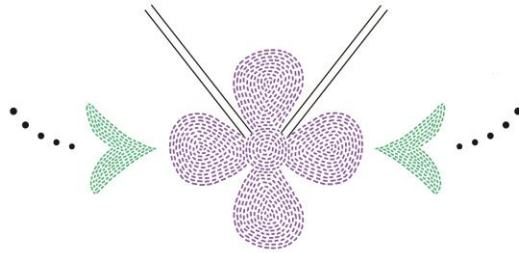


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls  
Truth-Gathering Process  
Part I Statement Gathering  
Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel  
Metro Vancouver (Richmond)  
British Columbia**



**PUBLIC**

**Friday April 6, 2018**

**Statement - Volume 357**

**Carol Martin,  
In relation to Delilah MacDonald**

**Statement gathered by Debbie Bodkin**

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**II**  
**NOTE**

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

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April 6, 2018

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

**Statement - Public**  
**Carol Martin**  
**(Delilah MacDonald)**

1

Richmond, British Columbia

1

2 --- Upon commencing on Friday, April 6, 2018

3 at 4:38 p.m.

4 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: It's Friday, April  
5 6th, 2018. It is 4:38 p.m., and we are in Richmond, B.C.,  
6 and I'm Debbie. I'm the statement gatherer for you here  
7 today.

8 I'm going to do a little bit of formal  
9 readings and so on in the beginning, but after that, Carol,  
10 you're in charge of the room. We will all take our cues  
11 from you when you want a break or anything like that.

12 But before I get started any more, I'm  
13 just going to pan the camera around and just get everybody  
14 to introduce themselves and say what your relationship is  
15 to Carol if you don't mind. So, I'm starting over here.

16 MS.[Daughter-in-law]: I'm [Daughter-in-  
17 law], Carol's daughter-in-law.

18 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Thanks, [Daughter-in-  
19 law].

20 MS.[Daughter 4]: I'm [Daughter 4]. I'm  
21 Carol's daughter.

22 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Thank you.

23 MS. VERONICA: Veronica, friend and elder.

24 MS. SHEILA NYMAN: I'm Sheila and I'm

**Statement - Public**  
**Carol Martin**  
**(Delilah MacDonald)**

2

1 South Métis, and I've been working in and around same  
2 places as Carol for many years.

3 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Awesome. I'll come  
4 back to you, Carol.

5 MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF: I'm Evelyn  
6 Youngchief. I've been her friend since '93. I'm -- we do  
7 a lot of the same work.

8 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay, thank you.

9 MS.[Daughter 3]: I'm [Daughter 3]. I'm  
10 Carol's daughter.

11 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Thank you.

12 MS.[Daughter 2]: I'm [Daughter 2]. I'm  
13 Carol's daughter.

14 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay, wonderful.  
15 That's everyone. So I have the camera positioned. So it's  
16 really just Carol, so nobody else has to worry about it.  
17 Okay. So just a little more formal stuff.

18 Carol, I gave you that form to read which  
19 sort of explain the different forms of your statement as  
20 far as sharing it or not, and you said you are comfortable  
21 with the video and audio recording.

22 MS. CAROL MARTIN: Yes.

23 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And you felt that your  
24 statement, you were comfortable with having it public and

**Statement - Public**  
**Carol Martin**  
**(Delilah MacDonald)**

3

1 whatever the inquiry needs to use it for.

2 MS. CAROL MARTIN: I think that's one of  
3 the reasons I'm giving you a statement -- is to give you an  
4 idea and capture what we go through. And so, if you can  
5 understand and relate to what I'm talking about, then you  
6 understand what we're going through.

7 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Perfect. Wonderful.  
8 And you've already signed the form. So, I've already  
9 mentioned to everyone, make sure your cell phones are off.  
10 I want it to be a safe space for you, Carol, and as I said,  
11 you are in charge, not me. I know it takes a great deal of  
12 courage and strength to share these types of stories and  
13 I'm honoured to be able to be a part of that.

14 But, again, if you need a break, if you  
15 need me to stop the equipment, by all means, I will. I'll  
16 try not to interrupt you at all. And if you see me taking  
17 notes, it's -- I may think of questions that I want to ask  
18 you again, but I'll try very hard not to interrupt you and  
19 go whatever direction you want.

20 So, I don't think there's anything else  
21 for me to say. If you would like to start out just with  
22 your name, your background, your family, and then go in the  
23 other direction you want from there.

24 MS. CAROL MARTIN: Okay. There was a

**Statement - Public**  
**Carol Martin**  
**(Delilah MacDonald)**

4

1 really good question you asked me when you asked me about  
2 do I need a break or I could control what happens here. I  
3 wish I could take a break from my life.

4 My name is Carol Martin. My dad  
5 originates from the Hazelton area. My mother's from the  
6 Nisga'a Nation, and my grandfather originates from Alaska,  
7 so I know that part. My mother married my dad, but we  
8 never really knew him because they separated when my sister  
9 was just a baby, and we moved to Prince Rupert.

10 My mother was not -- because she had a lot  
11 of problems, and I didn't understand it until I got older.  
12 She used to travel around a lot, and lugging me and my  
13 sister around, and we lived in hotels and stuff.

14 I was trying to go through my story last  
15 night in my head and it's just like I was getting a little  
16 confused, you know, about the time frames, you know, when I  
17 was bouncing back from mother to my grandmother and trying  
18 to figure out, you know, the stories and how it impacted  
19 our lives. She was very neglectful. She neglected me and  
20 my sister, and she was mean. And I just remember a lot of  
21 things about her when she used to go drinking a lot. She'd  
22 leave us at home for days by ourselves.

