20           quick break. Break break.

21                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   So I'm -- I'm thinking  
22           about, you know, things that are working -- or that I see  
23           working for me -- that are working for me right now and  
24           that are working for my kids.

25                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**   Yeah.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   And things that I've  
2           seen, like, working -- like, just advocating and being  
3           there for other families myself, because I -- I've helped  
4           families with organize -- because I'm a women's drug group.

5                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

6                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And we were -- we sang  
7           at vigils, and they seen us.  And so we've been approached  
8           to do that kind of stuff.  And then people were asking,  
9           like, can you help me organize it?  Can you help us do  
10          this?  And it's just kind of naturally something that I  
11          picked up, I guess, growing up is that, you know, when  
12          there's a death in the family, you go and help those  
13          people.  You go and support them, eh?  And the best way  
14          that I always knew was just to go and, like, here, have  
15          some food, you know, eat some food, and, you know, take  
16          care of people that way, and just, like, clean up and  
17          stuff.

18                   **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:**   M'hm.

19                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Being there for other  
20          family members, like, peer support --

21                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yes.

22                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- like, I know -- like,  
23          other family members who have skills and gifts that aren't  
24          being utilized because they're -- the focus is on the pain  
25          right now and --

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

2                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- for a lot of years, I  
3                   couldn't even see past that.  And being able to, like, do  
4                   that for other families, being able to support them  
5                   in -- in just organizing, like, make an event page on  
6                   Facebook.  That's, like, simple to do.

7                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

8                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    In some instances, but  
9                   then for -- like, for me to do it for myself, I need  
10                  someone else to do that for me because it's just too much.  
11                  So, like, being able to do that for someone, because I was  
12                  able to help families with that, taking care of that  
13                  spiritual side of things.  And what's -- was always really  
14                  strong in -- in -- what I've always picked up in -- in what  
15                  our Elders were teaching us and at lodges and at ceremonies  
16                  is that we always have to take care of those things first.  
17                  This morning, I smoked my pipe at 5 o'clock this morning  
18                  for the first time, this new pipe that I got, a newer pipe.

19                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

20                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Because I had been  
21                  hesitant, eh?  I've been, like, really hard on myself, too.  
22                  And I've hurt people in finding -- trying to find myself  
23                  and in my own healing.  And that -- I had to -- I had to  
24                  come to the conclusion that I deserve good things, too.

25                  **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:**    Yes.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. MATILDA ROULETTE BEHM:**       Yes.

2                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     And I deserve healing.

3                   And I don't need to be there.   And you know what?   My loved  
4                   ones want me to have that healing and to be able to move  
5                   forward, that they're not being forgotten.   Our family  
6                   is -- if someone -- like, I say that now, eh?   And I was  
7                   able to get that from helping other families and other  
8                   families -- like, I didn't even know that came and helped  
9                   me when I didn't even know that I needed help or -- or that  
10                  I wanted help.   You know what I mean?   And just being  
11                  there, you know.

12                  And I have -- there's a family member that I  
13                  know that cuts hair.   Like, you know, and our families are  
14                  always struggling.   Like, me for bus fare.   Families  
15                  are -- like, they need money to do their memorials or to do  
16                  their mocks or to go searching and stuff like that.  
17                  There's one woman that I know that cuts hair.   Let's bring  
18                  her in and cut hair.   There's people that I know, like,  
19                  know how to do these things, like beading like Jerry did.  
20                  People I know that know how to make rattles.   And  
21                  sometimes, like, I remember sitting in a -- sitting with  
22                  some kokoms because -- because I'm older now -- (Laughter).

23                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     (indiscernible).

24                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Yeah.   I'm a younger

25                  kokom.   Is that sometimes, too, our -- our kokoms and our

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 grandpas and our mosoms are shy, eh?

2 **MS. MATILDA ROULETTE BEHM:** Yeah.

3 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Shy to -- to talk about  
4 those things and --

5 **MS. MATILDA ROULETTE BEHM:** M'hm.

6 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- to talk about "hey, I  
7 remember this, I remember that." I remember one -- one  
8 family member was talking about when -- when on her walk,  
9 she was -- she met a man who talked about gathering, like,  
10 the moth wings. And then he used that, eh? On your eyes.  
11 Things like that, eh.

12 **MS. MATILDA ROULETTE BEHM:** M'hm.

