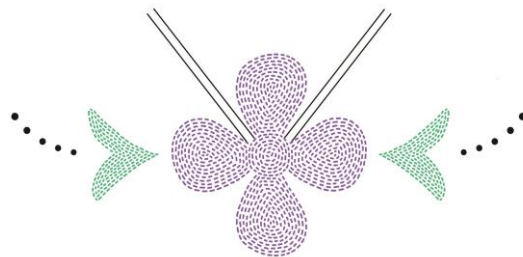


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
The Saa-Ust Centre
Vancouver, British Columbia**



PUBLIC

Saturday April 7, 2018

Statement - Volume 368

Ann Livingston, In relation to Elsie Sebastian

Statement gathered by Jayme Menzies

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NOTES

1) 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."

2) The use of square brackets [] indicates that amendments have been made to the certified transcript in order to replace information deemed inaudible or indecipherable by the original transcriptionist. Bryan Zandberg, Registrar for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, made the amendments by listening back to the original recording on April 23, 2019 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

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Documents submitted with oral statement: none

Statement - Public 1
Ann Livingston
(Elsie Sebastian)

1 Vancouver, British Columbia
2 --- Upon commencing on Saturday, April 7, 2018
3 at 11:08 a.m.

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: This has begun.
5 Let's begin. My name is Jayme. I'm from Manitoba. The
6 date is April 7 and the time is 11:08. Now, Ann, you can
7 introduce yourself.

8 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: My name is Ann
9 Livingston. I was born in British Columbia. I am 63 years
10 old and I lived in the Downtown Eastside for 23 years.

11 The impact -- the woman who went missing
12 in my family was my nieces' mother, so that's my brother's
13 ex-wife although they never legally married or she would
14 lose her status. She was -- I think born in 1958 or,
15 sorry, 1952 or 1953. She's older than me. 1953, I think.

16 She was -- I remember when I first met her
17 -- she was feisty and was into rights for Aboriginal
18 people, which sort of, you know, I come from a family of
19 six children. We lived in Victoria at this time.

20 My brother's whole life is very much
21 immersed in Native culture and all his friends in Victoria
22 and his friends in Kamloops. It was just such an
23 interesting way -- his life went.

24 Anyway, his daughter is [Niece 1]. [Three
25 lines redacted - personal information].

1 Anyway, so the -- I moved to Vancouver in
2 1993 in June and didn't quite realize that [Niece 1] --
3 Elsie had last been heard from in October of 1992. She
4 lived at the Empress Hotel as far as we could tell.

5 A guy named [A.] was her sort of boyfriend
6 at that time. I think they split up. Anyway, the kids --
7 so [Niece 2] is the other niece. Her name is [Niece 2].
8 Elsie married Robert Sebastian and he's from Hazelton.

9 They had two more children together, so
10 I've always treated [Niece 2] as my niece as well. It's
11 just the same. She was variously at my mother's home or
12 involved in our family in that way.

13 They let me know that they hadn't heard
14 from their mother over Christmas. There's a kind of a
15 concern but not really -- I remember being at my mother's
16 house and Elsie would phone sometimes and she was quite
17 inebriated and she would be slurring her speech. There's a
18 kind of,

19 "Oh, I'm not talking to her. You
20 talk to her."

21 So I've taken at least one of these calls.

22 So there's a kind of divided feeling
23 amongst the girls when their mother stops phoning because
24 it was a little bit uncomfortable. You know, they're in
25 high school.

1 They've been probably publicly embarrassed
2 in part because of racism. But it's one thing to have your
3 mom be identified by a race but if she's slurring her words
4 or seems impaired at all, it's just devastating for -- you
5 know, just as a kid who's like ten or between and can look
6 down the bus and see how everyone's reacting. It's got to
7 be just crushing.

8 Anyway, they had this deep love for their
9 mom but this kind of, you know, hesitation or mixed
10 feelings about being with her. So that's a tough, tough
11 place for the kids.

12 [Niece 1] lived at my mom's house for long
13 periods of time and I would be there and I had little kids.
14 So, you know, there was -- whenever she was in trouble,
15 she'd phone me. Oh, my God.

16 So I had a car and I had little kids, but
17 it was basically a pact between us that no matter what had
18 gone on, she's like,

19 "I'm not telling my dad that. He'll
20 kill me."

21 You know, that kind of thing. So I'd go
22 in and get them and try to just be a good auntie as I
23 could.

24 So that was my relationship with my niece.
25 Then when her mom had gone missing, she came over and in

1 the spring. She said,

2 "You know, we haven't heard from
3 her."

4 So her and I went to every single bar on
5 Hastings, I guess she was just above drinking age -- not
6 that I guess we would have cared that much. So her and I
7 go into the Sunrise and the Balmoral and the -- every
8 famous kind of big bad bar down here.

9 I can remember she would know someone or
10 go up to someone and say a few words and then they'd know
11 how they knew each other. And then she would kneel down
12 next to the chair and say,

13 "Well, have you seen my mom?"

14 And people would say,

15 "Oh, I think so-and-so saw her"

16 or,

17 "No, I haven't seen her."

18 So that was our way of looking for her was
19 to try to find connections because often, this community of
20 people who are Native and from around, you know, they do
21 know each other and there's a real -- a lot of information.
22 This is all pre-cell phone anyway, not that that, you know,
23 it was tried and true.

24 We kept coming to nothing. We followed as
25 many of these leads as we could and we -- so I got

1 concerned. As the summer bore on, she -- as much as
2 everyone would say,

3 "Oh no, she's just disappeared."

4 She always was in touch on birthdays,
5 always was in touch at Christmas, you know, those kind of
6 things? And she would have done something for the high
7 school grads, so I think [Niece 1] was the high school grad
8 at that point.

9 So the summer sort of creeps by and I've
10 got it on my (indiscernible). I can get things done. I
11 start getting on the phone and phoning everywhere I can
12 looking for her, figuring if I've got her name and her
13 birth date, then I can see is she in jail --

14 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

15 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- is there a John
16 Doe remains that are not been claimed somewhere. Like how
17 does this system work?

18 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

19 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: So I was actually
20 finding it's not a very good system. Like the jail won't
21 tell you if she's there or not and then I said I was
22 thinking of visiting her,

23 "Should I bother?"

24 And then they'll say no. And that's their
25 code that she's not there because evidently they can't tell

1 you. I'm just like,

2 "Gosh,"

3 you know.

4 You know, I respect privacy and all that
5 stuff, but we need a mechanism for this.

6 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

7 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: So I was really
8 taking the low road. And then -- which is -- evaporate
9 from our minds and everyone's busy and you get on with your
10 life and then it would come up again. And then more and
11 more women were going missing.

12 So between 1993 and as you can see on
13 these dates, I was here from 1993 on so there was -- oh,
14 one, two, three. I remember when Angela [Arsenault] went
15 missing. I remember the posters and that's 1994. And then
16 I would stop in at the -- a guide named Morris (ph). Who's
17 that -- he used to be an Elvis impersonator. Oh, I can't
18 think of his name.

19 Anyway, he was working at the Aboriginal
20 centre there and I would stop and chat to him and say,

21 "We still haven't seen Elsie."

22 So all these women went missing: Cindy
23 [Beck], Andrea Borhaven, Heather Bottomley, Heather -- you
24 know. So some of them, their families made way more fuss.
25 Dawn [Crey], Sarah [de Vries]'s sister really made a big

1 fuss and came down. There were posters of Sarah all over
2 the place.

3 So all those years went by. And I had a
4 job. My job was I helped co-organize the Vancouver Area
5 Network of Drugs Users.

6 And before that, say in 1995, we set up a
7 -- really an illegal injection site but it was meant as a
8 place for drug users to sort of control. We had these tiny
9 grants and we just sort of paid the rent. And in those
10 days, you could get a pretty cheap storefront. So a group
11 of activists did that.

12 From there, we knew people that went
13 missing. I knew an Olivia [Williams] from coming there and
14 she -- after we shut down in 1996, someone told me she was
15 gone.

16 I remember Sharon Ward and I remember --
17 you know what I mean? The various people because they're
18 sort of fleeting and everyone's usually in a group.

19 Angela Jardine, I remember the day she
20 went missing. Serena Abbotsway came in all the time. We
21 knew her quite well. And you know what I mean? There's
22 like so many of these women were part of the fabric of the
23 Downtown Eastside in terms of the drug users all knew each
24 other and they used to stop into our place.

25 Anyway, it was -- and then the stories

1 were,

2 "Oh, there's this car. There's that
3 car."

4 You're constantly hearing about how do
5 they go missing in the day? It starts to become
6 mythological and one point we even thought,

7 "Why don't we just set up a sting and
8 see who it is?"

9 Like it's got to be somebody doing this.
10 And no one was sort of brave enough to do it because
11 anyway, it just got by the by.

12 I had at this time when I first moved
13 here, I had a three-year-old, a five-year-old, and a ten-
14 year-old with cerebral palsy. And I was living where I
15 still lived at Four Sisters Housing Co-Op in a three-
16 bedroom apartment.

17 So it gave me this home and I'd invite
18 people to my home often to do these projects. And so I
19 don't know if any other women came. The women tended to be
20 the generators of income in the neighbourhood and the men
21 tended to be the people who were involved in drug dealing.

22 So the common complaint was women would
23 get ripped off by drug dealers and often they have
24 relationships with dealers who didn't rip them off that
25 they would try to really keep together.

1 And the men had less of a way to make
2 money unless you were breaking into cars or selling dope;
3 right?

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

5 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: They weren't usually
6 selling sex. And so it was a really, you know, I learned a
7 lot and I was just basically an open book.

8 I'm an organizer. I'm not a drug user,
9 but I know how to do community organizing.

10 So eventually, we have the Vancouver Area
11 Network of Drugs Users -- it's still going. And they have
12 an elected board and all this kind of stuff. So it was --
13 that project is always about listening to what the people
14 are saying and taking action on the urgent concerns of the
15 group. And taking the action that they decide they want to
16 take.

17 So there was so many, you know, this was
18 certainly something that wasn't taken action of.

19 The other thing that was so terrible and
20 such the kind of bad things is things like the women's
21 centre, which is so revered -- the Downtown Eastside
22 Women's Centre?

23 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

24 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: They would not let
25 any of these women even in the door.

1 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

2 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: They had a very --
3 the culture in the 90s was extremely strict. People who
4 were active drug users, the belief was that if you were
5 really mean to them and unkind and wouldn't let them in
6 your place, you were giving them a motivation to stop using
7 drugs. It didn't work.

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

9 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: They were killing
10 people basically. We had huge numbers of drug overdoses at
11 the same time as these disappearances. So there was a real
12 confusion about whether someone was murdered, missing, or
13 had overdosed on drugs because people -- it was just a
14 sense of faces disappearing.

15 During the period of -- so the 1995 until,
16 you know, sort of 2000 and 2002, the number of people that
17 were dying from drug overdose, dying from suicide, dying
18 from AIDS, or being disappeared this way was hundreds per
19 year just in a ten-block area.

20 That's an astounding thing for people to
21 go through. And it's something I think that has given me -
22 - it's an experience I've really had, like not

23 "I live nearby and it was going near
24 me."

25 I was right in it --

1 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

2 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- in terms of the
3 drug use and the criminalization of drug use was causing so
4 much death.

5 So we had the -- first, it was overdoses
6 and of course these disappearances going on at the same
7 time.

8 There's a real stubbornness on the part of
9 the coroner's office, I find, that they won't give you the
10 information you're looking for. And we don't have any
11 place to say,

12 "I know --."

13 Like if you disappeared tomorrow and I
14 said,

15 "Well, I have this vague idea. Well,
16 I should check with the coroner."

17 I have to know your first, middle, last
18 name and your date of birth or the coroner won't speak to
19 me.

20 I don't know if this is still true, but I
21 could actually get them to mail me the coroner's report if
22 I had that bit of information.

23 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay.

24 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: So, you know, it was
25 so hard to check with the coroner to see if they had a body

1 or if someone had simply disappeared. It didn't allow
2 people to be citizens and residents and kind neighbours or
3 friends.

4 Friends couldn't find out anything about
5 their friends. They weren't family. They do this kind of,

6 "Oh, you're not family"

7 and yet some people we knew that their
8 families hadn't been in touch with them for 20 years and
9 suddenly, we were,

10 "Oh."

11 And couples, it was particularly
12 heartbreaking to see because if the couple was -- one of
13 them was dead, the other person couldn't get any
14 information about where the body even went.

15 Sometimes, you know, you get this -- like
16 I don't know if you know this. If there's someone dies,
17 you're stuck with the police. And so you're trying to
18 communicate with the police. Every now and then, they're
19 nice to us because they've got a body -- like she's not on
20 there, but she just died. See, again, I can't remember
21 people's names.

22 Anyway, her body was in the refrigerator
23 in the basement of Vancouver General Hospital for more than
24 a month. It might have been going on two months.

25 And as soon as we became aware of this and

1 I had these certain phone numbers I could call, so you're
2 calling the actual morgue, they'll refer you to the police.
3 You always have this awful little tangle of people.

4 And when -- then they said to us,
5 "Well, do you know who she is?"

6 And we said,
7 "Yes, we do."

8 She's mentioned in this town of Ontario
9 and then you do this Nancy Drew thing and you start hunting
10 around looking for her son. She mentioned she had a son
11 and where was he? And finally, her son did come and she
12 got released and it was an opportunity for us to say,

13 "You know, your mother was an
14 important person."

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

16 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: You know, she's got
17 this huge stigma and label on her, but in our lives she was
18 our friend and she was an activist and she went on TV and
19 she was in the paper.