23 But how we came to be with my grandmother  
24 was she abandoned us in a hotel in one of the hotel rooms

Carol Martin  
(Delilah MacDonald)

1 in Prince Rupert. My sister was just a baby still in  
2 diapers, and I was a little older and, you know, when  
3 you're hungry and you're abandoned, you know, I guess she  
4 forgot us there. And if this little Chinese guy hadn't  
5 heard us, you know, crying or -- my sister crying the most  
6 because wet diapers, hungry, and I guess I probably was as  
7 young as I was, I probably did not know how to use the washroom  
8 then.

9 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: How old do you think  
10 you were?

11 MS. CAROL MARTIN: I think my sister was  
12 just in her -- because we were only a couple years -- I was  
13 just two years older than her, so I must have been a year  
14 and a half maybe. Maybe -- yeah, somewhere around there.  
15 Maybe 2 and she was 1. Something like that. Or 3 and 1.  
16 She was just a baby still in diapers.

17 And my mom had abandoned us and forgotten  
18 us in the hotel. And if it hadn't for this Chinese guy, I  
19 don't even know what would have happened to us. But they  
20 contacted my grandmother in Gingolx, and we were handed  
21 over to her, and we lived with her and I think she had nine  
22 sons, and none of the sisters were living there. They had  
23 all left home. We grew up with all of them. It was a good  
24 life. There was a good part of that. Very close-knit



Carol Martin  
(Delilah MacDonald)

1 community, but a lot of issues behind closed doors. And we  
2 were subjected to sexual abuse and --

3 I want to talk about the good life part of  
4 that life, though, first because we grew up with no  
5 electricity; we had wood stoves, and we lived off the land  
6 and learned a lot. I felt so close to Mother Earth, like  
7 you can smell the dirt when my grandmother used to pull the  
8 vegetables and stuff off from the garden. And she had a  
9 flower garden and she had a smokehouse and, you know, there  
10 was all that beauty in it.

11 We used to go to the mountains for water  
12 and we'd go and set the nets out and we'd watch our uncles  
13 throw the nets out because they would carry us on our  
14 shoulders. And we'd go to them when they pulled in the  
15 nets and all the fish and everything. It was great. That  
16 part was so great, you know. But there was also that  
17 really dark side, you know. We were subjected to hands in  
18 the dark, you know. I never played games. I hate playing  
19 games even to this day because those hands were always  
20 reaching out and touching you.

21 My sister was so small. I was so busy  
22 running away from probing hands and games and, you know,  
23 things I -- I remember we hid around the house a couple of  
24 times. One time, I took her and we hid under someone's

Carol Martin  
(Delilah MacDonald)

1 house and the whole village went looking for us. And then  
2 we just found comfort underneath our grandmother's house,  
3 you know. We need time away. You know, the dogs slept  
4 under there. We felt safe.

5                   And going to the mountains, we felt safe,  
6 you know. We'd wander off. My sister was still too young  
7 for me to take her off into the woods, but I would go. In  
8 wintertime, you got to know all the berries, what berries  
9 to touch, what berries not to eat, you know. The winter  
10 times were really cold. There's a good side and a bad side  
11 to that.

12                   I've seen a lot of sexual abuse. I've  
13 seen a lot of violence. You know, I remember sitting  
14 there. We'd all be like this and all of a sudden, my uncle  
15 would be in the bedroom with his wife, and all of a sudden,  
16 you would hear this screaming and hitting and slapping and  
17 I'm wondering how come -- even as a child, it's like the  
18 curiosity of what's going on, and then, you know, to  
19 witness the black eyes and the bruises, you know, and no  
20 one doing anything about it.

21                   And at night times, it was horrible  
22 because it was small rooms -- small house. You know,  
23 sleeping all in the same room and hands coming and touching  
24 you at night. And you know, I lost track of my sister even

**Statement - Public**  
**Carol Martin**  
**(Delilah MacDonald)**

8

1 though we were living in the same house because I was so  
2 busy not understanding what is going on but understanding,  
3 knowing that these hands are doing things that, you know,  
4 that didn't feel right. They didn't feel comfortable.  
5 They hurt you.

6 I love my grandmother and grandfather  
7 dearly. I love that side of what they taught me. You  
8 know, they taught me how to be kind and gentle to people  
9 even when -- the whole good villages, they have their  
10 fights too. And I always knew who my grandmother and them  
11 were fighting with or if someone passed away, they would  
12 send those over with big pots of food, tell us to wait for  
13 the pot.

14 We were brought up really well, you know,  
15 things that were instilled in us. You know, we never left  
16 anybody out. When a boat came in, loaded down with fish or  
17 whatever, one family member from each house went down there  
18 and got whatever was needed for each family or big -- the  
19 seal, you watch the seal being cooked by how many families  
20 members were there. We went berry picking. We took extra  
21 buckets so we can pick for some elders who couldn't go out.  
22 That was a good life.

23 Like, I loved that part about that. But  
24 the sexual abuse and the sexual abuse that we witnessed and

Carol Martin  
(Delilah MacDonald)

1 the violence we witnessed, you know. And then we were  
2 given back to my mother. I never called her my mother  
3 until she died. I used to call her [Mother's first name]  
4 or that woman. We had to go back with her because my  
5 grandfather started getting sick. My grandmother couldn't  
6 look after us.

7 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: How old were you when  
8 you went back to mom?

9 MS. CAROL MARTIN: I think we must have  
10 been about 5 or 6. My grandfather's health started going  
11 down. There's a lot of travelling, I think to Port -- no.  
12 What was that place they used to travel to? There's one  
13 hospital that they send all the Native people to Miller Bay  
14 area or somewhere because I remember we stayed with an  
15 auntie who lived near there because my grandmother had to  
16 bring my grandfather to the hospital.