13 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Things that you pick up,  
14 like, little things like that. And things that -- that our  
15 kokoms and mosoms used to do just naturally, eh? But now,  
16 because of residential schools and because --

17 **MS. MATILDA ROULETTE BEHM:** Yeah.

18 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- everything that we've  
19 been through, people are shy to -- to talk about. I've  
20 been shy.

21 **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:** (indiscernible).

22 Yeah.

23 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Yeah. Fear. M'hm.

24 **MS. MATILDA ROULETTE BEHM:** I have a  
25 question.



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    M'hm.

2                   **MS. MATILDA ROULETTE BEHM:** You mentioned  
3                   moth, but so what did they do with the -- is that, like,  
4                   for --

5                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    For nightmares and bad  
6                   dreams. It -- like, that -- that man would gather  
7                   the -- the --

8                   **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:**    The wings?

9                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- the wings, and then  
10                  it -- it turns into powder, eh? You just put a little bit  
11                  of powder, and it's supposed to help with those -- take  
12                  away those bad dreams.

13                  **MS. MATILDA ROULETTE BEHM:** Okay.

14                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Those nightmares.

15                  **MS. MATILDA ROULETTE BEHM:**    I thought it  
16                  was for makeup. (Laughter).

17                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    It'd be nice, yeah? Eh?

18                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    For the record, that  
19                  was Matilda, the health support, asking the question.

20                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And things like that.  
21                  Like -- like, a little bit of each. Like, when I went on  
22                  walks, when I walked from Winnipeg to -- I made it as far  
23                  as Sault St. Marie and turned back.

24                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

25                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And joined another walk

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 coming back this way. Walk for nations. But things that  
2 we picked up in different communities. Like, a kokom would  
3 come up and, you know, I -- you know, I remember we used to  
4 talk about this or my -- my family used to talk about this,  
5 and this is what we used to do. Those things like that,  
6 eh? We have all those skills. And, like, in our circle  
7 at -- I'm thinking at Medicine Bear, and we're -- and I'm  
8 looking at how rich everybody is or how rich our family is  
9 because of all of -- everybody that's there, because  
10 everybody has something. But how can we bring it out?  
11 Like, the one that does the haircuts? I can do hand drum  
12 workshops, eh? Or other kind of workshops. But, you know,  
13 everybody has something that they can contribute and just  
14 make us all richer within -- I mean, not monetary. You  
15 know what I mean?

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

17 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** That helps, too, I mean,  
18 because our families are struggling so much. Give them a  
19 little bit of an honorarium. Hey, come and -- hey, can you  
20 come and do haircuts for the family share or can you come  
21 and do a workshop on this over here? Hey, you do this  
22 really good. Can you come and do this for our families?  
23 We'll give a little bit of money to help you. You know  
24 what I mean? Stuff like that.

25 **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:** Yeah.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Because our families are  
2                   struggling. Like, providing opportunities for, like, the  
3                   little ones. Like I said, they have the day care. And I  
4                   don't think there's anything structured in there, but those  
5                   people, though, that woman and there's another woman that  
6                   was there, but she had to leave. There was a death in the  
7                   family. But they're amazing. They're not  
8                   Indigent -- well, they're Indigenous, but they're not like  
9                   our Indigenous. (Laughter). So, like, even that, like  
10                  sharing things like that, just we're -- our people are  
11                  really rich. And --

12                  **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:**    Yes.

13                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- when we're able to  
14                  utilize that and -- because once people said, hey, you know  
15                  what? You sing really good. Can you come and sing for us?  
16                  Can you come and help us organize with this? Can you help  
17                  us, like, make a feast or put a feast together, stuff that  
18                  I knew how to do. I was able to start getting out there  
19                  and talking. 2011, Walk For Justice came through Winnipeg.  
20                  I met Gladys. And I was already -- we had already started  
21                  going to the walks, and I was already starting to sing.  
22                  And then I was thinking, what about me? What about my  
23                  family? My mom was murdered, too. My stepmom was  
24                  murdered. You know, I felt okay to talk about my stepmom,  
25                  but it was, you know, my mom, I wasn't able to bring her

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 out until 2011 when I took a picture. I didn't put her  
2 picture on -- on the banner or anything, but I carried her  
3 picture with me. And they knew. And I didn't add her name  
4 to any lists. Well, she's on now, but -- that's okay.

5 Break break.

6 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Oh, not off. Okay.