20 You try and take these things and give
21 them to the children like a memento to say, you know,

22 "This is a --"

23 and it's not just a stain of shame in
24 your family and something you need to cover up. Because I
25 think that is causing this intergenerational damage.

1 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

2 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Anyway, the bad of
3 the story goes like that. What I noticed is that as they
4 started to announce family things, I had e-mail and like to
5 me, it's the beginning of computers. I don't know if it
6 really was, but it was the beginning of me doing computers.

7 And so there become an e-list for the
8 families and if they called for a meeting, I went. And I'd
9 often contact the kids, but early on especially when
10 they're still quite young like their late teens, early 20s,
11 there was a real hesitation to pronounce their mother
12 missing or dead.

13 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

14 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Because it's one of
15 those loyalty heart things that one of the ways you can
16 show how much you loved your mother was to say,

17 "She's alive."

18 And so when I understood that, it helped
19 me a lot. It was -- I just went to some session on
20 disappeared people and it was like,

21 "Ah"

22 like a light clicked on because I kept
23 thinking,

24 "Are they stupid?"

25 Like I mean you don't want to be too

1 brutal about it, but hey, we're getting into ten years here
2 or you know what I mean? You start going,

3 "Hmm"

4 because how long can she persistently be
5 hiding?

6 So it was -- and I think what keeps
7 fueling that is you get no information from the police.

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

9 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Anyway, so the police
10 came. They would form a task force. See? Task force. I
11 don't know which one this is. This is a late one where we
12 finally got Elsie reported. She didn't get reported until
13 2002 or 2000 -- I don't know -- 2001. Or maybe it was the
14 year 2000.

15 Anyway, it was eight years that we had
16 been reporting and we could not get her reported. It was
17 the stupidest story you can ever imagine. So we'd say you
18 call and honestly if they fix this, good for them, but I
19 went through it again, so...

20 They keep claiming they fixed the way you
21 report women or people missing. So you call 9-1-1.
22 Actually, I don't think I did. I think I looked up and
23 someone got the number for a missing persons department. I
24 call them and they said,

25 "Oh, no, we can't take the report.

1 You have to call 9-1-1."

2 I said,

3 "Okay, I'll call 9-1-1."

4 I call 9-1-1. They said,

5 "No, you have to call the missing
6 persons department."

7 So it'll just go on for hours.

8 And I was starting to take down their
9 names and could you please give so-and-so a call because
10 she's sending me back here.

11 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

12 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And I was trying to
13 stay really calm but a lot of people wouldn't necessarily.

14 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

15 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Or they just give up.

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Understandably, yes.

17 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Yes. So they would
18 ask -- now I've blanked his name out. Isn't it funny how
19 we do this to ourselves? I think it's because I'm so mad
20 at him.

21 There was a police officer who still looks
22 for -- works for Lookout as an outreach worker. And I was
23 there and witnessed it once, but this -- I think what was
24 going on. It'll come to me what his name is.

25 Anyway, he says,

1 "My nieces are there. There's some
2 kind of gathering."

3 This is a few years later and there's
4 missing women there and they go right up to him and they
5 go,

6 "Our mother Elsie Sebastian's
7 missing"

8 and

9 "Have you seen her? Why aren't we
10 getting anything back from her"

11 and all this stuff. He goes,

12 "Oh, I see Elsie in the park all the
13 time."

14 And then they turn and glare at me.

15 I live two blocks from that park. I
16 walked through that park taking my kid to daycare. I
17 whatever -- like four times a day or something -- you know,
18 there, back, there, and back. There's four times a day.
19 And I'm too stupid to notice that Elsie is sitting in that
20 park.

21 And the stupid thing was he -- just based
22 on a first name basis -- I don't know, is Elsie a rare
23 name? He'd say he'd seen Elsie. And my nieces, the looks
24 they give me, like I was just completely hopeless.

25 I was just like,

1 "How could you do that? How could
2 you be that irresponsible as a police
3 officer"

4 that you're going to flip these girls that
5 have really a serious issue with their mother is missing.
6 This isn't some little thing.

7 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

8 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And he goes,

9 "Oh yes, I see Elsie all the time."

10 And I don't know how many times he did
11 that to me. I was just like,

12 "Oh, my God."

13 So he eventually isn't a police officer
14 and I can guarantee you that's why because he's making such
15 a liability problem.

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

17 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: But anyway, he's
18 still -- oh, he's a big hero in the neighbourhood and he
19 runs around doing outreach. Anyway, whatever.

20 So that's the kind of stuff you're up
21 against because you can't hold any of those people
22 accountable for that kind of behaviour.

23 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

24 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And what I found was
25 the missing -- the task force would be headed by someone in

1 a big announcement. And then they would have some stupid
2 thing and you'd have to figure out Surrey on a map, drive
3 all the way out to Surrey and go to some meeting, which
4 would -- that was the reward. And you'd be in there with
5 Sarah [de Vries]'s sister and the phrase -- she's the woman
6 who solved the whole crime.

7 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

8 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Her mother -- I'm not
9 kidding -- they were climbing the fence at Pickton's farm.

10 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh, really?

11 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: She went around what
12 the police never could do and this is why, you know, if I
13 have a strong recommendation: We need to make a completely
14 system for looking for people and it needs to be done with
15 a combination of government agencies.

16 So I'm on welfare right now but I have,
17 you know -- if I was on welfare and living in an SRO and
18 was someone isolated, I should be able to leave what I
19 might call a "living will" with welfare. It should just be
20 another form I sign. If I don't pick up a welfare cheque,
21 I'd like you to notify these following people.

22 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

23 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And just have it
24 there. I might be gone, I might not be gone; right? But
25 someone will get to the bottom of it quickly, not eight

1 years later.

2 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

3 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: So the other thing is
4 if I was on methadone and I was picking up a daily dose of
5 an opioid that will make me, you know, virtually die from
6 withdrawal if I don't get it, and I miss a pick-up or two
7 pick-ups -- I gave a living will at the pharmacy so that
8 they -- when I'm two days out or something, some reasonable
9 period that I can determine if I sign it -- and they will
10 contact these following people if I don't pick up.

11 And there's more. There's welfare.
12 There's housing. If I lived in a place with a, you know, a
13 concierge which many, many now of these places have that --
14 I don't know how -- you know, you'd have to look at the
15 details of how each one keeps track of people going in and
16 out, but I believe there's a bio on Vancouver because
17 during the 90s, we found so many dead bodies in rooms and
18 people couldn't get the, you know, the Balmoral. Let's
19 keep picking on the damn Balmoral.

20 They wouldn't go up and check their room
21 and you'd say,

22 "I know he went up and I know he did
23 some drugs up there. You got to go
24 up there."

25 And they would say no. They'd wait until

1 the stench in the hallway was so bad that they came into
2 the room and then I'd go in.

3 And that's what -- so there was a huge
4 fuss made about this. And that -- well, for one thing,
5 it's so hard to live in that hall -- that whole floor would
6 smell so -- you know what I mean? It's a very unpleasant
7 problem, but it's also really undignified --

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

9 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- that we have such
10 a shitty system in a hotel that they won't look for you.
11 And even when they're asked to, that's what's so
12 heartbreaking. So we've --

13 Anyway, so those are the really hardcore
14 recommendations I have. In terms of that -- and the other
15 part that's such a problem is they have warrants for their
16 arrests.

17 The latest woman from VANDU -- I can't
18 think of her name right now. She's from the North Shore --
19 Pete. Angelina Pete (ph). Let's use her as an example --
20 and Chipman (ph). I don't know where she is on here.
21 Maybe her body was found. I thought her name was Chipman.
22 She's from Prince George. These are in alphabetical order.

23 Anyway, okay, so we'll go back to -- what
24 was the first name I said? Angelina --

25 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Angelina

1 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- Pete. She's still
2 missing. Body never been found. It's within five years or
3 I don't know. I lose track of time, but it's not over a
4 decade. It's recent in my mind.

5 There's a warrant for her arrest. So she
6 goes missing. Her -- and they've got an improved system
7 for reporting missing, but this still goes to the police.

8 She's got a warrant for arrest. Are you
9 kidding me? Why are the police going to find someone with
10 a warrant for their arrest? And these warrants are just
11 bullshit.

12 The warrants in this neighbourhood -- and
13 there are thousands of them. We cannot find out. This is
14 how many there are. They won't tell us how many there are
15 because there's hundreds and hundreds initiated every week.

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

17 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And they miss court.
18 They fail to comply with a bail order.

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

20 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: They fail to comply
21 with a probation order. They fail to comply with a
22 condition of release. They fail to comply, fail to comply,
23 fail to comply, and it's bullshit. It's nothing. They
24 have not done a crime.

25 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

1 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: It's this awful,
2 awful entanglement. So you have one -- it can even be a
3 pathetic thing like a ticket for jaywalking or --

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

5 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- peeing on an alley
6 or -- I don't know. All the bullshit (indiscernible) laws
7 that we have.

8 And once you don't pay that ticket, it
9 doubles and then there's a notification is sent to your
10 mailing address -- ha, if you have one and if you still
11 live there. And then you'd see that you're supposed to go
12 to court. And if you don't show up, they're going to
13 initiate a warrant for your arrest and because you didn't
14 pay a fine for some stupid ticket that was unnecessary that
15 someone gave you in the first place.

16 And this is where we have the police and
17 it just can't be described any other way. They mine this
18 neighbourhood for crime and they get rewarded for overtime.
19 And I'm not the only one who says this. I have a document
20 that a guy named [G.P.] who was a police officer. He's no
21 longer alive, but he wrote this.

22 And that was the first time that I saw a
23 police officer said it outright that there's an in-built
24 mechanism. So the very most vulnerable people who might be
25 the women who are going to go missing in the first place

1 have got a relationship with the police. It's completely
2 unworkable. They arrest them for nothing.

3 And when you're arrested, it's not like,
4 "Oh, could I have come back tomorrow
5 and you can arrest me after I pick up
6 my methadone and call some people to
7 look after this, that, or the other
8 for me?"

9 No. It's never a good time. You're
10 usually facing withdrawal from drugs and they take you to a
11 remand centre if you've done it enough times. And then
12 you're in remand. You're actually serving time for a non-
13 crime and you haven't seen a judge yet.

14 And when you see the judge, he gives you
15 the time you've already served. This is affecting this
16 population at an alarming rate and it really just keeps
17 feeding into all this uncertainty about when someone's
18 gone.

19 If I call remand, they don't tell me who's
20 in there; you know?

21 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

22 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: They won't. I don't
23 know who, how big of a poo ball you have to be to say that
24 they go,

25 "Oh, yes, she's here. Yes. Don't

1 worry about it."

2 You know what I mean?

3 And why do I even know her bloody proper
4 name? I might only know her street name.

5 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

6 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: So you can't sound
7 the alarm when people are gone. You can't -- and they've
8 got this horrible level of persecution going on. They
9 created a completely impossible relationship between police
10 and women. They don't go to the police for help. These
11 are the bastards that arrest them for nothing and won't
12 negotiate with them.

13 I mean I've heard of -- I have a friend in
14 Abbotsford and there's all kinds of models we could
15 implement and solutions to this problem. But there's this
16 absolute wall and no discussion and no --

17 So my friend in Abbotsford happens to have
18 a relationship. And the admiration for the Abbotsford
19 police department for me may be completely misplaced, but
20 what they are is they're small enough.

21 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

22 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: If you have a problem
23 with them, you can go to the board. A place like Surrey?
24 No board. All RCMP. Just a shit show. Just a mess.

25 And I don't even think the police are

1 happy with it. And our one here isn't -- it's less nice
2 than Abbotsford because you can't get a meeting.

3 The police at some point just put up a
4 wall. There's no community meeting between the police and
5 people in this neighbourhood.

6 They now have something -- they're calling
7 it lunch with the chief and it's at Carnegie. And you know
8 why I'm never invited? Because I might say something.

9 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

10 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: So you're supposed to
11 sit there fucking eat without choking without the chief and
12 if you've got something to say, too fucking bad. And then
13 they can boast about that they have this great relationship
14 with the neighbourhood and they're doing it through the
15 women. They're doing it with women, all women, as a result
16 of the explanation of this.

17 But it's so phony. And if I -- I walked
18 in once and you could feel the whole room freeze,

19 "Uh oh, she's here."

20 You know what I mean? Because I sit there
21 and I want to know answers and I'm completely engaged in
22 this.

23 I spend all my time hunting for people or
24 looking at drug policies that could change or you know what
25 I mean? All the people tangled up in this really awful

1 remand centre released to the street, re-arrested, re-mand
2 centre, released to the streets. And it's -- and the
3 overdoses.

4 I spent last winter in an illegal overdose
5 prevention site that became legal finally, but I'm really
6 up to my eyeballs of people that are living in an alley,
7 overdosing, being revived. Their medicare has been cut
8 off, their welfare has been cut off. It's just a new cruel
9 era.

10 So when these women were going missing,
11 the welfare wasn't as cruel as it is now. So for the most
12 part if they came back and reapplied, they would get back
13 on welfare. So less of them of these women that I knew,
14 they did not live outside.

15 So that's a -- you know, nowadays if we
16 were looking at women who are really at risk, living
17 outside is one of the big, big things that's happening for
18 them. And there's a very active shelter for women that's
19 basically a night drop-in because they don't force -- the
20 women's shelter can often be run in such a cruel way that
21 they're miserable and people stop going to them or you know
22 what I mean? It sort of damages you to sleep there.

23 That one has been extremely well thought
24 out, so if you come in super late, you can go back out and
25 then come back until -- I don't know, two in the morning or

1 something.