17 So, we were given back to my mother, and  
18 she moved us down to Surrey, here in Lower Mainland area,  
19 and same thing she started doing to us. She would leave us  
20 for days and she was mean. She got meaner. She took us  
21 away from our family, from my grandmother. That's what I  
22 felt at the time. And she was mean. She got meaner. She  
23 starved us and she beat us. If you didn't fold clothes  
24 properly or hung it properly, you know, oh, boy. If you're

Carol Martin  
(Delilah MacDonald)

1 sleeping -- I remember sleeping on top of a bunk bed and  
2 she'd come home drunk and you'd hide under the blankets  
3 because you're scared, and all of a sudden, you're yanked  
4 by your hair and pulled off the bed. She -- oh, my God,  
5 she'd beat us, make us stand in the bathroom all night. I  
6 couldn't understand why she was doing all this.

7 I didn't know where to go. I didn't. You  
8 know when you're scared as a little child. And at that  
9 time, I think she had me and my sister, and then she  
10 started going out with this white guy. And then she  
11 started having more kids with him. It got worse. It got  
12 worse for me and my sister. I didn't mention my sister  
13 because I said we would be talking about her too. Because  
14 we went through a lot. You know, my sister being a baby  
15 and, you know, dealing with sexual abuse, I think she was a  
16 sex toy for everybody through her whole life.

17 But anyways, we moved, we moved, we moved.  
18 My mother used to drink a lot and she would leave us for  
19 days. And she told us,

20 "You don't answer the phone unless I  
21 ring it twice, and then the second  
22 time around it rings, you pick it  
23 up."

24 And I remember one time, I picked it up by

1 accident because, you know, when you're young and you're  
2 responsible for kids and looking after kids, it's just --

3                   And the reason I say responsible is  
4 because I remember when I was young, younger living on the  
5 reserve, and everybody went out and got drunk. I couldn't  
6 figure out how to pin on the cloth diapers, and I remember  
7 trying to build a fire to keep them warm, and I couldn't  
8 understand why the paper burned, and the stove didn't burn  
9 like the way it would. And I seen the adults burning the  
10 stove, so I'd be burning paper not understanding why isn't  
11 it burning, you know.

12                   So, like, I keep telling people my dolls  
13 were live babies when I was a little girl. So here I am  
14 with my mom having to look after my sisters. My half-  
15 sister, [Half-sister] and my sister. There's my sister and  
16 I from my father [Father]. And then, she married a white  
17 guy, [Step-father].

18                   So, we were in Surrey. I think he went to  
19 jail because he was gone for a while. I don't know what  
20 happened, but I used to be happy when he was home because  
21 she wasn't as mean. When I say mean, like she didn't care  
22 what she grabbed. She grabbed a pair of shoes or a pot or  
23 a pan, and she would beat us, just grab your hair. If you  
24 didn't comb your hair properly, she'd grab your hair and

Carol Martin  
(Delilah MacDonald)

1 cut it. And she'd just grab it and cut it anywhere, like  
2 how she grabbed it, she would just cut it. And I remember  
3 hiding my face a few times because she would always get  
4 something and start whacking your face. She tied me up to  
5 a chair because I kept covering my face from her. She used  
6 to torture my poor sister.

7                   And when we used to take baths, she'd try  
8 to make us scrub ourselves so hard. It would hurt. She  
9 would make me and my sister scrub each other and she'd put  
10 us in the tub together, and she'd be there belittling us,  
11 making us feel bad about who we are, poking at body parts  
12 and our private parts and making us stand in front of her.  
13 She did a lot of bad things.

14                   You know, I remember one time, when we  
15 moved back to Prince Rupert, we got into this house here,  
16 and she went out drinking and she phoned me and she told me  
17 she lost the key, and I was supposed to stay awake. It was  
18 just snowing like crazy. I was so tired. It was like  
19 three, four in the morning when she got home. Or maybe a  
20 little after that because it was snowing so hard and I fell  
21 asleep and I'm so young and so -- she told us not to touch  
22 the food. We knew it was there. We couldn't do things.

23                   So, she was banging on the door and it was  
24 just snowing like crazy. It was just blowing and

Carol Martin  
(Delilah MacDonald)

1 everything. And I got up. I got so scared. My heart was  
2 just pounding. I went and opened the door, and she was so  
3 mad. She grabbed me by my hair as soon as I opened the  
4 door, told me how cold it was. And she's slapping me  
5 around and telling me that I'm going to feel how cold it  
6 feels out there and made me take my clothes off.

7 She was strong, you know. She was  
8 throwing me around by my hair, grabbing me, slapping me,  
9 punching me, everything, all the way to the back of the  
10 kitchen, which is longer than this. And she made me take  
11 all my clothes off and she threw me out in the back in the  
12 snow. And I didn't understand. I just -- I didn't know  
13 where to go. I didn't know what to do. I'm crouching on  
14 the snow there with no clothes on. The morning dawn was  
15 starting to hit. So I just stayed crept down by the door  
16 until I thought maybe she fell asleep, and then I snuck  
17 back in the house.

18 You know, trying to survive in that  
19 environment, you know, I remember my sister used to be put  
20 in the bedroom all the time by herself, and I think my  
21 stepdad was touching her. They kept us apart. She was  
22 always locked in the room or the bathroom or somewhere up  
23 by herself. I think I was going on to 7 or 8 then. You  
24 know, at that time, we used to go to school.



Carol Martin  
(Delilah MacDonald)

1                   My mother, when she hit you, she'd grab  
2 shoes, anything, pots, and -- I'd go to school with big  
3 mats of blood on my hair. Lips were out like she'd smacked  
4 me and hit me, punch me, black eyed, and the schools didn't  
5 do nothing. They didn't ask me anything. They didn't --  
6 and you go to school and you're sitting there and you're  
7 like -- you're dazed, you're hungry. You know, you're  
8 beaten up and no one is saying anything.