7 Okay.

8 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** This is tobacco. I'm  
9 going to put some tobacco ties out after for my -- for my  
10 family and I.

11 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

12 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** All of them, even my  
13 mom's -- my mom's side. What I wanted to say, too, was  
14 that I understand the confidentiality, like, around  
15 this -- my statement and providing my statement to the  
16 National Inquiry. But in -- but --

17 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

18 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- in our way, the way  
19 that I understand things and the way -- what I wanted to  
20 say in the beginning was to -- if there's anything that I  
21 share that can help somebody else, you guys are welcome to  
22 do that.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

24 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** You guys can do that.

25 **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:** Thank you. Thank

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           you.

2                           **MS. MATILDA ROULETTE BEHM:**     All right.

3                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Use my name if you -- if  
4           you want to or if you need to.  If you -- and you can ask  
5           me, too, but I'm -- I'm good with that because I want  
6           people to know and to understand, eh?  And to have an idea  
7           that there is something better.  And -- and it's inside of  
8           us, and we've just got to give ourselves that permission  
9           to -- to look at, like I said, how hard I've been on  
10          myself, like, wanting to get closure and healing and  
11          everything for my -- my family, but I've got to look at me,  
12          too, and myself, first, because I've been putting myself  
13          out there so much for -- I've been the spokesperson.  I've  
14          been, you know, the one who's --

15                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

16                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     -- I need healing, too,  
17          and I need help, too.

18                           **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:**   (indiscernible) and  
19          self-care.

20                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Yeah.

21                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Thank you.

22                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     But I want to give that  
23          permission --

24                           **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:**   Thank you.

25                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     -- to -- for you guys to

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 be able to do that. Whoever has been sitting in here, if  
2 they picked up something that -- from me that  
3 could -- might be able to -- because, you know, when we're  
4 someplace and then, hey, so-and-so said that? Share.

5 **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:** Yeah.

6 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Yeah.

7 **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:** You could help  
8 others say.

9 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Yeah. Because I see  
10 the -- I see that my sister did that. And when she was in  
11 jail, she did a lot, and she said, no, if you're going  
12 to -- if you're going to use my words, use my name. Tell  
13 them -- tell them who's saying these words.

14 **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:** Yeah.

15 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** That's the same -- the  
16 same way that I feel.

17 **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:** (indiscernible).

18 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Every study or research  
19 that I've come across, I signed up for it, and I tell them,  
20 this is my -- this is the way that it's been for me, use my  
21 name. And I understand where my sister Kinew got that  
22 from, too, eh, because that's the way that we are as people  
23 in that -- that we share those things, eh? So I want to  
24 give that permission, that -- express it, that it's okay  
25 for that.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     (indiscernible).

2                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Hearing -- I don't know.

3                   I just -- I see so many of our families and members out  
4                   there who I just want to rescue everybody, eh? But I know.  
5                   I've got to focus on me. (Laughter). And but -- hey, if  
6                   she can do this, go and get her to do this, you know? And  
7                   it's going to -- and we need to be able to have more  
8                   opportunities where we can utilize our family members that  
9                   way, especially our new family members who are coming in.  
10                  Because of my teachings and the way that I -- my dad  
11                  taught, I was already putting myself out there --

12                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

13                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     -- without even knowing  
14                  what I was doing, really. Yeah. I wanted to know more  
15                  about that study that -- that I mentioned about  
16                  Dr. Gallagher had said about women like me, whose moms are  
17                  violently -- have that depression.

18                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

19                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     And it's like no major  
20                  highs or lows. But -- because I can recognize it now in my  
21                  myself and -- and knowing that, because as soon as she said  
22                  it, I was, like, are you -- what? Are you serious? And  
23                  then it was just, like, bang, bang, bang, bang, I started  
24                  understanding some stuff -- a bunch of stuff, right? And  
25                  then I was, like, wow. Another place that's really help so

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 much is Eeakeen (ph) here in Winnipeg.