2 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

3 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: So women are in and
4 out, in and out, in and out. They come and eat. Then they
5 use the bathroom and then they thing and then they might
6 come and sleep for a while and then they -- you know what I
7 mean? It's exactly the kind of what you call designed --
8 what do they call it -- trauma informed --

9 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Trauma-informed
10 design.

11 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- design. It's
12 perfect. And we need so much more of that.

13 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

14 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: So anyway, the stuff
15 about leaving with the police, so --

16 When I think between as much as sort of
17 social service that we have and these kind of living wills
18 so that people are thoughtful about who have they put down.

19 "If I go missing, who do I want
20 looking for me?"

21 And it isn't going to be the police. So
22 -- and of course, that will be the judgment of the people
23 who are left with those numbers; right?

24 So you get called -- I get called by
25 welfare. They say Elsie hasn't picked up her welfare

1 cheque and, you know, they always go like -- that's what we
2 were so amazed with.

3 Why would someone not come and get money?

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

5 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Like are you kidding
6 me? And the police would say the stupidest thing.

7 "Oh, yes, she's left town. Women
8 like this do that all the time."

9 I think,

10 "No, they pick up their cheque first
11 I'm pretty sure."

12 Like, are you kidding me?

13 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

14 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Like they just didn't
15 seem to grasp how poor they were.

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

17 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: If they were doing
18 sex work, they were being paid extremely low. And of
19 course, it went -- it got worse and worse since I came to
20 this neighbourhood about how much money people could get
21 from exchanging sex for money or exchanging sex for even
22 drugs.

23 So the vulnerability was always terrible,
24 but it got worse and worse and worse.

25 And, you know, you could pull up and a

1 little white baggy of white powder or a little baggy of
2 white powder and kind of go like this. And women would get
3 into your car if you had a, you know, a handgun on the
4 thing and blood dripping out of the -- you know, it was
5 just not a consideration.

6 The urgency of drug treatment is the other
7 part of this --

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

9 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- that we haven't
10 dealt with at all. And this is the big fight with the
11 overdoses. I think we are finally going to get somewhere.

12 We've got all of the CEOs of any kind of
13 B.C. Centre for Substance Use, the BC Centre for Disease
14 Control -- are all completely plain language: We need to
15 stop criminalizing this population.

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

17 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And the double
18 criminalization of women, plus the stigma of being a junky
19 ho is way -- piles on women. And so -- and that brings me
20 to the other point.

21 So I don't know if I've beat that horse to
22 death, but I think we can make a brilliant caring
23 appropriate way.

24 As much as I could on social media, once I
25 realized that how just dismal and damaging it was to try

1 and deal with the police, both from our personal experience
2 but also from all the stories of all the families. That's
3 what was always shared.

4 I tried to tell them there was something
5 wrong. I know there's something wrong. I -- you know, and
6 then they finally get into a room where a purse is sitting
7 there with eyeglasses, like stuff she would never a room
8 without and she's gone. And certainly, her mom's died.

9 Aunt Tanya (ph)'s mom's very clear on that
10 and someone who looks like a Stephanie Lang (ph) and I was
11 thinking -- I think they look alike, so I always used to
12 get -- oh, whatever.

13 Everyone needs to carry around a little
14 sign of their missing person because you get in the room,
15 you might,

16 "Hmm."

17 And this was always my reference point
18 back because I really just hated the idea that we didn't
19 know who anyone was. You just had this blank. You know
20 what I mean?

21 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

22 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Like oh, what year?
23 Like, you know, you have to keep reviewing it.

24 Or I think we needed to use the strength
25 of those families and their stories to construct a usable

1 system.

2 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

3 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Like I said, some of
4 those things about living wills but also -- and not having
5 the police be able to completely withhold all information
6 from the family.

7 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

8 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: What was the point of
9 that?

10 At the very end of the story with Elsie,
11 we go to the Oppal inquiry. And one of the lawyers hands
12 me a complete file on Elsie, which I've now hidden in my
13 house. I was so worried about it. He says,

14 "I'm not allowed to give you this.
15 This is confidential."

16 I'm thinking,

17 "Really? We're not even getting
18 that?"

19 I mean it was so healing to just read
20 through --

21 There's a CPIC on Hastings Street and, you
22 know, it's got the date written down. She was searched by
23 the police and they let her go.

24 And the next interaction, she's overdosed
25 and she's at Lions Gate Emerg. on the North Shore. And

1 then she seems to leave there and go to an IGA on the North
2 Shore. She phones welfare. This is the olden days when
3 you could phone welfare and tells them: Would they send
4 over, like fax over -- what do you call them? Something
5 that pays for your groceries, like a voucher.

6 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

7 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: For groceries and
8 then she could just spend that and leave with food. And
9 that was it.

10 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

11 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: The end. And we had
12 no way of knowing that.

13 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

14 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: There was then --
15 that means their next welfare cheque would have piled up.

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

17 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Where did she leave
18 at that time? Was the rent paid? Some confusion about
19 whether she left the young prince and when she lived with
20 [A.]. And then the kids got all paranoid and figured that
21 this guy murdered her -- this.

22 And so I knew him from the drug user group
23 and I kept saying to them -- because they're just -- for
24 them, it was like just popping up every now and then
25 getting right on at -- okay, this time we'll get to the

1 bottom of this because that's the sensation you have. You
2 haven't looked hard enough.

3 So one of the days -- you can either weep
4 about it or feel bad or just get back out there. So they
5 come over and we do another hunt and I'd find -- and they -
6 - and I kept saying to them,

7 "You know --."

8 I've watched him like a hawk and I don't
9 say anything to him necessarily. I've watched him sort of
10 -- like if he was a purpose or -- you know, I mean I didn't
11 want to sort of led on.

12 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

13 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: But I'd see him day
14 after day after day after day and he wasn't like a
15 predator. If he was picking up women that were
16 disappearing, I'd be so all over that.

17 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

18 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: But I'm just like,
19 you know, there's -- I just don't think there's anything
20 there. Anyway, he's (indiscernible) from Nova Scotia.

21 And it's just because they want something
22 to happen. They want some solution and it wasn't helping
23 me any and I don't know if he got interviewed. Finally,
24 one of the task forces really got a lot of money and these
25 people came and interviewed people. They took swabs of the

1 insides of their mouths.

2 I don't know whether there was a big
3 Pickton break-up. And the girls got flown over here and
4 there was this long table with all of these items of
5 clothing. There was so much of this laying around at
6 Pickton.

7 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

8 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And they were trying
9 to look for pieces of jewelry they might recognize or
10 clothing or shoes or anything because it was just all lying
11 all over place. A huge fucking mess.

12 If he was -- if she was killed by Pickton,
13 it's before he moved to that place because the date's too
14 long.

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

16 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And when you're doing
17 a -- I just don't know if there would just be anything left
18 at all and I think there was a real pattern because all of
19 the people that they found remains of were from --

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Couldn't find --

21 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- were from the late
22 90s, not the early, early 90s. So that was heartbreaking
23 but every time one of these things comes up, then there was
24 a sense that, you know, as terrible as the news was for the
25 other families, at least they had this thing where --

1 MS. JAYME MENZIES: An answer.

2 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- they got their
3 questions answered. So we remained in this constant
4 aching, you know, open no answers.

5 And again, why didn't they share the
6 information they had with us? That's really healing to
7 say,

8 "Here's what we know. I'm just going
9 to sit down and tell you everything
10 we know."

11 They won't tell you anything.

12 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

13 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And then in the end,
14 I get it from some lawyers who's going to lose his licence
15 or something for giving it to me.

16 I need to hunt through my house. I assume
17 I'll find it when I go to move and I don't know whether I
18 was just so paranoid and I thought,

19 "I can't, like, put this guy at
20 risk."

21 But I found that about everything that had
22 to do with Elsie. I would constantly lose whatever it was.
23 If I made notes from the times that I had called the jails,
24 I just couldn't find them. And I thought,

25 "Isn't it interesting when someone's

1 missing, they're like missing and you
2 have this missing."

3 Like it's just a -- a gone thing.

4 It's like when you go down the streets
5 sometimes and you can't remember which buildings were
6 there.

7 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

8 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And yet it's so much
9 in your mind's eye for such a long time and then bang. And
10 that's what's the neighbourhood is like.

11 You see faces. You walk down. You see
12 them day after day for years and then one of them is
13 missing. Your brain doesn't go,

14 "Oh, so-and-so is missing."

15 It's this odd slipping. You know, you
16 feel like your sanity gets a little odd. I mean; you know
17 what I mean?

18 I don't know how to describe it, but I
19 think it's -- for a neighbourhood to have gone through
20 this, who's left in the neighbourhood to even talk about
21 being a survivor of that many deaths occurring in that
22 small of an area and especially if they were people you
23 were seeing every single day and what. You know, we'd have
24 meetings and meetings.

25 My problem was they were always in groups,

1 so I usually would say -- even to this day, if someone says
2 someone died, I say,

3 "Yes, you need to show me a picture
4 because I can't --"

5 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

6 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: It's way easier for
7 me to remember a face than another name when all the other
8 names are just -- it's like a shelf. You keep pushing at
9 the front and stuff is just falling off the back and you
10 have no way of sorting it or holding on to it.

11 So I think we should have a really, really
12 memorial. I think it's a good healing thing -- healing for
13 the kids.

14 I mean there's an AIDS wall in Stanley
15 Park and what we were told really early on when we tried
16 these efforts to make a memorial before is that you had to
17 have the permission of the family to put their name on it.

18 And we're having again a huge even bigger
19 loss which is all overdoses, although like I said -- I can
20 be more clear -- these women were going missing when
21 overdoses were at the same rate as 2016. And I mean per
22 capita rate because the number was still only 400. In the
23 peak year in 1993 and 1994, and you know, right in there.
24 And it didn't -- but the per capita rate didn't get
25 exceeded until 2016 and now we're just shot up to 2018.

1 It's doubled again or something.

2 We lost 350 just in Vancouver. And if you
3 look at the old Vancouver rates, they're around two
4 something.

5 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Wow.

6 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And anyway, and then
7 you look at the per capita numbers and because so many
8 people moved to Vancouver in the last ten or 20 years,
9 that's why.

10 Anyway, it's just one of these stupid
11 things, but the other...

12 In the networks that we'll look for
13 people, I started to tell people that they could come to my
14 house and sleep on my couch and walk around this
15 neighbourhood and I know everyone.

16 Then they could have this, you know,
17 heartfelt thing that they went and they looked.

18 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

19 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Like it's worth it.
20 Just come. You know, and that's what, you know -- that's
21 why I've been so excited when I saw this space. I thought,

22 "Oh God, there's going to be space
23 for something -- going to happen,"

24 that's not all kind of like over
25 controlled and you have to talk to this -- you know what I

1 mean?

2 It just needs to be left a little bit, you
3 know, open. And let friendships arise. Let social
4 networks of support happen because this is -- there's no
5 study you'll ever read that says that services save
6 people's lives. What you'll find out is that it's -- you
7 know, income of course, and housing of course.

8 And the third one is social networks and
9 they're informal networks of support is the phrase that's
10 used over and over time.

11 And that's what -- I've just sort of --
12 you know, we do fight for better welfare and we do fight
13 for housing all the time. But what we actually do and can
14 do and you don't really very much funding although it's
15 nice to have a space to do it in is the informal networks
16 of support.

17 And that's what people (indiscernible)
18 need to be able to rely on. If I was missing one of my
19 children, would I go to the police? No. I'd start phoning
20 all his friends and try to figure out where he was. I'd
21 start snooping around on his Facebook page to just follow
22 every lead you could because someone must know something.
23 There -- you know.

24 And that's what was missing for these
25 women. They were so isolated and so -- maybe, you know,

1 the Balmoral wouldn't give you any information. Then,
2 well, call welfare -- they're not going to give you any
3 information. You call the hospital, they won't give you
4 any information. Like it was awful.

5 You were just sealed out from everything
6 and then you had to sit there and either feel guilty
7 because you had -- what did you call it is the name where
8 you're half in and half out? You have this mixed
9 relationship because -- they'll just phone you for fucking
10 money again and you know they're addicted.

11 Like, you know, and it's the families are
12 just in agony about what's going on. So they have this --
13 I keep thinking of the word "benevolence". It's the wrong
14 word. It's when you're -- anyway. I'll think of it, I
15 guess.

16 They have that, you know, mixed
17 relationship -- to see -- absolutely dearly loved this
18 person and you're trying to protect -- you know what I
19 mean? You just can't cope with them anymore.

20 So they feel so guilty then when something
21 goes wrong because there must have been something more I
22 could have done.

23 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

24 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And when you can't
25 find their networks of support. The way Marnie Frey (ph) -

1 - her -- it's her step-mother actually.

2 Her step-mother came down to Vancouver and
3 I remember meeting her. So they had these little meetings
4 with families, various task forces, and then I think they
5 got a grant or something at the Aboriginal policing centre.

6 I can't -- and there was a little -- there
7 was a feisty woman there and she kept us together. She was
8 good. She -- it really felt like she was on your side.
9 She wasn't going to make up some excuse.

10 So she took a picture of Marnie and she
11 went down to -- she said women were like loaded or like
12 whatever. And she goes,

13 "My daughter's missing."

14 Now there's an end. A fucking cop shows
15 up. Have you seen this woman? It's like "Whoa." I'm
16 committing a crime. I probably got a warrant.

17 You know what I mean? It was just such a
18 brilliant thing and they put together an 800 number and
19 they got tips on the 800 number that were the proper tips.
20 They were actually really tips.

21 And they funded that themselves outside of
22 the whole police thing. This is a really important for
23 people to notice. Please don't make us have to use police
24 to find people. It's just not going to work ever. It's
25 not working now. It never has worked and we're just at a

1 loss.