9                   I think when we moved to -- when we were  
10 living in Surrey, this is before we moved back to Rupert,  
11 we were so hungry going to school. We'd go home for lunch  
12 and she'd have one tablespoon of food or something for us.  
13 And she didn't have anything for my sister. She'd make us  
14 get up five o'clock in the morning. We'd clean. We  
15 actually used toothbrushes to clean the toilets. Did the  
16 laundry. And the reason I went back to that is because we  
17 were so hungry. My sister started stealing food for us,  
18 other kids' lunches. Then she'd call me around the school  
19 there and she'd feed me.

20                   Or sometimes when we went out to play,  
21 we'd go walk along houses by houses. And I remember one  
22 big white house she'd come up to, walked into this huge  
23 white house, and she opened the door and she went into the  
24 house and she got food for us. But that's all we took, was

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(Delilah MacDonald)

1 just food. Then we went back to the play area. She looked  
2 after me. She took a lot of the beatings for me. And I  
3 couldn't even protect her when people were touching her  
4 because I was so busy. At that time, I wasn't thinking  
5 about her, about them doing that to her.

6 But I had an auntie who knew what was  
7 going on and she -- she protected us. My poor auntie. We  
8 would all come home drunk. They'd come home drunk and we'd  
9 all be there and my auntie would say,

10 "Come on, leave her alone."

11 She'd say,

12 "Come over here with me."

13 And then she'd tell us to go upstairs. We  
14 hid under the bed a lot. She died. She died on the  
15 streets in Terrace. And I never thanked her.

16 I never got to thank her. You know,  
17 there's so much you can escape from when it comes to sexual  
18 abuse in families. She protected us as much as she could.  
19 Those probing hands are still there. I don't know how -- I  
20 think my sister took it the hardest, and it was back in  
21 Prince Rupert when we were back with my -- with her. You  
22 know, she still drank a lot. She was still with that white  
23 guy and we lived under horrible, horrible conditions,  
24 reminding us constantly with beatings that there was a

Carol Martin  
(Delilah MacDonald)

1 white man in our house, and we can't live like this, and we  
2 can't be stinky and smelly, and the house has to be  
3 sparkling clean.

4                   We had to live under the fact that we had  
5 a white man living in the house. And my -- at that time,  
6 not only had she had another daughter with this guy, she  
7 had two sons. And that's when things just started going --  
8 it escalated. You thought the beatings were bad then, they  
9 just were really, really bad. I remember one time she beat  
10 me so bad, she wouldn't stop. And she sent us to Sunday  
11 school one time. And I remember them talking about mercy,  
12 and I didn't really understand what it meant, but I  
13 remember this person was getting beaten in the bible and  
14 asking for mercy. So I fell down to my knee. I asked her  
15 for mercy. I thought it would work. And she just went  
16 livid. She just went totally crazy on me.

17                   She was hitting me with the heel of her  
18 shoe. And I thought I'd just let myself go. And so, I  
19 laid there and I think I dissociated myself because all I  
20 could feel was my body moving. She was hitting me. She  
21 was hitting a body. I'd remove myself from this, so I  
22 wouldn't feel the pain. And she wouldn't stop. She  
23 wouldn't stop hitting me, but I could feel the hits, but I  
24 was not feeling it because I know myself for some reason or

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(Delilah MacDonald)

1 somehow, and she wouldn't stop. She wouldn't stop. She  
2 did that to my sister too.

3                   Anyways, my sister ended up getting taken  
4 away because she had so much bruises. I think that's what  
5 they told us. Or maybe she went and talked to the school  
6 or something. She was dealing with sexual abuse, I think,  
7 from the white guy. I avoided him. I try not to get stuck  
8 in the same room with him or at home by myself. And I  
9 eventually couldn't take it anymore, so I ran away from my  
10 -- ran away from her. Ended at my [Aunt]'s house.

11                   [Aunt] was my saviour. She took me in and  
12 I remember [Mother] coming into her house and I was so  
13 scared. Oh, my God, I was so scared. I thought [Aunt] was  
14 going to open the door and let her take me home, but I told  
15 her I couldn't go back. I didn't want to go back. And I  
16 told her what she was doing to us. Anyways, she called the  
17 social workers and they came and took me and were put in  
18 the group home.

19                   We were put in a group home, a white group  
20 home. I went to the same group home where my sister was.  
21 I think I was in grade 5, almost completing 5 or 6. I  
22 don't know. I'm not sure, but I'm not accurate about the  
23 whole -- but we were put in there, and you know, you think  
24 you'd get away from abuse, and you get put right into the

1 system again where you hear racist remarks, you know. They  
2 would let us go home to go visit my grandmother. My  
3 grandmother used to say when Grandpa -

4 "When daddy gets better,"  
5 she says,

6 "We're going to come and get you."  
7 I held onto those words. I held onto  
8 those words.

9 And you think you get through one  
10 situation as a child, then your parents, the sexual abuse,  
11 the beatings, the starvation, the abandonment, you know,  
12 and you get put in this group home. My sister was there  
13 already. I don't know how long she was there before I went  
14 there. And you know, things are all, you know, very white.  
15 We had to wash our hands. We had to take baths every day.  
16 We had to put on these aprons when we ate. We had a big  
17 play room where we were allowed to -- we couldn't go into  
18 the front room, but we could go through the kitchen or to  
19 the dining area. You know, the situation's the same,  
20 colour of the people are different, but they're the same  
21 scenario.