2 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

3 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** In that they do the  
4 Indigenous perspectives on grief and loss. And then the  
5 way that they worked us -- walked us through that  
6 session -- it's not a workshop. It's -- they worked us  
7 through the session where they're -- they're teaching us  
8 how to do these things. Like, they're training us how to  
9 do these things, on how to take care of ourselves, how  
10 to -- I went to Understanding Anxiety and Depression at  
11 Eaekeen. And it -- it -- and it -- it may -- I'm going on  
12 mess it up, but the way that they made it sound was that it  
13 was, like, yeah. All this stuff has happened, and  
14 it's -- it's affecting me in how I look and how I act at  
15 everything. And I don't want that anymore. And I don't  
16 have to. I can move that stuff aside and come from where  
17 we were supposed to come from originally, from that place  
18 inside of us, that really good place. And it's there.  
19 And, one being able to sit in that session and listen to  
20 them and -- and this resonates with me.

21 This stuff is what is -- is what's making a  
22 difference, and what I'm hearing from our Elders and  
23 from -- from our traditional teachers and saying, These are  
24 what we need. This is what we need to do. We have to take  
25 care of spirit. And that's what -- that -- part of that is



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 understanding and letting go of that stuff --

2 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

3 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- is letting -- being  
4 able to look at -- from that place inside again, that  
5 really good place, and not be clouded by all of that stuff.  
6 But I have a long way to go, so I have a lot of stuff to  
7 clear out, eh? But having that understanding and knowing  
8 that this process doesn't have to be harsh. It doesn't  
9 have to be brutal, the way that you have to confront this,  
10 you have to do this, you have to face this, you have to  
11 acknowledge this, and all this, you know? It's -- it's  
12 actually a gentle process, and it's -- it's really kind.

13 And when I heard my nephew say to me a  
14 couple years ago, when I used to take them to ceremonies  
15 and stuff, and family dynamics -- my sister asked me not to  
16 take them anymore. And I understand that -- where it comes  
17 from, eh. And no. But he said to me, when I was telling  
18 him about -- about the earthwork, land protection, water  
19 protection, and that I was introducing them to that, and he  
20 says, You could have saved us, Auntie. You could have  
21 saved us.

22 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Oh.

23 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And to hear him say  
24 that, and just -- I -- I could have. I'm doing the best  
25 that I can right now. And I'm glad that he brings his son

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 to me, eh? Because he knows he's part of my family, too,  
2 eh.

3 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

4 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I included him  
5 and -- and his son when I made my offering to  
6 that -- that -- that oak tree --

7 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

8 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- for family. My son  
9 has guardianship of his son.

10 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

11 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And he comes to Medicine  
12 Bear, too, as well, because I told him, just come and be in  
13 this place. Just come. Just come. If he's still  
14 (indiscernible) at least he's there because he's picking up  
15 stuff. And he actually is helping me to work through  
16 stuff, too, eh, about understanding family dynamics,  
17 especially, in our little circles. And sometimes that  
18 happens, and we just need to, you know, unconditionally  
19 just move ourselves back and just love them for them, you  
20 know? Smart kids. Holy moly.

21 But when I hear, like, these kids  
22 sing -- saying these things, and my niece and nephew,  
23 they're telling me, like, the things that they want to do  
24 and the things that they need, and they're -- they're -- I  
25 see them, and I listen to them. Like, I threw our TVs out,

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           eh? We have one TV, so -- because I started noticing -- we  
2           didn't have cable.

3                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

4                       **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And then my little guy  
5           would come out of the bedroom. Hi, Mommy, give me a kiss  
6           and a hug. And then as soon as we got cable back, he's in  
7           front of the TV. As soon as that -- as soon as he wakes  
8           up.

9                       **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

10                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    No, I don't like this.

11                      **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:**   M'hm. Yeah.

12                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    What else? I wish it  
13           didn't have to be such a fight to get answers.

14                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

15                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Like, with the things  
16           that happened, like for -- like what happened to my mom.

17                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

18                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I don't even know who  
19           to -- where to go or who to talk to. I'm having a hard  
20           time trying to get answers with what is going on with my  
21           niece, [Niece 1], and her case.

22                      **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

23                      **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    It shouldn't be such a  
24           struggle to get information, especially when that  
25           information is going to be providing -- I don't even know.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 Not closure, but some kind of peace of mind. But -- and  
2 like, this -- it's like my family -- my dad has  
3 been -- okay. My dad -- my grandpa, all my ancestors, have  
4 been fighting all along. We've all been fighting. And  
5 it'd be nice if my nieces and nephews don't have to fight  
6 so much, you know what I mean? All of them. If they  
7 didn't have to -- like, if people -- I don't know. If  
8 people just knew. If people just knew not to judge and not  
9 to be so harsh on people. I wonder about people like me,  
10 who just about didn't have a chance to come and give their  
11 statement because of what happened to me when I first went  
12 to it, and then they -- oh, hey, you guys, you can all come  
13 together. That's not a good idea.