2 So what we need is, you know, a ways to
3 keep women -- that they know no matter how excluded they
4 are, there's an actual place for the excluded where people
5 know their name, they generally know where they go. The
6 Women's Centre has improved a lot, but it's still
7 completely overprescribed. It's completely packed. You
8 need five more of them; you know what I mean?

9 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

10 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And the more we have
11 of that, the more these women can get their lives together
12 too. And we've got a new era where welfare just -- went
13 off all the time. So these women all wouldn't be on
14 welfare.

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

16 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: So some of the stuff
17 I said about

18 "If you are on welfare, you don't
19 pick up your cheque, notify" --

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: That won't work for --

21 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: We need even more
22 clever ones.

23 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

24 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: We're going to have
25 to be looking at if someone's been at a shelter.

1 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

2 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: But we need the
3 living will left part of it so that the shelter isn't
4 going,

5 "Oh, I have a liability issue. I
6 can't tell you."

7 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

8 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: They can look at the
9 file. If they've got any paper on someone and then say,
10 "Yes, I'm allowed to tell you what's
11 going on."

12 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

13 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Because even the
14 detox centres, treatment centres -- and that's some great
15 news for people that someone's, you know, safe and in
16 recovery.

17 They also have extremely strict rules
18 about who they'll talk to. Anyway, I think the -- I like
19 the term

20 "living will"

21 because it implies that someone's going
22 to make a decision when you're not there to make it and you
23 feel like the same relationship to a living will would be
24 how much trust you have in that person you're leaving in
25 charge of you if I have to be sort of put down, you know...

1 They do let you put yourself down. But you know,
2 generally, who's going to make decisions about my end of
3 care when I'm not -- and I'm so incapacitated I can't
4 make...

5 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

6 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I think it's a really
7 workable -- I mean it's more workable than what we've got
8 now and I just -- it's so discouraging.

9 So I have a friend and he had a -- his
10 really close friend Sylvie (ph) was found dead in an alley
11 and he's absolutely convinced that she was murdered.

12 So he called the -- they have a missing
13 women's line that you call. That's not it. I don't know -
14 - do you know this line? They actually have this -- the
15 VPD have a missing women's line.

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay.

17 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Or a -- what's it
18 called? "She" something. They make these stupid names up.

19 Anyway, when he called it, they never
20 called him back ever. Ever. And then I always think,
21 "You know, why were they boasting
22 about that they fixed this?"

23 We should be mystery shopping whatever it
24 is that's been set up just as a matter of dignity.

25 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

1 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Like, not
2 "Oh, we don't even suspect you guys
3 are doing it wrong."
4 We just have a routine, which is mystery
5 shop.

6 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

7 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: We just -- every so
8 many months, we check to see whether people and maybe, you
9 know, let people know if you have any trouble with these
10 services we're offering, please let us know because we
11 don't want to offer services that don't work. That
12 wouldn't be a thing, you know.

13 Taxpayers pay for them. Like why wouldn't
14 we have provide in that that we do an excellent job and we
15 make sure it's good? Not going on there.

16 I'm just trying to think. There's another
17 whole section on this about not having the police look for
18 people and all of that bizarre stuff that gets put up with
19 the coroner and, you know, all these --

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

21 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- you know, people
22 that --

23 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Well, I think you
24 mentioned before, which is the mug shot -- that may be --

25 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Oh, yes, the

1 memorial. The healing stuff.

2 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

3 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Yes, that the efforts
4 to make -- if it's possible to do an AIDS wall, I don't see
5 why it's not possible to do an overdose wall and especially
6 the women's wall because I think the women's wall -- it
7 will just fade from memory and then, you know, like every
8 now and then I stumble on new stories or something and I'm
9 so shocked. But I think of it that way and it's not that
10 we want to be famous for having this terrible tragedy.

11 What we want to be famous for is fixing
12 this terrible tragedy.

13 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

14 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: This is what happened
15 and it's sort of the "never again" thing. Like to have a
16 sense of dignity to say, "We all looked in horror at the
17 situation" and then we've done everything we can. And it
18 needs to be a lot.

19 I mean the memorial part -- if the only
20 thing you have -- and Elsie's picture, her daughters got
21 really pissed because it was a mug shot. They actually
22 only had a mug shot and there was -- they were putting up
23 posters because she could -- went on the list.

24 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

25 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: But right now, you

1 could go to -- we could go to Surrey and we could make a
2 list. And there's no list. There's no poster like this in
3 Surrey. There's just missing women.

4 I think, "Did we fix something?"

5 Because I don't get the sensation we did.
6 And again, you know, who's looking for them? Who knows
7 where they are? Is there -- you know, if it's just a
8 police file, I think it's really a -- it's not the way we
9 want to do things.

10 I think there should be -- like as I guess
11 we have a more intact way of looking for loss dogs than we
12 do looking for humans. And you know what I mean? I really
13 do think we do. I think we have a -- that's kind of a
14 little system that's in place.

15 This isn't a system what we've got now.
16 We've got a mess on our hands.

17 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

18 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And it's so muddly.
19 I think the -- I mean the -- I think it should be thought
20 about in terms of saying what's the most healing thing that
21 could happen for the family whose mother -- it's not just
22 that they're missing. Their mother's addicted to heroin,
23 was selling sex, and is now missing.

24 [Pickton Victim 1]'s daughter is now
25 struggling with drug addiction just like her mom with the

1 same parents. So now her step-mom and her dad are trying
2 to do, you know, chapter two.

3 And when she was at school -- and I
4 believe it's like Campbell River somewhere -- the kids are
5 going,

6 "Your mom's a junkie ho and she's
7 missing in the Downtown Eastside."

8 Like how does this shit even happen?

9 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

10 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: You think really?
11 How does that... So I think that there's a huge gap there
12 and I'm not a professional in that field. But I think when
13 you bring dignity to it, I think that there's a far more
14 secure chance for the future of the kids.

15 The idea that kids aren't scripted and
16 it's sort of a therapeutic word by either parents is a
17 naive assumption.

18 "Oh, well, if her mother used drugs,
19 she'll never use them because look at
20 what the damage it did to her
21 mother."

22 Have I got bad news for you.

23 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

24 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: In fact, if you look
25 at -- you know, like let's use some statistics and some

1 science --

2 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Totally.

3 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- and really do a
4 properly researched program to say what -- and teach the
5 families. This could well happen again.

6 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

7 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: What could we do?
8 Well, she was in grade 7 in elementary school being taunted
9 by the other kids. Before -

10 "Oh, now she's in her 20s and has a
11 heroin habit the size of Montreal;"
12 you know what I mean? Like there are
13 troubles already now.

14 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

15 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Now what? Again, the
16 same -- is there any improvement to access to drugs? That
17 was the thing.

18 So the thing about -- so that's one whole
19 thing, the memorial and then this legacy for children. I
20 think it needs to be very -- why shouldn't it be thought
21 out by people?

22 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

23 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: It's not -- I bet you
24 that whole field is -- I bet you someone's an expert. I
25 could certainly read the studies from time to time and I

1 know that if you've ever been to jail, you're likely to go
2 into jails like -- I don't know -- increased 300 percent or
3 -- it's just shocking.

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

5 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: You know what I mean?
6 These -- so I know that there's little bits of it and I'm
7 not saying to put in a program, but just to have everyone
8 be conscious of it. What if the kids knew that?

9 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

10 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON:

11 "My mom had an addiction issue and
12 that's very likely to affect me"

13 not so it compels to do that, but what to
14 do if it does.

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: So for example, has
16 there -- have there been any supports for Elsie's daughters
17 since she's been named --

18 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I don't know. We
19 don't talk enough about that and I'm not sure if they do or
20 they don't.

21 I find [Niece 2]'s more thoughtful, but
22 she also has two children and her youngest is still quite
23 young. She's a very, you know, it's -- she's an excellent
24 kind of really gentle mother, breastfeeds, you know, she
25 has a very -- and that really holds her together. But when

1 the kids get older, you know, she'll again have these
2 issues.

3 It's hard for them to surpass the age of
4 their mother. She died when she was 40 and [Niece 1]'s
5 already passed 40. You know what I mean? There are
6 critical things and I think there should be a thoughtful
7 sort of lifetime understanding and access to support
8 because I think people go to therapy and then they go,

9 "Wow, got that handled"

10 and then they go on in their lives and
11 the most devastating thing is they can get in a situation
12 where they're going,

13 "Why am I going through this again?
14 I already handled it."

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

16 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Well, it's one of
17 those things where there's kind of a spiral or a cycle; you
18 know what I mean?

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

20 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And it gives yourself
21 a lot more compassion for yourself to think,

22 "I shouldn't be fucked up like this
23 because I already handled this,"

24 like that you think it's --

25 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

1 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: You know, like a boat
2 of antibiotics. You take them, infection's gone, and now
3 you're going to go.

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

5 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: There's a kind of,
6 you know -- I just think we should be thoughtful about it.
7 And like, as far as I know right now, I don't know of a
8 website or anything that's up and running where the people
9 can all do this.

10 And we used to do this in the day. They
11 e-list -- will be okay for a while and you can see people,
12 like for instance, some people will die -- what's her name
13 here? I don't -- Patricia Johnson (ph). Is there an
14 Angelina or something on here?

15 She had this old grandpa guy and he was so
16 great on there. And then I remember when he got really ill
17 and died and then we didn't hear from -- you know what I
18 mean?

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

20 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: There's other loss
21 that goes on and people's lives change or they don't have a
22 computer and whatever.

23 Anyway, it would be nice if it was still
24 held together in some way that there was a reunion or
25 something. You know, how are we all doing? And the kids

1 to say -- they're a special club kids don't want to belong
2 to.

3 "My mother was murdered."
4 Fuck. Or is missing and we don't -- never
5 found out.

6 And the tips that can go on between there
7 because I always wondered -- if we couldn't get something
8 together to say,

9 "All right, we're going to make a
10 tombstone or we're going to do this
11 thing and we're going to recognize
12 this."

13 Without having someone in the family
14 pipe up like Elsie's sister for many years -

15 "Bad bitch. Look what she's doing to
16 all of us. She's not missing."

17 And I just think in my amazed mind,

18 "Twenty years and you think she's
19 hiding; eh?"

20 Like honestly. But there's nothing I can
21 say.

22 But the daughters are then suppressed.

23 They -

24 "Note to self, don't mention anything
25 about Elsie around her"

1 and yet this is their auntie, so they --
2 you can't assume support is going to go well in these
3 families.

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

5 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Everyone just comes
6 with their own worst crap and I think there's a myth in our
7 culture -- I don't know if it's in Aboriginal culture.
8 It's certainly in white culture that someone when mom got
9 sick, we all pulled together and --

10 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

11 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- and blah blah blah
12 and it's just not true. It can be. It's lovely when it
13 happens, but there's also this other very real thing is,
14 "I feel really bad. I'm upset and
15 I'm going to attack my sister and
16 fight about some fucking coat that my
17 mom left"

18 or you know what I mean?

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

20 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: People just get
21 insane. And when it makes no sense, you have to look a
22 layer deeper and that's what we all need to be trained to
23 do. And I think that's some of the real knowledge and
24 stuff we can hand on.

25 So your instinct isn't,

1 "What a cunt. I'm fucking done with
2 her. I'm never speaking to her
3 again,"

4 which might mean that your children and
5 her children are now estranged.

6 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

7 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Like these awful
8 things that can go on and on. Instead, you might think,
9 "Hmm, pretty sure this isn't really
10 about the coat."

11 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

12 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: It's about the coat,
13 but it's not really so that you're looking deeper to say,
14 "This is her way of grieving right
15 now. What we should do is just let
16 this go and then we'll check back in
17 later when we're"

18 -- you know, if there's more composure or
19 think of a more celebratory reason to come together. And
20 I'm not an expert at grieving, but I think that's what --
21 if we had more of that, I think that it would allow the
22 informal networks of support to thrive and it wouldn't
23 always be a miserable experience of going to the Oppal
24 inquiry; you know what I mean? It was grim. And then --
25 you know what I mean?

1 It wasn't -- where if I think if we made
2 some kind of event that went on either every five year
3 anniversary or something or -- but really honour the kids.
4 [*Private information redacted - one sentence*].

5 So of the she -- even though and I don't
6 know how this works across the country because it may not
7 work nationally, but it seems to me we should do that.

8 [*Private information redacted - one*
9 *sentence*].

10 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Hmm.

11 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: But they apologized.
12 I mean why should you report someone missing for eight
13 years and not even get her on a list? Not even get her on
14 the fucking list in their own system? No one was looking
15 for her.

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: [*Private information*
17 *redacted - one sentence*]?

18 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: [*Private information*
19 *redacted - one sentence*].

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh.

21 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: So it was
22 specifically with the Oppal inquiry, but it wasn't just --
23 picked and remained people.

24 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

25 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: [*Private information*

1 *redacted - one sentence*].

2 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

3 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: [*Private information*
4 *redacted - two sentences*].

5 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

6 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: But I think it -- it
7 signals to them that something happened to them and it's
8 something real and it's not just some fake apology.

9 So the other thing with women who are
10 Aboriginal and I sort of -- I don't know how -- I just la-
11 da-da dreaming on thinking "Wow," you know, "This is so
12 interesting, 1,200."

13 You know, it's like almost by accident you
14 couldn't have that many.

15 And then, you know, I remember the big
16 concern for Elsie's life was that she could not marry a
17 white man. And that was very close to our family because
18 we're white. And so she won't marry my brother, but my
19 mother saying to me. I said,

20 "Why are they getting [Niece 1]
21 baptized?