22 These two old people, they drank a lot. I  
23 know. I was wondering why are they drinking -- they must  
24 really like club soda, I was thinking, you know. And then

Carol Martin  
(Delilah MacDonald)

1 things started happening, you know. They separated me from  
2 my sister. They put her way down at the end, and I was  
3 down in one room. And I remember my sister started acting  
4 up and Mrs. C was going to hit her with something. And  
5 grab her. I said,

6 "Don't you touch my sister."

7 And I didn't know what was going on  
8 until after, you know, that there was sexual abuse  
9 happening in there until their son who was away at college  
10 down here, he came home and all of a sudden, he was leaning  
11 over me one night and wanting me to do things, and I got  
12 really scared.

13 You know, when I first went to that group  
14 home, it was really freaky because I'd go to bed in my  
15 pajamas, and then I'd wake up in morning and I'd be all  
16 dressed, but my zippers won't be done or my buttons won't  
17 be done up, but I'd be laying straight on the bed like  
18 this. And I'd wake up like what the hell, what happened  
19 here? You know, my bed would be all made really nicely.  
20 And it's like it really fucked my brain up. And I still to  
21 this day don't know what happened. I don't know. And it  
22 happened like many times.

23 And I started locking my door. I put a  
24 bar, you know, the bed of the bar and put it by the door.

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(Delilah MacDonald)

1 But then my sister was way down the hallway there and  
2 strange things started happening. There's a closet there,  
3 and I'll just use -- we called them Mr. and Mrs. C. They  
4 were foster parents. And he'd be tickling one of the older  
5 women, and then, you know, then they'd close the closet  
6 door, and all of a sudden, it would be quiet, and all of a  
7 sudden, this feeling hit my stomach. I remember running to  
8 my room and closing my door and sitting on the bed. You  
9 know, that familiar feeling comes over you, you know, what  
10 things you've seen, things that happened, or things you  
11 witnessed. Things that you've seen. They are not right,  
12 you know.

13                   So, I remember running down the hallway  
14 and sitting in my room and the door was closed and I was  
15 scared. I didn't know what to do. You do not know what to  
16 do because you're in a white place, and it's not -- you're  
17 not familiar with people, and you don't know -- you don't  
18 know. You know, you think you've been removed from  
19 someplace, you know, and it's there, that feeling comes up  
20 in your body. It's like a case -- it's like a feeling, you  
21 know.

22                   And then one time, we were all upstairs,  
23 and the son came home from college. And, you know, this  
24 girl named Peggy was downstairs and she was in her room.

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1 She shared a room with me. So, our movie was over  
2 upstairs, so we all went downstairs. And then, that's when  
3 she told us. She started telling us things that he was  
4 doing to her and she really got graphic with it. And I'm  
5 sitting there thinking, like, it was real because she was  
6 actually showing us what he was doing to her.

7 We didn't know what to do. I remember one  
8 time when he did that to me, you know, I woke up with him  
9 touching me, and I got up and I told him he needed to  
10 leave. They put him right across the room from me too.  
11 And when he went out of the room, I locked the door, put  
12 that board down. And before that, when he had done this to  
13 me before, I started wetting the bed. And Mr. and Mrs. C  
14 would take turns waking up at night to wake me up.

15 I remember that night, they came after he  
16 had left. I was so scared. And all of a sudden, I fell  
17 asleep, and all of a sudden, I jumped up because someone  
18 was trying to open the door, and it was Mr. C and he was  
19 coming in and he wanted to know if I was -- like, I was  
20 wetting the bed and they made sure I got up to use the  
21 bathroom. So he was coming in to wake me up and use the  
22 bathroom. And he started banging on the door, and Mrs. C  
23 woke up. She came down and she got really mad at me. She  
24 was asking me,



1 "What was going on? Why are you  
2 locking the door?"

3 And I was just sitting there and I  
4 didn't know if I should tell them or not. And she was  
5 getting angry.

6 So I told her. I said [the C's Son] is  
7 just in here trying to -- I woke up and he was feeling me  
8 up. And she got really, really mad at me. And she made me  
9 feel dirty and she made me feel -- like,

10 "Why would my son want to do  
11 something like that to you?"

12 Not that

13 "Are you okay? Are you hurt?"

14 It's like she just turned on me and just  
15 made me feel like I did something wrong.

16 Anyways, another girl came in there. You  
17 know when you don't realize with people when they talk like  
18 that to you, how they make you feel about yourself and your  
19 body. And she made comments like -- you know, she always  
20 had -- and that irritated me. When we'd come home, she'd  
21 hold something over her nose and she'd say,

22 "Don't they have water over there?"

23 Or

24 "What's that smell?"

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1                   We smell like Indian food. She made us  
2 feel so bad about when we came back from the reserve. You  
3 smell like a reserve Indian, right? But she'd make us feel  
4 so bad about it. She would always hold things over her  
5 nose when she came around us. We had to take a bath. We  
6 had to wash our hair. The way she carried our clothes out  
7 of the room.

8                   Anyways, they actually got fired because I  
9 am not sure what happened, but I can guess what happened.  
10 She might have caught him with someone or I don't know, but  
11 she threw one of those radios at one of the girls. Her  
12 name was Madeline. I think she was from the Yukon or  
13 somewhere in that area. She threw a radio at her and she  
14 reported it to the social workers. So we ended up --

15                   You know, none of us said anything -- I  
16 don't think any of us said anything to the social workers  
17 about what was happening there. We got put into another  
18 home, permanent home for young girls, and I thought, What  
19 does permanent mean? And they told us, well, that's when  
20 you're too old to be adopted out. So, we were put out in  
21 this -- it's called [Home M] home, and we thought -- it was  
22 worse there. A lot of neglect there. We weren't allowed  
23 upstairs. There were East Indian people. There's a lot of  
24 us downstairs. And it was dark and dingy. And there was a

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1 big chair like this against the door that went outside.  
2 There was bars on some of the windows. And it was just so  
3 gloomy, and that's all we had.