14 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

15 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Not from -- not  
16 from -- it wasn't for me and my family.

17 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay. What -- what  
18 would have been -- what did you need?

19 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** Because, you know what,  
20 we each have different perspectives.

21 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

22 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** They should not have  
23 lumped us all together. And because of the family  
24 dynamics, yeah, we're a strong family, but we still have  
25 those issues --

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

2                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     -- that -- that are  
3                   unsolved or unresolved, that created a barrier for us to be  
4                   able to do that presentation together.  And when I said  
5                   that I wanted to do it privately, that's the best option  
6                   for me --

7                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

8                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     -- and then being pushed  
9                   into doing it like that.  You know what?  When that  
10                  happened, and then oh, when that meeting that I crashed,  
11                  that one meeting that I crashed when the Commissionaires  
12                  came to Ma Mawi?  At that meeting, [Foster Dad] came up to  
13                  me and said that her -- the woman that my sister killed,  
14                  her daughter or her younger sister ended up being, like,  
15                  they raised her as family.  And then -- and I don't know,  
16                  like -- just, like, oh, hey, I wanted to tell you something  
17                  that I -- tell you that information.

18                  And I'm just, like, I have no clue why or  
19                  what -- what -- I just, like, okay.  So I don't know -- I  
20                  don't think.  Why -- why are you telling me this?  Why do  
21                  you want me to know this?  And then that never got  
22                  answered.  But you know what?  I felt like she was saying,  
23                  you know what, your sister killed somebody, your sister  
24                  doesn't deserve to -- to have her voice heard here.  But I  
25                  stood up, and I spoke on behalf of my sister there.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

2                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     But then after that, it  
3                   was just, like -- like that.  If I could see -- like, on my  
4                   town -- like, thinking back about where -- because all this  
5                   stuff is coming up at the National Inquiry and everyone is  
6                   fighting for an inquiry.  My brother George gets diagnosed  
7                   with brain cancer.  He's not supposed -- he's given three  
8                   weeks to live.  He lived for four more years.  And he's  
9                   talking about, you know, still wanting to raise awareness.  
10                  It was the men's drum thing.  He used to come out all the  
11                  time to the vigils.

12                  And he said every time that we -- he posted  
13                  on Facebook -- and I -- I cut it out and I saved  
14                  it -- every time there was a call out for a drum,  
15                  we -- the -- the guys would pick up the drum and be there  
16                  right away.  That -- he said, that never happened.  I mean,  
17                  it was us that started answering those calls.  And then  
18                  being judged as women drumming, eh?  And --

19                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Yeah.

20                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     -- you know, not giving  
21                  us an opportunity to share our visions and dreams and,  
22                  like, what those were about.  And the prophecies were why  
23                  we're carrying and becoming big drum carriers, eh?  And  
24                  yeah.  Holy moly.

25                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    But my brother never had  
2                   a chance because he died before giving -- before having an  
3                   opportunity to talk about what it was like for him to  
4                   struggle as a -- as a little boy, eight months, he lost his  
5                   mom.

6                                There's -- I never did watch anybody's  
7                   testimony, doing statements.

8                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

9                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I couldn't.

10                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

11                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I couldn't watch my  
12                   brother and sister, either, when they gave their statement.  
13                   But I really felt abandoned by everybody.  Because I'm a  
14                   strong woman, and I'm supposed to do it on my own, and  
15                   that's what everybody thinks, but I'm not.  I need that  
16                   help, too.

17                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Yeah.

18                   **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:**   Right here.

19                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    And I really felt  
20                   abandoned by my family, by my siblings, by the systems.  I  
21                   never felt embraced by anybody, anyway, other than trying  
22                   to take away the little good that we had.

23                                If we could take little kids, like -- I have  
24                   this, like, this dream place that I would like,  
25                   that -- when a -- a family suffers a loss, and then we can

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1 just -- you know, just wrap our community around them and  
2 just help each other, because you know what? We're still  
3 hearing that -- that when there's a missing person, one of  
4 our girls are missing, one of our boys are missing --

5 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

6 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** -- it's not getting  
7 addressed. It's not getting the due attention that it  
8 needs. People see now.