22 And she said, "Ann, if you don't
23 understand, it's a cultural thing. They love to do
24 ceremonies. Ceremony is so important to Aboriginal
25 people."

1 And I'm going,

2 "Oh, us hippies, we won't do any of
3 that shit."

4 You know what I mean? It was kind of a
5 real, you know, cultural clash. And it made me really
6 thoughtful because it was really insightful of my mother to
7 understand that.

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

9 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: But she couldn't do
10 the wedding ceremony and whether that weakened the
11 relationship or not, whichever. I'm just saying,

12 "What a burden."

13 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

14 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And she was sort of
15 clever enough not to have her status removed from her, and
16 her children's, but think of the thousands.

17 The legacy that we've left Aboriginal
18 women in this country is that they don't belong anywhere at
19 all ever and it's like the doors are all slammed. You
20 can't go back to a reserve that you've lost your status.
21 They're not taking you.

22 At first, I thought -- when I remember
23 there was da-da-da, you know, there's going to be this
24 negotiation and then -- and I'm like, you know, butterflies
25 and -- you know, isn't that great? You know, just running

1 through the field of flowers. They get to go home.

2 Then I find out that the reserves take
3 their application and can refuse them. I was like,

4 "A bunch of fucking men are going to
5 do that to a bunch of... fuck you."

6 You know what I mean? Like this is the
7 injustice and it can't be overlooked.

8 It can't be overlooked that you have --
9 how many would it be? Hundred thousand more? Two hundred
10 thousand people who have had this -- I mean we're not even
11 talking about foster care. We're not even talking about
12 fucking juvie kiddie lock-up prison, all of the other shit
13 which is of course a huge story in and of itself.

14 This is just the kind people that are --
15 gave birth to you or are already your cousins or your
16 uncles or your grandfathers. You have been disenfranchised
17 and if it didn't happen to you, it might have happened to
18 your mother or your grandmother and then all of these women
19 that result from this.

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

21 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: This is an expansive
22 number of people and that needs to be mended. Fuck you.
23 It needs to be mended. There's nothing else you can say.

24 I'm white. If my dad dies, I'm going to
25 get a piece of whatever the inheritance is and I can let

1 go. I live in Canada. Thank you very much. Women have
2 battled this out. I am entitled to my inheritance and I
3 will go to Court if my brothers all get together and cut
4 all the women out.

5 We've got rights. And, you know, it's a
6 shitty way to live, but you know, it's your last resort.

7 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

8 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I'm just saying. I'm
9 not promoting this as the sole way everything's done, but
10 when you think of the influence -- when I think of myself
11 as poor, old, 63-years-old. Like I'm going to get a shit
12 pension.

13 I wore (indiscernible) as a huge
14 contribution to the community and my reward is to be
15 brutally poor when I'm old. That's my reward and I'm
16 pissed off about it, but imagine if I was Aboriginal. Holy
17 fuck I'd be ten times madder. It's just -- it's so
18 shocking that that was allowed to happen and it never got
19 repaired.

20 I remember thinking it was going to get
21 repaired, but it didn't get repaired and if there's
22 anything that this loud, loud, huge number of missing women
23 tells us. Like there's a kind of -- like how could this
24 even happen? You know what I mean?

25 Well, sure, look at the facts. You'll see

1 how it happened. They can't go home. There isn't a home.
2 They can't go to extended family. There's all these -- all
3 these relationships have been broken and no one's eager to
4 invite them back. The reserves are too small. We need an
5 entire -- we need to rethink the entire, you know, the
6 unceded land.

7 We all grew around going unceded land,
8 unceded land, unceded land. It's just like okay, fuck --
9 you know, sure. It's a thing you can keep saying to be
10 politically correct but we have a real issue here and
11 people are dying as a result of unceded land.

12 And we need to make a very serious stab at
13 a huge legal case or something. Or just start a campaign
14 and say to white people,

15 "How's it going for you?"

16 You know, feeling that fucking bad about
17 all these women. Like honestly, it's not going to go away.

18 You're going to actually take action on
19 it, and I think that -- I don't think how you do the
20 genealogy or you just start to just -- what you do mostly.

21 You set up the office, you open the door,
22 you put the shingle, and you go,

23 "Come on in. Do you think you should
24 have status back? And where can we
25 put you?"

1 If these reserves aren't big enough, make
2 them fucking bigger. It's Canada for fuck's sakes.

3 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

4 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: We got nothing but
5 land and the quality of Crown land. Like if you let that
6 sink in, it's a really bad feeling.

7 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

8 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I just -- the Queen
9 of England owned the land. Like I'm just, like, oh, God.

10 This is getting bad. But I'm just
11 saying -- and I don't know how much of -- if this is the
12 little wedge that starts to pound away at the entire way
13 land was distributed and how we're looking at that, then
14 good. Let's keep at it because the idea that -- I mean
15 it's not that I'm encouraging women to die, but I just
16 don't see how we can structurally think of a way to stop
17 this.

18 This is -- it's like the canary in the
19 coal mine. This is the signal to us constantly that the
20 historical problems and of course the present day problems
21 are continuing to go missing.

22 Anyway, I'm just -- that's my rant about
23 that. And I think for whatever -- I think there's
24 tremendous amount of support -- certainly women to women,
25 there is. If we can dredge it up and keep it -- I think

1 it's a matter of articulating it accurately. And coming
2 with a kind of fact sheet,

3 "Did you know?"

4 And I think they must have this in the
5 census. How many people are Indigenous, aboriginal, first
6 Natives, you know, all those titles and Metis even, and say
7 how many are there right now who have no status?

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

9 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And we must know
10 that. It's got to be out there.

11 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

12 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I interviewed 212
13 people in this neighbourhood and 100 -- or 100 of them were
14 when I call First Nations, Indigenous, you know, whatever
15 they wanted to call themselves and I was surprised at how
16 many said -- so I said,

17 "Do you have status?"

18 That's -- it was like one of my
19 questions.

20 Of the ones that even had status, I said,

21 "Had you ever been to your reserve?"

22 "No."

23 "Are you ever going to go to your
24 reserve?"

25 "No."

1 "Do you feel welcome on your
2 reserve?"

3 "No."

4 "Do you know anyone on your reserve?"

5 "No."

6 I was like,

7 "Holy shit. We've got like a refugee
8 camp down here"

9 and yet the reserves still wants their
10 numbers for whatever system they've got in place, so they
11 can say their membership is a certain amount.

12 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

13 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And when one of the
14 moms in our group who's Cree -- she -- they moved into my
15 house, but they were going to take her child away from her
16 and I was like,

17 "Oh, this is so not happening on my
18 watch."

19 And we made this little team of -- they
20 were going for a removal and she was still in the women's
21 hospital at Fir. And I think she was on methadone. She
22 was the most responsible person. I was just shocked at how
23 responsible she was.

24 We had created a little position in VANDU
25 for the women's group because the woman who was hired said,

1 "Well, I'm not a drug user.
2 Whatever. Why don't I take part of
3 my wages and set it aside and we'll
4 make" --

5 because we didn't have much money. But
6 anyway, she did it and that woman had reference letters and
7 filled out -- you know what I mean? She was highly
8 motivated.

9 And for some reason, you have this -- yes,
10 she's like full-term like that. I was like -- so we're
11 going along, blah blah blah, and I get this -- she had the
12 baby. I said,

13 "Really? I thought the baby wasn't
14 due" -

15 I didn't ask. She was a super quiet
16 woman.

17 Anyway, so we'd all fly into this, you
18 know, who's visiting her. Then the day came. She came by
19 the office and she said -- I said,

20 "Where's the baby?"

21 She said,

22 "The baby's at Fir Square"

23 but she had come out for a visit. And
24 just -- absolute black clouds. I go,

25 "There's only one scenario when they

1 -- you can't take your baby out of a
2 hospital. I know what the fuck's
3 going on."

4 They had apprehended her other three kids.
5 She was in her 40s. She's super motivated. So we went
6 through this whole rigmarole to get -- we made a schedule.
7 This was my friend's idea because I had just had a baby --
8 my baby that's 15. And what did I do with my baby? I
9 can't find daycare. Fuck -- fucking throw yourself -- let
10 yourself on fire before you -- you know what I mean? I'm
11 just saying.

12 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

13 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: So I had the baby
14 coming to work with me all the time. And they're going,
15 "Oh, the baby couldn't come to the
16 drug user's office"
17 and I'm going,
18 "My baby can't tell it's a drug
19 user's office."

20 It was just like -- so I was like
21 [indicating sound].

22 And so they were going,

23 "Oh. Well,"

24 like, you know, what are you going to
25 say? I'm a bad mother? Like I was a little

1 "[indicating sound] okay."

2 Aggressive white woman talking, you know
3 what I mean?

4 So I -- we made this little schedule for
5 her, but she moved into my place and I had to sign all the
6 papers as if I was the baby's foster mother. And it was a
7 great way to do it because I could both protect her and
8 support her. She didn't need much support, but I never
9 looked after the baby.

10 I think I held the baby once for 20
11 minutes because once -- they were trying to take someone's
12 baby away. They come -- for protective thing and I think
13 she stayed for six or eight months and -- until she could
14 get settled which meant getting housing.

15 And then we'd go to Court from time to
16 time and it was so stressful, but the -- she was incredibly
17 motivated. At one point, she took the baby to a treatment
18 centre where you could bring the baby with you. And I -- I
19 don't know. It was a number of weeks. It was out in
20 Apeareville (ph), I think it's called.

21 Anyway, so it was just a real --

22 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

23 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And those are the
24 kind of things that worked. Why did that work? Because it
25 was based on friendship. There was no service provision

1 involved because I just took the risk, you know.

2 You know, I don't know how -- it wasn't
3 much of a risk on my part other than that I was just hoping
4 I would pass as a foster mother because I'd had my own run-
5 ins with child protection services, but they let me become
6 -- and of course, I wasn't really the foster mother. I was
7 fostering their relationship of keeping them together.

8 So we need tons more things like that
9 because that's another thing. If you go through this list
10 and see how many of these women had children and then they
11 were taken from them, especially at birth. I think it's a
12 -- it's -- I don't know if it's worst. I can't. You can't
13 compare. It's like comparing worst and worst and worst and
14 worst and worst.

15 Like if you took a two-year-old from you,
16 you'd already be so bonded to your two-year-old, it would
17 be worst. But I think women have a pattern. They use more
18 drugs, they get more reckless. And I think it really adds
19 to their risky lifestyle.

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

21 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: We don't have
22 anything in place that says,

23 "I'm on your side."

24 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

25 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON:

1 "I want you to succeed. I know
2 whatever you're facing now -- no
3 matter what it is, we're going to get
4 through it. No matter how badly you
5 behave, I'm going to forgive you."

6 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

7 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: You know, those kind
8 of -- if you call that a service. That kind of stuff. And
9 have enough people involved, so it's not just one person.

10 These families have to deal with the

11 "problem child,"

12 you know. It's overwhelming to the whole
13 family where you can try and have a circle of support, like
14 they do with people with disabilities.

15 So that was my rant number two. I don't
16 know if there's any more just other than like this memorial
17 thing. I don't know how to memorialize it, but I think
18 this is shit.

19 I mean for a while I had made about -- how
20 many of these -- I don't know. I probably made ten of them
21 and I would just go to things and say,

22 "You know, do you have -- do you want
23 one?"

24 That's what I'd say.

25 "What do you have?"

1 And then you're commemorating a missing
2 poster for your kid going missing? But that's all you've
3 got.

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

5 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: That was like their
6 only way they were part of our society was the fact that
7 someone got paid to go look for them or something.

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

9 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Because they spent
10 way more. When they sifted all the dirt on the Pickton
11 farm, they spent -- it was more than this. Probably \$100
12 million sifting dirt.

13 MS. JAYME MENZIES: No way.

14 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Oh, yes way. It was
15 huge. And of course, no one talks about it.

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

17 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: But if you -- and I
18 think that's the other analysis we need to give to this.

19 These women can barely get \$200 a month in
20 support from welfare if they looked for work. That's what
21 they do to them now. And -- and yet when they're missing,
22 we'll just pour money -- just pour it down, down a dark
23 hole. Like sifting dirt, looking for their little shards
24 of teeth.

25 And at some point, you start to think to

1 yourself,

2 "This is an industry."

3 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

4 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Like it was something
5 really creepy about it to me, you know.

6 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

7 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I just had to stay
8 out of it. I just, you know, like you can just -- I didn't
9 go out there.

10 Lots of the sex worker women I knew that
11 knew some of these women and their bits were being found,
12 they went out and it was just this tent and they had all
13 these flowers and they would just sit there and weep and
14 weep and weep.

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

16 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Because I think it --
17 you know, that wasn't the position we were. I don't know
18 if we would have gone. If -- you know, I probably would
19 have supported them to go, but it wasn't -- there was never
20 a location for her loss.

21 And I think designating the sacred ground
22 for these women, for the ones that have never been found,
23 could go a long way to the families healing and also the
24 community that this -- that we've got this one rock that's
25 in the park and I think that rock's been there -- I think

1 the rock was there well before when -- I don't know. I
2 don't know what years were -- it's been there a long time
3 in memory of the missing women because they were still
4 going missing.

5 And it's a smaller thing, like if there
6 was a -- I don't know. I mean I haven't thought about it
7 and I haven't done the research, but -- what I think we
8 should be motivated to do is to think of what's the legacy.

9 You can do it with money. You can do it
10 with one of the things -- like I kept saying that to Wally
11 Oppal (ph),

12 "There better be something for these
13 women."