4                   It went from worse to worse to bad. Total  
5 neglect. And the reason I say neglect is because they  
6 didn't care for us as much. You know, the first morning I  
7 woke up, I was going to high school then. What we had for  
8 breakfast was two pieces of dried fish sticks and watered  
9 down grape juice. I hate that watered down grape juice.  
10 Oh, my God, it's the worst thing.

11                   And there was a lot of us there. That's  
12 where Alex was living with me there, Alex and Madeleine.  
13 There was another guy and three little other kids. Stanley  
14 was there; his sister was there. Reno and Peggy. There  
15 was so many of us there. Anyways, I don't have much to  
16 remember about that group home because I just went to  
17 school and just went home.

18                   But a week before Christmas, we had a  
19 babysitter there, and I don't know. I still don't know to  
20 this day how the fire started. I was sleeping in my room,  
21 and I keep my door locked all the time, but I fell asleep  
22 with the light on, and all of a sudden, I heard this big  
23 noise and I woke up and all this black smoke was coming out  
24 from underneath the door, and I was listening, trying to

1 see out, and my window had a bar on it. It was opened up  
2 just a little on the side like this. And I was so skinny  
3 then. I was so thin.

4                   And so, I put my hand out, and I'm looking  
5 around like this, and I looked I could see the window over  
6 here open because you can see the big black smoke coming  
7 out. So, I'm trying to get out because I thought maybe the  
8 kids got out. They must have gone out because the window's  
9 open. And so, I'm pulling myself through because we were  
10 told about fires, not to go out. And the smoke was so  
11 black, coming through so fast. And I'm looking around and  
12 I don't see anybody, and all of a sudden, someone is  
13 banging on the window up there.

14                   It's the babysitter. I don't know who she  
15 was. And you can hear the crackling. You can hear the  
16 fire burning. And all I see is a white face like this, and  
17 I'm yelling at her,

18                               "Go to the door and go around and  
19                               I'll meet you."

20                   She said,

21                               "No, it's too dark or too black."

22                   She wasn't familiar with the building,  
23 with the house because she was a new babysitter. And she  
24 was scared. I think she would get lost. It was so black,

1 the smoke. And I was telling her,

2 "Hit the window, hit the window.

3 Break it somehow."

4 And I could hear the fire crackling and  
5 burning in my head, and I can smell the smoke. And so, she  
6 finally broke the window and I told her to jump and she got  
7 scared because it's, you know, up on the second floor.

8 And I'm telling her to jump, jump. I  
9 don't even know who this woman was. I don't even know who  
10 she is to this day. And I told her I would catch her. And  
11 I did. I finally convinced her to crawl out of the window  
12 and I told her to jump.

13 "Let go. Let go. Let go."

14 She let go and she fell -- we both fell  
15 to the ground. And I jumped up and I went running around  
16 the building.

17 By that time, people were coming out of  
18 their house. Someone called the fire alarm or the fire  
19 engine. And I see this one guy there. This poor white guy  
20 must have just -- I don't know what -- I wonder about him  
21 sometimes because I stood there and I just started freaking  
22 out on him because in my mind, he looked like Stanley. And  
23 I'm asking him where are the other kids because I thought  
24 they had gotten out of the window. And I'm just freaking,

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1 just freaking out on him, screaming at him, asking him  
2 where are the other kids, Reno, Linda, Stanley.

3                   At that time, I didn't know Dee Dee and  
4 Peggy, the older sister, had snuck out of the window and  
5 they had taken off that night, and I didn't know that. And  
6 I'm running around looking for everybody. And I ended up  
7 in the hospital, I guess. And they kept me sedated for --  
8 I don't even know how long.

9                   And in my mind, I woke up, and they were  
10 telling me the kids were okay. And then, I woke up. I  
11 don't know how long I was there for. And my first question  
12 is: Where are the kids? How are they? How are the kids?  
13 They told me, you know, just go to sleep. We'll talk about  
14 it again. I knew. But in my mind, I dreamt that they were  
15 okay. And they wouldn't tell me for a while. I don't know  
16 how long I was in the hospital for, but they kept me  
17 sedated, and I went home and they gave me sleeping pills.

18                   Poor kids died in the home. We didn't  
19 have no fire alarms. We didn't have no fire extinguishers.  
20 We had no escape routes and some of windows had bars on  
21 them. I was lucky I was skinny, so I was able to fall out.  
22 And I thought about those kids for a long time. I used to  
23 get scared, you know, to dial that phone number. I was  
24 scared one of those kids would answer. You know, you don't

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1 realize how long you carry that stuff with you. And this  
2 all happened the week before Christmas.

3 I still think about those kids to this  
4 day. I could feel -- what if I had opened the door, what  
5 if I had gone, and you know. But I didn't hear anything.  
6 I didn't. I still think about them, you know. I never  
7 forgot their names. Reno used to be so meticulous about  
8 his clothes, and he wouldn't let us touch them. He  
9 wouldn't let us help him. And if he folded something and  
10 if we tried to fix it up, he'd take it and he'd fix it back  
11 the way he did it, like he controlled what happened to his  
12 stuff. And Stanley, his sister, Linda, and another little  
13 boy named Gideon. Cute little guy. I could still see them  
14 in my mind.

15 No families came to them. No families  
16 came to visit them. No families. I don't even know who  
17 their families were. I don't even know who the lady was I  
18 saved. I don't even know her, who she was. And I don't  
19 know what happened to that other young girl. There was a  
20 third young girl that I think had taken off. I think she  
21 might have been the last one to leave out of that window  
22 and left it open.