9 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** It's very  
10 alive -- we're living it.

11 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** M'hm. And the -- all  
12 these other little -- all the -- all these people -- all  
13 these young people out there need to know there's people  
14 fighting for them.

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

16 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** People fighting for  
17 their moms and dads. After my brother was diagnosed, my  
18 sister died. And then the inquest. And then I found out  
19 about [Niece 1]. I asked for help.

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

21 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** I asked for help all the  
22 time.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

24 **MS. CHERYL JAMES:** And they still asked me,  
25 how come you didn't ask for help? Okay. I did. They just



**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1           didn't hear.

2                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

3                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Or they thought I could  
4           take care of it myself.

5                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    And I heard you say  
6           just how hard it is for you to ask for help.

7                           **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    M'hm.

8                           **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    You know, and here you  
9           are asking for help, and you're not getting any response.

10                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    M'hm. Physically, from  
11           physical people.

12                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

13                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I've got to add that  
14           because I came to the realization that although -- that I'm  
15           not getting that help from people --

16                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

17                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- or systems, is that  
18           every single day that I'm asking for help and I'm getting  
19           help with my little ones, and I know --

20                          **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    You mean spiritually?  
21           M'hm.

22                          **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Because I see the -- I  
23           see the proof. I see them. I see how strong they are. So  
24           I know that we are getting help, but not the help that I  
25           think that I need. You know what I mean?

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     You mean

2                   (indiscernible)?

3                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Yeah.

4                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Not necessarily the  
5                   help you want.

6                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Or the way that I see  
7                   it.

8                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     The help you might  
9                   need.

10                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**     Or into my time. No,  
11                  I'm just kidding. (Laughter). I don't want any more of our  
12                  kids to be lost. And yeah. They need to have that -- that  
13                  support. They need to be able to have those -- like, as  
14                  soon as my little guy showed me that he needed that rattle  
15                  or that he was going to be working with the Thunders, my  
16                  mind went to where am I going to get the money to be able  
17                  to get those things that he needs? That's the realization.  
18                  I need tobacco. It costs money. Actually, there's a  
19                  little garden -- a little flower garden, but they haven't  
20                  harvested yet.

21                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     Problem-solving me  
22                  mode. I got really upset with Jade in the beginning, and  
23                  I -- I carried that into here, I believe. I saw, actually,  
24                  because I held a lot of frustration still with the process.

25                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**     M'hm. M'hm.

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**   And -- because she's  
2                   kind of like a figure -- I'm going to tell her this,  
3                   too -- because she's kind of like the figure of the process  
4                   or part of the process that --

5                   **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:**    Yes.

6                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    -- that she's got some  
7                   of that.

8                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.

9                   **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:**    Yeah.

10                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    It's hard.  I know it's  
11                  hard.  I couldn't do it.

12                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    M'hm.

13                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I couldn't even be a  
14                  statement-gatherer for the -- yeah.  We couldn't even  
15                  volunteer.

16                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Well, it's like you  
17                  said.  We all have our gifts now, and we utilize them as  
18                  best as we can.

19                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    I think I'm done.

20                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Okay.  That feels  
21                  complete for you?

22                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Yeah.

23                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    Do you feel heard?

24                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Yeah.

25                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    I just wanted to thank

**Cheryl Ann James****(Shirley James & Kinew James)**

1       you again. It's -- really, it's a privilege, and it's an  
2       honour to share space for you. And I -- I heard you say  
3       before that, you know, growing up, nobody seen you, and  
4       that you wish people seen you so that you could get the  
5       help that you needed and the care that you needed. And I  
6       just want you to know that I see you. I see that big  
7       heart.

8                   **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Thank you.

9                   **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    And I see that you're  
10       changing things for your niece and your nephew.

11                  **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:**    M'hm.

12                  **MS. CHERYL JAMES:**    Thank you.

13                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    And that's huge.

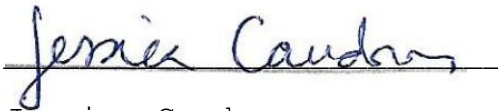
14                  **MS. MADELINE GAMBLIN:**    Yeah.

15                  **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:**    So thank you. It is  
16       now 1:53 PM, and we are finishing Cheryl's statement.

17       --- Upon adjourning at 1:53 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jessica Caudron, 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 cursive script that reads "Jessica Caudron". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Jessica Caudron

October 26, 2018