14 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

15 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I mean we did this to
16 them. Like and for the children. We did this to them. We
17 wouldn't look for their relatives -- like as an apology,
18 you know, it's just flimsy butch of words, but the \$50,000
19 was a thing. But I thought there should be -- even maybe a
20 legacy, intergenerational stuff where there's a scholarship
21 --

22 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

23 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- or access to money
24 for training programs or like whatever. Like some kind of
25 program where you can make your application and they don't

1 make it impossible for you, but there's a --

2 And that that legacy's run by the families
3 in the sense that people can keep their ear on it and make
4 sure it's still operating properly and hasn't died or
5 something. Like, you know, just disappeared.

6 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

7 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I don't know if I
8 have any more. I don't know what to say about the -- the
9 kids that are in trouble now, you know. I don't know if we
10 have any trouble. How many of these kids --

11 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

12 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: How many of these
13 women's children are dead?

14 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

15 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: How many of these
16 women's children are in trouble?

17 MS. JAYME MENZIES: That would be a tragic
18 but interesting --

19 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: But I think it --
20 yes.

21 MS. JAYME MENZIES: -- information to pull
22 out.

23 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I mean they -- I
24 think we lived through -- I don't know whether -- you know,
25 when you think of the different crossroads in Elsie's life

1 when things could have turned out better.

2 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

3 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: It was hard living in
4 the, you know, 1982 is a huge depression in Canada. And
5 everyone was hurt by it. And if you were on the fringes,
6 you were really knocked, you know, further down. Like, or
7 getting somewhere else was made more impossible.

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

9 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: That's how I put it.
10 And then enough of that happened. And in the 90s, it was
11 another huge turn down in the economy.

12 And I think we don't have anything in
13 place. Like that goes back to this disenfranchisement that
14 has happened to hundreds of thousands of people, not just
15 women, but it started with women. That's where it was
16 somehow palatable to deny women their status and just -- I
17 don't know. People used to be able to sell their status
18 too.

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

20 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I don't know. The
21 story is much more complicated than I know.

22 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

23 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: But I'd love to see
24 that really tie to this because I don't think it's going to
25 go away until we fix it.

1 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm. Well...

2 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: This is Suzie
3 Halagroudput (ph). Andrea Jobory (ph)'s grandpa.

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh, okay.

5 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I was -- they're so
6 sweet. The -- I think it was Andrea Jobory or Patricia
7 Johnson's cousin and they -- you know, they're so motivated
8 and they come to the neighbourhood and they walk around and
9 they look for her and they talk to people.

10 And there's got to be a way that that kind
11 of courage and caring and stuff -- it's like you don't want
12 people to think that they didn't care.

13 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

14 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: The first thing they
15 said to me when I -- finally. I went to this meeting and
16 there were these two cops there, I said -- I said,

17 "Oh, no. That's all straightened
18 out. They're taking a missing women
19 reports."

20 And I said,

21 "No, they're not."

22 And they said,

23 "Yes, they are."

24 It's like -

25 "You're all a bunch of [indicating

1 sound] across the table at some guy."

2 I knew them well enough and I had met with
3 them enough times and I said,

4 "I'm going home right now"

5 -- this is all very controlled -

6 "and I'm going to report her. And if
7 I can't get through, I want your cell
8 number and you're going to help me;
9 right?"

10 And I called 9-1-1 and they said,

11 "You have to call missing women's"

12 and I called -- or

13 "the missing persons."

14 I called missing persons, they told me to
15 call -- this went on.

16 It took me over two and a half hours and
17 the first thing they said to me after we got the report
18 taken, which is over the phone -- it's just a simple little
19 thing -

20 "Why did you take so long to report
21 her?"

22 That's the first thing they said to me
23 and that came up again.

24 In the Sun article about this, they had a
25 bunch of pictures and they'd said,

1 "Last seen: 1992. Reported 2000;"
2 right? And then the reporter makes these
3 remarks.

4 "You can see these women weren't
5 really missed. Look how long it took
6 them to report."

7 And I'm like on the phone with this poor
8 guy like you got to take that out of the article.

9 This isn't us. This isn't us. Don't ever
10 blame the -- and you know, I mean -- and maybe there's some
11 family on here who just didn't give a shit about their
12 relative; you know what I mean? But they were --

13 It just -- I think the families have
14 anything to say is that's they're caring and they're
15 longing in their search and all their hard work is -- I
16 mean -- unacknowledged and dismissed. And it's because
17 we've got a police system in place instead of another way
18 to find people and, you know, when I went in [M.B.] --
19 what's his name? [M.B.], that's his name. Poor man.

20 Anyway, because I keep quoting these awful
21 things he said. I remember I went in one time and I said,

22 "You know, we haven't found Elsie."

23 And he goes,

24 "She's not found yet? She's fish

25 food."

1 And I thought,

2 "Thank God her kids aren't here to
3 hear you say such a stupid thing."

4 But another time, I said,

5 "Well, you know" -

6 he said

7 "48 Aboriginal women -- year-old
8 Aboriginal woman -- don't go missing.
9 They need to be teens or in their
10 early 20s and then we'll make posters
11 of them."

12 I was like,

13 "Okay."

14 And he wasn't defending. He's being
15 sarcastic or something. You know what I mean?

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

17 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: He's -- I don't think
18 it was --

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Facetious about it.

20 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: It wasn't his
21 position on it. He was just commenting that -- and I
22 remember Angela [Arsenault]'s paper -- picture was up and
23 she's so pretty. And the pictures were really pretty and
24 she was quite young, I think. And, you know, I pointed --
25 by this time, the walls were filled with these posters and

1 we can't get Elsie added to them and I think that was his
2 comment that, you know.

3 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

4 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON:

5 "Well, a 48-year-old Aboriginal woman
6 don't go missing."

7 They're not going to look. I mean that's
8 the fact that she's Aboriginal.

9 And I said,

10 "Do you mean if I went missing and I
11 just happened -- I'm white, but I
12 mean it isn't very encouraging."

13 I think the older you are in that way,
14 you're devalued somehow.

15 I don't know if that's true whether --
16 because I think missing people generally -- there's a huge
17 problem with the system of looking for those people. And
18 it's particularly cruel with Aboriginal women because when
19 we tell the story, there really is a complete juxtaposition
20 of how they look for a white woman and how they look for an
21 Aboriginal woman or how they investigate murders, the same
22 thing. All the faux pas and fuck ups.

23 That whole thing in Regina. I follow them
24 -- I try and follow as many of them as I can, but there's
25 not much of a place to connect and commiserate and give

1 each other hints and give each other support.

2 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

3 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: [*Three sentences*
4 *redacted pursuant to Rule 55*].

5 It's the community and the giving that
6 lets you be a human, not that you're so fucked up everyone
7 has to give to you. That's not an attractive thing for
8 human beings -- I had this -- human beings just want to
9 make the world a better place and that's so true. And you
10 almost never find anyone who doesn't want that for -- you
11 know, they -- everyone feels that they're capable. Almost
12 everyone, even people that you just think,

13 "You can't be capable."

14 Like you know what I mean?

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

16 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I deal with this all
17 the time in my groups. People that are just so ill and,
18 you know, degraded and you think -- and you go,

19 "No, of course, they can be."

20 And that's the thing. When they're
21 allowed to be -- one of the ways we can tell we're humans
22 is that we give and we contribute or we help or we -- you
23 know what I mean? We belong. All those kind of soft
24 things.

25 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

1 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And that's sure what
2 I'd like to see go forward if there's an outcome to this --

3 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

4 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- whole thing across
5 the country because I assume we could find neighbourhoods
6 in Winnipeg or Regina or Saskatoon where women have gone
7 missing and there's just people just left and they haven't
8 got a way of feeling like they can commemorate them or look
9 for them or celebrate their lives or help out with their
10 children -- any of those things.

11 So that's all I think I have to say.

12 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Thank you.

13 MS. JAYME MENZIES: You're welcome. You
14 have a wealth of insight.

15 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Oh --

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: You should write a
17 textbook.

18 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Well, the -- yes,
19 actually, you know what? I just realized one of the other
20 last --

21 MS. JAYME MENZIES: That's fine.

22 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I mean -- drug
23 addiction and the lack of access to substitution programs
24 for drugs and the lack of even detox if people want to go
25 that way and treatment if people want to go that way. And

1 the kind of bias and hatred and criminalization of people
2 who use drugs definitely contributed to these women's
3 deaths.

4 I don't know if that's a common theme
5 across the country, but it would not surprise me. So when
6 you add that vulnerability of the criminalization -- like I
7 said, they don't want to be found by the cops --

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

9 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- but there's women.
10 So that ties to it. But on the plus side, it would be to
11 say -- when we look after people, do we say,

12 "Okay. You've been arrested for
13 prostitution?"

14 Police hear a claim. They don't do that
15 anymore but go look at the data and you'll see lots of
16 prostitution arrests, so who's doing it?

17 And it's certainly true of any of the
18 outlying areas. That's never a charge that makes any
19 sense. It's just destructive. Like what's the point?

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

21 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Really? It's not
22 even illegal.

23 You know, the prostitution laws are
24 stupid. It's not illegal to sell sex. It's illegal to say
25 you're selling sex. I mean -- oh, come on. Why do we even

1 have anything like this? It's just -- it's so flimsy and
2 who are you victimizing? You're victimizing a victim.
3 It's stupid.

4 So -- but those kind of charges then take
5 on a life of their own and the drug charges. And what we
6 need to do is stop criminalizing people that are poor,
7 marginalized, addicted, and ill. And do whatever --
8 survival. What they do for survival is what they do for
9 survival.

10 And it was a consistently omitted thing in
11 the Oppal report and the Oppal inquiry. No one would talk
12 about why -- why weren't they offered drug treatment or
13 minimum wage -- this is why people like guaranteed annual
14 income.

15 If you had an income every month, you
16 wouldn't have to go and beg from welfare. Welfare wouldn't
17 be able to do their cruel nightmare to you and then for
18 getting things that you needed, you could get away from
19 (indiscernible). You could get away from some of these
20 relationships that take you down this terrible path and it
21 can be universal so that it's not just an Aboriginal
22 program.

23 I mean I think that until they recognize
24 this terrible thing that's happened to women that we're
25 Aboriginal where they were disenfranchised from their

1 heritage and their -- what little they did have -- some
2 reserve, which is horribly inadequate.

3 But I'm just saying that really sticks
4 out. But this lack of access to proper research-based,
5 best practice addiction treatment is another -- like for
6 years and years, you couldn't get needles on reserves.
7 They were like,

8 "Oh, we don't have drug users here"
9 or that occurred -- just drug use.

10 So you'd get these weird pockets of this
11 kind of behaviour that causes people so much damage.
12 There's tons of AIDS then gets spread.

13 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

14 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Like it's happening
15 in Saskatchewan like crazy and almost everyone who's
16 injecting drugs and getting HIV from used needles is First
17 Nations.

18 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

19 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And you know, like
20 honestly -- and this, it took us years and years to get it,
21 but now I can take truckloads of needles and drive them to
22 Saskatchewan and hand them out. No one would even blink an
23 eye.

24 I'm just -- I'm not kidding because I
25 could have done it with some of the suburbs out here where

1 they were withholding needles. We'd just fill up my car
2 and drive out there and start handing them out, like in an
3 organized way -- we'd organize a group.

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

5 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: But the -- it was so
6 much of what we can do to help people is, again, to say,

7 "Are you -- how are you doing? What
8 do you need?"

9 instead of saying,

10 "We have these programs, but you
11 don't fit any of them and until you
12 get six months clean, you can't do
13 this"

14 and

15 "We're taking your baby because we
16 say that" or --

17 In Saskatchewan, for years and years, the
18 fact that you were on methadone was an automatic
19 apprehension of your child as if that makes you a bad
20 mother. I mean you're on -- lots of mother are on all
21 kinds of stuff. It's just bullshit.

22 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

23 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: So -- but it's never
24 been really apologized for and you worry that even though
25 it's policy now not to do that, it just takes one

1 bureaucrat to get in power with some kind of psycho
2 bullshit idea and bang, it can come back in.

3 So that's where we need a much broader
4 understanding of addictions, what are the best treatments
5 for addictions, what works.

6 Shockingly, prescribing heroin to heroin
7 addicts gives -- and they stick with it. If they stick
8 with heroin prescription for 18 months, there's like a 24
9 percent abstinence raise. Nobody's boasting 24 percent
10 abstinence rates. Most abstinence programs are like if
11 they can get ten percent.

12 And that's what we got -- these rotating,
13 unexamined, mythical, cruel, you know, it's just all based
14 on stigma because of the criminalization. So it's, I
15 think, a huge thing if -- and I don't know -- you'd get a
16 sense of this going across the country.

17 If women that are going missing,
18 especially Indigenous women that are going missing, are
19 marginalized and criminalized because of their drug use,
20 which is a medical illness, it needs to be really part of
21 the report that this is another key piece. As it may not
22 be central, it can be still a big piece.

23 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

24 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: You know, if people -
25 - if you look at,

1 "Okay, how come that woman isn't dead
2 or missing?"

3 "Well, because she was lucky enough"

4 -

5 you know what I mean? You can see these
6 divergent points in people's lives where they were able to
7 get away from the danger because they were offered
8 something that worked for them at the time.

9 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

10 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: So most of the women
11 when I talk to their families, I'd say -- I'd get them up
12 on the stand like I'm some little lawyer. It was pathetic.

13 Anyway, I'd say to them -- like [Picton
14 Victim 1], I said to her,

15 "Was your daughter ever offered
16 methadone?"

17 "No."