23 So, I lived with this white couple until I  
24 was 21. They were good. They were good to me. She took

1 me in. She was one of the babysitters from before. So  
2 there I was going to high school, trying to live, trying to  
3 live a life. I started work when I was 15. She took me  
4 in. We moved into another building where the old folks  
5 home were, right next to the first group home I was in.  
6 They're different people working there then. So that's  
7 where we lived until I left, left her.

8 I got into a relationship with [Daughter  
9 1]'s dad. We had a child. We lived on a reserve called  
10 Masset. There was armed forces there. And they were very,  
11 very particular about certain people going into their  
12 stores, into their bars. It looked like a really bad  
13 movie, you know, where Natives weren't allowed over there.

14 And I really think that they did a lot  
15 stuff to the water there because there was some babies who  
16 were just deformed or -- I remember the one baby when I was  
17 pregnant, had a tailbone or something, and they had to do  
18 an operation. So I got a little scared and I went back to  
19 Rupert just before I gave birth to my little girl. She was  
20 born with the missing valve and hole in her heart and blood  
21 were going everywhere and she died.

22 We worked. We both worked at the RCMP,  
23 and we just -- you know, you don't know a lot about  
24 anything when you've been abused. You don't know anything



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1 about relationships. You don't know anything about sex or,  
2 you know, because when you're dealing with sexual abuse,  
3 you don't think about those things when you're in a  
4 relationship.

5                   Anyways, we had another child, [Daughter  
6 1]. You know, then I moved back with my grandmother for a  
7 while, and I thought I would get to know my family. Of  
8 course, you know, at Christmastime, there's drinking and  
9 there's a lot of stuff happening. And I had this guy  
10 friend, who's my boyfriend at the time, and of course, we  
11 were drinking with my family, and I guess I passed out.  
12 [Daughter 1] was over at a babysitter. I pass out and I  
13 woke up with my uncle on top of me.

14                   As soon as I woke up, he moved off of me  
15 and dropped to the floor and crawled out of his room. I  
16 felt so violated, you know, for someone to take advantage  
17 of you when you're passed out. I just -- I wanted to get  
18 away. A lot of embarrassment, a lot of shame, a lot of --  
19 feeling violated, feeling like -- it's a horrible feeling  
20 to -- so, rather than deal with it, I was working with the  
21 RCMP. I just packed up and I just moved. I gave my  
22 notices at my two jobs I was working at. Didn't even want  
23 to talk to the police about it. And I moved to Vancouver.

24                   And I connected back with my sister who

1 was living down here. And I didn't want to go down to  
2 Hastings, Main and Hastings, because a lot of my people  
3 were down there. And at that time, I didn't realize what I  
4 had become. I was so white like an apple. I didn't want  
5 to see that, what was happening with my people down there.  
6 A lot of drinking, a lot of this, a lot of that. And I  
7 would avoid downtown. And my -- I keep calling her my  
8 daughter -- my sister. She worked down there, did  
9 volunteer work down there. You know, she was really  
10 connected down there. She went and got me to go down  
11 there. You know, me and my little skirts and little high  
12 heels and -- like a --

13 And I eventually started going downtown,  
14 got to know people, and I realized everything I was  
15 embarrassed about, everything I was ashamed of, everything  
16 that I could relate to what people were going through down  
17 there for some reason. I thought, That's my past I'm  
18 hiding from. That's my past that I'm ashamed of. Those  
19 are things that happened to me, you know. I'd sit there  
20 and talk with people. And you know downtown, downtown Main  
21 and Hasting is where I actually found myself. I didn't  
22 realize I was looking out of white eyes, and I could go to  
23 the mirror and I could fix myself up. I always wore skirts  
24 and nylons and heels and try to be really well dressed

1 being presented really well.

2                   And I didn't realize how conditioned I  
3 was, how brainwashed I was. And when I started looking out  
4 of Native eyes, I couldn't look in that mirror at myself  
5 for the longest time because I felt all those years of  
6 everything that came up to ugliness, feeling dirty,  
7 worthless, drunken Indian. All those things you heard  
8 growing up. I remember hearing a lot of that in the white  
9 school I went to. Drunken Indian, lazy, dirty, smelly,  
10 everything. And it just bounced off of me because I  
11 learned how to, I guess, dissociate from myself and just --  
12 and the reason I say that is because I wondered how I got  
13 through grade 10 and 11 in high school because I don't  
14 remember it.

15                   When I started looking out of white eyes,  
16 I couldn't look in that mirror for the longest, longest  
17 time. I wouldn't wear anything that represented my  
18 culture. I felt disgusted with myself. That ugliness,  
19 that horrible feeling of how you felt about an Indian  
20 person. Everything that's been pounded in you, everything  
21 that's been -- everything that reminds you of who you are,  
22 the colour of your skin, smells, or food, or Indian food,  
23 or cooking it, or even wearing stuff. And so, I actually  
24 lost myself. And after finding myself, I started drinking

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1 a lot. Then I think I put my kids through the same thing I  
2 did my mother did because I left [Daughter 1] with the kids  
3 a lot.

4                   And I didn't know how to love my kids. I  
5 didn't know how to say. So I went to see this therapist  
6 and she worked through a lot of things with me. I remember  
7 screaming a lot at my kids. And I thought I'm not going to  
8 hit my kids the way my mother hit them. I'm not going to  
9 do a lot of the things she did to me. Then I tried to  
10 balance that in my life. Then I kept them away from my  
11 family because I knew what I went through; I didn't want my  
12 kids to go through.