18 "Was she" --

19 This province has the highest rates of
20 addiction in Canada and it always has, but I'm just saying
21 -- especially, you know, opioids and stuff -- we had 2,000
22 people on methadone when these people were going missing in
23 B.C. -- 2,000. It's like 25,000 now. Like it's shocking.

24 They weren't at all meeting it. It was a
25 huge problem to get on a two-week wait period. Otherwise,

1 you were just offered religious-based treatment.

2 Some of the Aboriginal-based treatment,
3 Round Lake, or this or that had a lot more cultural stuff
4 in it but still a very limited -- in terms of the number,
5 like a pinhole to get a ton of people through. It was not
6 a good model.

7 And that's what -- where we talk about --
8 and I don't know if it can be introduced into the inquiry
9 stuff.

10 There's a triangle that's made and at the
11 top of the triangle is abstinence and if you keep tell
12 people they just need to go straight to abstinence, it's
13 silly because -- and this was a triangle that was made in
14 Europe when they said,

15 "Okay. Here's these people on the
16 street. What's -- what do we offer
17 the people on the street? Drop-in
18 centres, methadone, drug user
19 groups,"

20 you know, like all these things they can
21 wander in and out of and then they're connected. And once
22 they're connected to anything, they can move up the
23 triangle.

24 What's the worst thing is you just leave
25 them to die on the streets. The data was showing that most

1 people who are addicted are not getting any interaction
2 with our government paid-for addiction treatment services
3 for seven years. I was like,

4 "Holy fuck. Who knew?"

5 If there's anything we can do better as a
6 society or as a government that's paying for this anyway,
7 it would be to say to people,

8 "We want you to interact with us
9 soon. How about within six months?

10 How about within a year? As soon as
11 you know you're in trouble"

12 because you can go somewhere and it's not
13 this --

14 What we've done with abstinence is we've
15 made it this be all. You either have to succeed at it or
16 fail at it.

17 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

18 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And what you want is
19 to say -- the other research shows that people who become
20 abstinent for two years have made 11 attempts to become
21 abstinent. Eleven. That means we need to offer lots and
22 lots of attempts.

23 And each time, it shouldn't be,

24 "Well, you know, you failed."

25 It should be,

1 "Ha, well."

2 You know, make it more light-hearted.

3 "There's some clean time no one will
4 never take away from you"

5 and

6 "How can you stay safe in the
7 meantime"

8 And

9 "Don't ever be afraid to try here
10 again. You're always welcome here."

11 Because we used to have a system here in
12 B.C. It was going on when these guys were in. They
13 wouldn't let you in detox more than three times a year.
14 I'm like,

15 "Well, who made that up?"

16 And they'd say,

17 "Oh, that's not our policy"

18 and I said,

19 "Well, it's being told to people that
20 are telling it to me and I'm here,
21 you know, to say is that the policy
22 or isn't it?"

23 And they had it not written down
24 anywhere.

25 "Oh"

1 and they just kind of -

2 "They're just using our detox centre
3 to get food and shelter."

4 I'm going,

5 "Wow. That sure says a lot about
6 what else we're offering them."

7 I'm like,

8 "Good. That will keep them alive."

9 Like they -- people just lose -- they lose
10 the plot. They just think,

11 "Well, I'm defending my thing and I
12 don't want people in here who aren't
13 serious. And I'd want people who are
14 really going to commit and then
15 they're going to succeed."

16 And the other one is creaming,

17 "I want to show that my facility gets
18 good results. So who do I leave off?
19 The people from the worst
20 backgrounds. The people from -- that
21 are going to take longer. The people
22 that are more sick. The people that
23 are --;"

24 you know what I mean?

25 And then you just cream. You just take

1 the people that were going to quit anyway and didn't
2 actually need your help. And you know what I mean? They
3 just waltz through the place.

4 Where the people that are at the bottom
5 tend to get this huge rap and then they get discriminated
6 against even within a system that's supposed to take people
7 who are addicted to drugs into that system. They're being
8 discriminated against because they're not the "right"
9 addicts. And it's racist. It is absolutely racist.

10 So that's another contributor to this.
11 And I don't know -- I mean it's not as if we're trying to
12 make the list longer, but I think it can't be overlooked
13 because you see how trapped people get. If you're
14 physically dependent on a substance that you have to get
15 every day and the side effects of not having it are you
16 start vomiting, you have extreme diarrhea and you have
17 goose flesh and hot flashes and you're so weak you almost
18 can't walk. You are so sick.

19 As people said to me, it's like the flu --
20 the worst flu you've ever had except worst and stuff
21 shooting out of your mouth and your asshole at the same
22 time and you can't shaking and shivering and you can't eat
23 anything. You can't get comfortable. You know, who even
24 wants to be around you? Who's going to go through that
25 mess?

1 You know, so the -- we put -- if that's --
2 and then for turning a trick or doing something dangerous
3 or agreeing to anything will get you that relief.

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

5 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: We've put people in a
6 pretty clearly tiny place from where they cannot make
7 decisions and that's why it's so important that we get
8 these replacement programs in where we were saying to get
9 it right away. We were going -- I thought there's a wait -
10 - if there's a three-day wait for methadone, I'm going to
11 lose this person.

12 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

13 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: She's shitting her
14 pants right now, can't I just -- so instead you're -- this
15 is what I found myself doing. And you drive them in your
16 car, you give them some money, they jump out and buy drugs
17 off someone off the street, and then they take those drugs
18 so you can actually sit down and finish doing intake with
19 them.

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

21 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Like I'm just going,

22 "Is this the best we can do?"

23 I mean it's technologically Canada. Like
24 you just start to get so cynical about --

25 MS. JAYME MENZIES: The --

1 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- just the bias is
2 so profoundly strong. So most of the advancements have
3 been made by a bunch of junkies that fought like crazy to
4 get all this stuff and, you know, the groups that we
5 formed, the B.C. Association of People on Methadone.

6 And if you walk into those drug user
7 groups right now, if they're properly done in terms of this
8 grassroots, you start counting people and (Audio breaking
9 off) and they go,

10 "Well, I don't ask them if they got
11 status or not. I just look."

12 You look Aboriginal and what we had was
13 -- I flip over a sheet and it just said,

14 "How many men in the room, how many
15 women in the room"

16 and of course, you can do that with
17 transgendered. I don't give a shit. If you look like a
18 woman, you're a woman; dick.

19 So you know what I mean? Which a
20 transgendered person wouldn't mind if they're doing he,
21 she, her, whatever, you know if they're doing female.
22 Whatever. And then the same thing we would do. We would
23 say,

24 "Is it raining?"

25 And then,

1 "Okay. How many people in the room
2 look like they're Indigenous or First
3 Nations?"

4 And it's a third, a third, a third and
5 because that's what's in this neighbourhood.

6 That's how -- you know, and I think that
7 the groups that are doing that kind of stuff need to be
8 held accountable. Are you really reaching the people that
9 were paying you to reach? Because you can always go,

10 "Oh, you know, I don't feel safe with
11 that guy here. He raised his voice"
12 or -- and we are -- they're tough
13 customers.

14 As I say, I don't think it's because they
15 had a bad day. I'm pretty sure they had a bad week, a bad
16 month, and maybe even a bad decade. Like maybe we can get
17 over our fucking bullshit and if not, get some fucking
18 self-care so you can come back tomorrow and you're a full
19 tank; you know what I mean?

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

21 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: It's not about you.
22 It's not about how scared you are. And we've -- you know,
23 even with Insight, we had this happening. Insight bars
24 people. I was like,

25 "Holy fuck."

1 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh, really.

2 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON:

3 "Where are you going to shoot? You
4 don't know"

5 and it's because he raised his hand or he
6 threatened someone. And I'm going,

7 "It's not that they've done that.

8 It's that you need to make it so they
9 can apologize and be forgiven for
10 doing that. And if you don't make
11 that mechanism, you just create these
12 people that"

13 -- I'll show them to you. They're all
14 sitting all over the street shooting dope and I don't know
15 if they're, you know, they have done more about that at
16 Insight because we sort of raised a ruckus about it. And
17 it's embarrassing to them. It shouldn't be embarrassing to
18 them.

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

20 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: If you've got the
21 wrong workers there, get the right ones in. If the workers
22 there are so burnt that they need a break, then let's fund
23 that. Let's make sure we've got ample, you know, breaks
24 and strategies for preventing trauma. Like everyone talks
25 trauma, but all I see is more.

1 I see the cops surrounding people and
2 sectioning them under the Mental Health Act. Six cops
3 heading for them in handcuffs and then I'm thinking,

4 "If this person is traumatized, I
5 can't even imagine how traumatized
6 they are now."

7 And these are these repeated traumas;
8 you know what I mean? Where they're away arrested, you're
9 locked in a psych ward, you're tied to a bed. Like I can't
10 even imagine.

11 And then we're talking about healing them.
12 I'm just like,

13 "I don't know where we start, but I'm
14 pretty sure it's not here."

15 And it's -- you know, this --

16 Like this whole process is like that.

17 Anyone can walk here and talk to you guys and there's just
18 not enough of it, you know --

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

20 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- that's ongoing and
21 there for people whatever they need it.

22 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

23 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I think I am done
24 now. I'm flagging. Drug addiction, families, drug policy,
25 how to look for people that are missing. How to look for

1 people that are missing is -- I don't know. I'll have to
2 go post --

3 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Well, I've got some --

4 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I don't know if
5 there's -- if there is any websites or anything that erupt
6 from this where the families all want to meet each other or
7 make a place to share stuff. I'd be interested in being
8 informed of it. I don't know if it's happening or not.

9 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

10 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And I mean -- I don't
11 really know -- hopefully people.

12 MS. JAYME MENZIES: I mean -- you mean
13 like a website -- like our website kind of supports --

14 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Yes, that they make
15 up just a little bit where you can just post stuff.

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh, yes. That's --

17 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Because it'll be --
18 I'm sure it will -- there will be complaints.

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh, --

20 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: The --

21 MS. JAYME MENZIES: -- we get complaints
22 every day.

23 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I bet.

24 MS. JAYME MENZIES: And --

25 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: They're an ordinary

1 bunch.

2 MS. JAYME MENZIES: That's part of it.

3 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I know. Of course.
4 They went through such terrible stuff.

5 MS. JAYME MENZIES: It's part of the
6 healing; right?

7 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I know.

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh, yes.

9 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I know about that. I
10 mean that took me a while to come to because --

11 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes, like we have a
12 Facebook page. You know, that's really --

13 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Oh, I guess we can
14 try it --

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: You know, we don't
16 really have enough of what you're suggesting though --

17 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: No.

18 MS. JAYME MENZIES: -- right now.

19 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Well, it's just nice
20 to network across the country. I mean I do now with harm
21 reduction stuff and drug user stuff. So it seems like we
22 could do it with this stuff as well.

23 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

24 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I mean there's some
25 overlap, but it's not everybody meets that. They just

1 sometimes -- I mean, God, you read these cases like the
2 Betty Osborne thing and you just think,

3 "Holy shit."

4 The racism is so terrible.

5 I mean to just think that women like that
6 -- I mean this neighbourhood I get the sensation we're kind
7 of, you know, as you walk down the street, you'd feel the
8 bones underneath the sidewalk cracking because a lot of
9 people died in this neighbourhood and a lot of women were
10 sold and abused and prostituted like way back. I mean --
11 where are you from?

12 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Manitoba.

13 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Yes. I think
14 Manitoba's older than B.C. I don't know. Like even look
15 at these --

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: I mean in the --

17 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- how old are these
18 bricks?

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: -- Canadian sense,
20 like in --

21 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Vancouver's a very
22 new town.

23 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes. I think -- but
24 we joined confederation in 1870 so likely before B.C., so
25 but just slightly though.

1 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Yes.

2 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Because I think it
3 kind of progressed with the railroad; right?

4 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Yes. But then in
5 terms of the buildings and the --

6 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh, yes.

7 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: The thing -- this
8 neighbourhood's got Gastown and Gassy Jack was this famous
9 guy but he, like, married a 14-year-old Aboriginal girl or
10 something so it's a deadly fucking story.

11 When you hear it, you just think,

12 "Holy shit. That's our legacy?"

13 And then when she died, he married her
14 sister. I was like,

15 "Oh."

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh, my gosh.

17 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I mean where are
18 their kids? And did they ever have any? Like I'm always
19 curious about who's who now.

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Wow.

21 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And my children's
22 great-great-grandfather probably came and took most of the
23 land down here. And I mean they don't have any money now
24 unfortunately, but, you know what I'm saying?

25 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

1 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Like there's these --
2 everyone's got a legacy to get over in terms of -- I wonder
3 what that was really like, you know.

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

5 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: You know, I wonder
6 whose land he stole. Like you know what I mean? This
7 whole stolen land thing is a very wounding thing and people
8 don't behave well always when they're wounded.

9 Some people are, you know, trying to make
10 amends and get forgiveness, but other people are covering
11 up their guilt with more bad behaviour; you know?

12 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

13 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Fuck them.

14 "Lay down"

15 or, you know, whatever.

16 "Native people should be grateful".

17 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

18 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON:

19 "Look at the technology we brought."

20 And I'm like,

21 "Really? What technology is that?"

22 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

23 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: It's creepy. So I
24 think -- I mean the number of bigger issues that get, you
25 know -- the whole stolen land thing. It just sits there.

1 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

2 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And I think it's --
3 well, the good thing about everyone's opening everything
4 was unceded territory is that it's starting to creep into
5 the consciousness of --

6 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Well--

7 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- white people that
8 there could be something to settle. I mean as phony as it
9 might be; you know what I mean? I'm just thinking,

10 "I'm not sure why it gets said."

11 I think it's an interesting thing.

12 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

13 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I was a bit taken
14 back when I hear the mayor do it.

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

16 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I think.

17 MS. JAYME MENZIES: And then just move
18 along with his day.

19 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Yes, yes, but at the
20 same time, you know, someone's hearing this.

21 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

22 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And as our own
23 children are getting disenfranchised, you can't own
24 everything in this city. It's like [indicating sound] --

25 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh, yes.

1 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- going to this tiny
2 elite. And as there's less and less elite people, it might
3 occur to them, like,

4 "Hmm, I'm on unceded territory too."

5 I don't want any of it; you know what I
6 mean? They start to think of -- there might be another
7 model we could use for land use. Let me think. Anyway,
8 who knows.

9 MS. JAYME MENZIES: It'll be interesting
10 to watch.

11 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Yes, well... So are
12 you Metis or?

13 MS. JAYME MENZIES: I am.

14 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Yes? From where?

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Well, I was born and
16 raised in Dauphin, but kind of -- my -- we may have -- my
17 grandmother was right just outside of Winnipeg is where her
18 --

19 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And what's your name?

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Her maiden name was
21 Teddy A. Terrian (ph).

22 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Oh, yes.

23 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Her married name is
24 Lamerre (ph).

25 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Oh, yes. And which

1 one's the Metis name? Both of them?

2 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Not Lamerre. Lamerre
3 is French.

4 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Right.

5 MS. JAYME MENZIES: And then Terrian is
6 the...

7 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Terrian.

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

9 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: My friend is Cindy
10 Loranbell (ph) and her father --

11 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh, that's a very
12 Metis name.

13 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Yes. Yes, and it
14 turns out that my children whose great-great-grandfather --
15 great-great -- I think three -- ended up with a huge swatch
16 of all this land and then you go down, down and their
17 grandmother -- her father was Metis and he's a Macdonald.

18 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

19 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And he was a Hudson's
20 Bay guy, I think, or the other one. What's the huge
21 companies? But you know, we find all the -- honestly,
22 there's boxes of stuff with stamps from 1860 something --

23 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh, interesting.

24 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I'm going,

25 "That's fucking stamped from 1860. I

1 could just take this."

2 Like I don't know what they are. It's
3 such -- I just keep saying,

4 "Can we get this out of the fucking
5 basement?"

6 If this basement floods, we're going to
7 lose all this shit.

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Hmm.

9 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: So anyway, I haven't
10 talked to him into it yet. I'm trying to claw away this
11 whole -- and get it archived.

12 MS. JAYME MENZIES: That's great.

13 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I said,

14 "We could just take photocopies.

15 They can keep the real stuff"

16 and then we won't have the burden.

17 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

18 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And we could just
19 keep our own little -- make our own little family thing if
20 we want. But it's creepy because they were doing really
21 shitty mean things to trappers as far as I could tell.

22 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

23 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: We found this one
24 document and he's recording this guy's property and then I
25 realize he's taking it.

1 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

2 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Oh. I was like,
3 "Whoa. This is" --

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Is that history of
5 Manitoba?

6 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Pardon me?

7 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Is that in Manitoba
8 this was happening? Is that where --

9 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I think it is.

10 MS. JAYME MENZIES: -- probably.

11 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I think they were --
12 I think it was --

13 MS. JAYME MENZIES: That's kind of where
14 it all collided.

15 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Winnipeg, yes.
16 That's the hub. It's like Chicago in the states or
17 something.

18 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm. Yes.

19 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Yes, yes, I have a --

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Where the rivers met
21 and all that, so --

22 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Yes. It's -- anyway,
23 I almost don't remember, but Macdonald was the name and --

24 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

25 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- and I don't know -

1 -

2 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Well, that makes sense
3 because mainly it was Scottish, French, and Indigenous
4 people, so --

5 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Archie. Archie
6 Macdonald.

7 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh, yes.

8 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And I don't know --
9 he might have been the Metis guy, but who knows. You can
10 never --

11 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

12 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I don't know how far
13 back he'll go. You meet all these Scottish people who were
14 involved --

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Well, that's right.

16 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- and then they had
17 Native wives --

18 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

19 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- so their kids are
20 Native, but they also had a wife back in Scotland and a ton
21 of them were sent back to go to university.

22 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

23 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And stuff like that.
24 There's a really interesting mix.

25 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

1 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And I don't know what
2 -- I could try to follow the big legal case on Metis, but
3 I'm failing. I've got to --

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Well --

5 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- like, you know --

6 MS. JAYME MENZIES: It's --

7 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Cindy had to fight
8 like crazy to get her kid covered for his school because
9 there's some kind of fund you can get. But anyway, I don't
10 know.

11 MS. JAYME MENZIES: There's not a whole
12 lot of -- I mean --

13 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: There's very --

14 MS. JAYME MENZIES: -- no matter what the
15 Courts say, the government don't -- hasn't really acted on
16 what kind of rights should be upheld for Metis people yet.

17 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: No.

18 MS. JAYME MENZIES: So...

19 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And then the whole
20 issue of land.

21 MS. JAYME MENZIES: It's a lot like your
22 unceded territory issue here where there's just land
23 sitting there that was promised to the Metis and it was
24 never given over.

25 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Really?

1 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes. Basically, all
2 of Winnipeg was -- is Metis land that was never, you know,
3 ceded; right?

4 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Right.

5 MS. JAYME MENZIES: And so the Courts have
6 kind of acknowledged it, but now it's like,

7 "Well, what do we do now, you know?
8 Winnipeg is sitting on it."

9 So it's very similar to here except that
10 First Nations signed treaties but the Metis didn't kind of
11 thing --

12 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: All right.

13 MS. JAYME MENZIES: -- so it's a little
14 complicated.

15 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I went to that museum
16 in --

17 MS. JAYME MENZIES: The --

18 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Near Regina; is that
19 --

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh, yes.

21 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- or near Saskatoon?
22 Yes, Saskatoon. Lalosh (ph); is that it?

23 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh, Batoche.

24 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Batoche, sorry.

25 MS. JAYME MENZIES: There is like a --

1 yes.

2 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: That's shocking. I
3 was like,

4 "Holy shit. This is all murder and
5 shit."

6 They don't tell this to you in school.

7 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes, no, they sure
8 don't.

9 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: No, and it's not --

10 MS. JAYME MENZIES: It's not one of the --

11 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: It's too bad. I mean
12 it'd be great to take over and be able to tell us on this
13 history.

14 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

15 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I think we'd have a
16 much more cohesive community.

17 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

18 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: You know what I mean?

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Well, the textbooks
20 like the older textbooks kind of frame it as these people
21 were rebels and, you know, not --

22 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Yes, and look who
23 they paid to come in and mow them down. A bunch of -- so I
24 just see the oppression, just -- you know, [indicating
25 sound].

1 Like you take a bunch of people and drive
2 them off their land in Scotland and they go to America and
3 drive a bunch of --

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

5 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- people off the
6 land. I was like,

7 "Hey, it's a repeating pattern."

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Human behaviour, yes.

9 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Not imitating your
10 oppressor is one of our biggest problems.

11 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

12 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: It happens and the
13 most local way in our user group --

14 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Definitely.

15 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- because if drug
16 users have been excluded from -- oh, it was very, very
17 common in the 90s.

18 If you were considered an addict, you
19 weren't allowed into Carnegie. You weren't allowed into
20 the women's Downtown Eastside Women's Centre. You weren't
21 allowed anywhere. They were basically standing all over
22 the streets.

23 So when we made a place for users to come,
24 it was a big deal.

25 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

1 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I mean whatever, so.
2 And then we fought those. We kept mailing letters and
3 threatening to get lawyers and do human rights cases if
4 they didn't fix these policies. Anyway.

5 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

6 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: So there's a point to
7 that.

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oppressing...

9 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Oh. Then we get
10 going and we get a little bit of money and we go to do
11 something and our own workers are now doing exactly what
12 was done -- like the first one was with needles.

13 They wouldn't give out bloody needles at
14 the needle exchange, so we'd get a hold of a bunch of
15 needles and we're giving out the needles and I said,

16 "I want one of you to stand here at
17 the corner of (indiscernible) and I
18 want the other one to go down the
19 block and come back up the alley."

20 He goes,

21 "Well, that's really dangerous."

22 I'm like,

23 "Are you kidding me? Like I walk
24 around here at 2 a.m. I'm not
25 scared. Like why are you scared?"

1 He said,

2 "They might beat us up."

3 I said,

4 "Why would they beat you up?"

5 He said,

6 "Because I won't give them needles."

7 I'm like,

8 "But you're here to give out
9 needles."

10 "Oh, no, I only give them two or ten
11 or something."

12 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh.

13 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I was just like,
14 "They should be two up."

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

16 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON:

17 "I'm on their side."

18 But you can't seem to --

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

20 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: It's like how did we
21 miss that? I'm sure we discussed this before we all
22 decided to do this project, but he, like, missed the
23 amount. He just thinks,

24 "Oh, we're here to do what was done
25 to us."

1 It's like this -- if you grew up with a
2 boot on your neck, you know, once you get that boot out off
3 of your neck, you're going to get up and then find someone
4 to put your boot on their neck. I was just like,

5 "This can't be our legacy. We got to
6 figure out this other way,"

7 which is why I think it has to be -- it's
8 so hard not to do that and it's a very unthinking thing. I
9 think it's a very human thing to do.

10 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

11 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: You know, but anyway,
12 I think that's why we want to reinforce a third way or this
13 --

14 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

15 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- you know,
16 community, friendship. These are the things that people --
17 I don't know if they're not good at them or they seem to be
18 good at them. It's the space. Where are you going to do
19 it? That's what we find. It's just public all space is
20 being crushed and access to -- like people used to do it in
21 their homes.

22 The very first meetings I ever held in
23 this neighbourhood, I had a three-bedroom apartment and
24 that means the living room and dining room are bigger, you
25 know, for a three-bedroom apartment and you can have a

1 dining room table. No one has those anymore.

2 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

3 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: They're all in
4 second-hand stores. I see them all the time, these huge
5 tables. I think,

6 "God, there's so many and they're so
7 cheap. What do you think?"

8 "Yes, but you can't buy one, Ann,
9 because you don't have a place to put
10 it."

11 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

12 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: It's like, what are
13 we going to do with them all?

14 Anyway, then they come and they sit around
15 the dining room table and we form a drug user group.

16 And then I didn't even think about it
17 until later how complimented they were; you know what I
18 mean? To be in someone's home.

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

20 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: If your whole life
21 has been institutionalized that you're in a prison or a
22 this. Someone's always being paid to be around you.

23 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

24 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And then someone
25 goes,

1 "Oh, no, come over. And there are
2 these kids playing and I've made tea"
3 and you know what I mean? It was like I
4 had the Queen over or something. It was like,

5 "Oh, God. I better clean the house."

6 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

7 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And then I'd look at
8 them and I'd think,

9 "Oh, my God."

10 It had a way more powerful impact than I
11 thought it would because it just hadn't occurred me that
12 they hadn't been invited to someone's home --

13 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

14 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: -- for so, so, so
15 long because they're criminals and bad guys and drug
16 addicts and like all these labels; right?

17 And we had mostly -- we had very few women
18 in the drug user group at the first, but we got more and
19 more. We started a sort of women's project and that's
20 where the women I knew came and lived with me with her
21 baby.

22 And she, to this day, still has custody of
23 that baby -- as far as I know. I think something's going
24 on right now, but I don't know what it is.

25 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

1 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: But it was a huge
2 victory. She also had a strong role model. Her mother --
3 when she lost custody of her other children, her mother
4 would get in a vehicle, drive here from -- I think they
5 lived near Regina and she'd take the kids and take them
6 back.

7 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

8 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: And that's a good
9 role model for a woman to have for a mother.

10 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

11 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: I don't know if she
12 was very spunky about it, but she got it done. And then of
13 course, she died really young. That's it. These early
14 deaths are tremendous problems.

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

16 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Because how are you
17 going to -- we're not finished with your parents.

18 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

19 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: My dad's 94.

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: We're still learning
21 from them for sure.

22 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Well, I should be
23 over there interviewing. I mean he's going to die any
24 minute, but I mean just -- I mean he's not sick. I'm just
25 saying he putters around.

1 My role is to protect him from the rest of
2 the family who wants him to live in a home and I'm the only
3 one in Vancouver who's thinking,

4 "I don't know why you guys are so
5 upset. I'm the one who has to go
6 over there and find him dead. Like
7 fuck off. Like don't" --

8 And then he gets all funny and I go,
9 "Ed, I'm the one. I'm the -- I'm not
10 -- I'm on your side. I'm on your
11 side. If that's your last request in
12 life that you putter around this
13 apartment and die in here, I guess --
14 well, I guess I can put up with
15 that."

16 I just think, I don't know, what, I'm
17 going to fight with him? Because they won't let -- he's
18 still coherent, so you can't force him into a home.

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm-hmm.

20 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: As glamorous as it
21 sounds. You see this scenario on TV all the time, they're
22 thinking. That's bullshit. You can't force your parents
23 into a home.

24 My sister tried it, so I know it doesn't
25 work. Like she's interviewing him and saying,

1 "No, no, he's coherent. He wants to
2 -- he didn't want to do that."

3 It's like,
4 "Really? He gets to decide." "We're
5 so worried though. We're so
6 worried."

7 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

8 MS. ANN LIVINGSTON: Anyway, I should get
9 going.

10 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay. Well, I'll turn
11 off the technology.

12 --- Whereupon the statement concluded at 1:00 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I have, to the best
of my skill and ability,
accurately transcribed from a pre-existing recording
the foregoing proceeding.



Karen Mak, Court Reporter