13                   I tried to be the best person I thought I  
14 could be because I didn't know how to be a good person. I  
15 think I put my kids through a lot or they carried a lot of  
16 what I carried. At that time, I didn't understand a lot  
17 about the residential schools. You know, the self-hate,  
18 the self-sabotaging. It wasn't till after I went to --  
19 that I understood that, and I seen it playing out in my  
20 life. I hated myself.

21                   I hated the colour of my skin. I hated  
22 everything about who I was. But I didn't know that. And I  
23 think we pass these things onto our kids without knowing  
24 that because of how we act, the things we do. And I got

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1 lost in alcohol. And if you had to hear the stories from  
2 my children about how they dealt with that because I know  
3 how I dealt with it with my grandmother and my mother.  
4 What came with it. I want to make those changes.

5                   So I had five beautiful girls and one son,  
6 but I was in a really, really abusive relationship. I  
7 think the way I felt about myself is what I looked for in a  
8 relationship. But I didn't realize that at the time. He  
9 used to beat me all the time. The first two years were  
10 okay. I didn't realize he was hooked on drugs. I didn't  
11 know he was going to be abusive. And I didn't know he was  
12 doing things to me when I was passed out. I didn't know.  
13 We'd go out drinking.

14                   We drank a lot when I had [Daughter 1].  
15 And I don't know what he was doing to me when I passed out,  
16 but I would wake up in the morning, and I would know  
17 something went wrong. But he used to beat me all the time.  
18 And one time, he beat me so badly I ended up in emergency.  
19 And all my family came. They thought they had to operate  
20 on my eye because they thought this was broken and they  
21 thought my eye was going to sink in. It was so bad. And I  
22 still -- I never called the police on him. It never  
23 occurred to me to call the police.

24                   You know, when you don't know those

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1 things, you don't think about them. But after that, I  
2 started standing up for myself. And he'd come at me and he  
3 punched me, and I'd try to punch him back, and I couldn't  
4 hit him because I remember what it felt like to hurt. When  
5 you punch someone, how it hurt. I couldn't hurt him. You  
6 know, you just want the hurt to stop, so you don't do  
7 anything to hurt people.

8 I remember I wanted to punch him so badly,  
9 and I stopped halfway because I remember what that felt  
10 like because he just punched me. So, after so many years,  
11 when I started standing up for myself, he didn't look so  
12 big and strong after that. And I started standing up for  
13 myself. I ended up having to walk away from that  
14 relationship because I thought my kids can't keep seeing  
15 this. And that was one of the hardest things I had to do  
16 because you know I love them so much.

17 I loved them so much, but I had to walk  
18 away. There was that good side of him. And every time I  
19 would see him, you know, I would be going to work and I  
20 would see him. He'd jump on the bus; I would jump off the  
21 back. And I would be just shaking just like I was when my  
22 mother -- I used to see my mother in the group home. I  
23 remember being scared all the time. I used to be scared  
24 when I used to go to the movies when I was in the group

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1 home.

2                   Just seeing my mother would just make me  
3 shake. Like, I was just so scared. You know she was over  
4 there and I'm here. But, you know, it's just the fear. It  
5 felt the same thing with him because I remember running  
6 with [Daughter 2] in the buggy. And that movie, every time  
7 that movie comes on, Enough, when that woman's running to  
8 the bus with the baby. I'm trying to run away from [Ex-  
9 Partner 1] at the time with [Daughter 2]. He caught me.  
10 He brought me back home. I remember hiding so many times  
11 with the buggy. I didn't know where to go. I didn't know  
12 who to talk to. And I have all the kids and I'd be so  
13 scared walking down the street, sitting at bus stops and  
14 parks, and I'd be scared to go home.

15                   Every time I watch that movie, I cry  
16 really hard. When I walked away from him, that was the  
17 hardest choice in my life at that time I thought that I had  
18 to make. And I thought my kids can't keep seeing this.  
19 Can't keep -- I can't keep being screaming and yelling,  
20 getting beaten up. And I walked away from it. I was  
21 working at the women's shelter too still at the time. You  
22 know, I'd leave how I felt at the door, and I became really  
23 good at that, do the work smile, you know, help people. I  
24 knew a lot of the women because I used to drink around

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1 before with my sister.

2 I'm glad the women's shelter was there to  
3 support me, you know, but even working there, you don't  
4 realize how much -- even your own people like you, the men,  
5 like how they make you feel, make you feel dirty and they  
6 make you feel unclean. They used to accuse me of being a  
7 lesbian because I worked there. He accused me of all this  
8 stuff. I told him stuff about, you know, when I was  
9 growing up, and he'd become really suspicious of me with  
10 anybody I talk to, even old people if I was generous and I  
11 gave a piece of something to someone. And he accused me of  
12 fooling around with them, like Oh, my God. And I told him  
13 things that happened to me when I was a young girl, and he  
14 threw that all back in my face and just used everything  
15 against me.

16 So anyways, I was working at the women's  
17 centre. And I started getting educated about, you know,  
18 abuse, the cycle of violence, they call it. We had that  
19 circle. So even when you're in a abusive relationship, if  
20 you see things and you read it, it's like, oh, you know.  
21 So even if you read it for a minute, even if you get one  
22 word in or something that just made sense like abuse, you  
23 know, you're learning as you're moving along. You're  
24 understanding. You're educating yourself about, you know,



1 what you're going through.

2                   So I worked at Crabtree, and then I worked  
3 at -- I did volunteer at Carnegie before that, and then I  
4 started working at the women's centre. The women centre  
5 has been really, really supportive with me through a lot of  
6 what I've gone through. A lot of them didn't know I was in  
7 a abusive relationship though, and I didn't tell them. But  
8 I got to know a lot of the women downtown. And I started  
9 listening to them because I worked on the floor. We  
10 started talking to them, started getting to know them. And  
11 I remember names like Hallmark. I remember the card, the  
12 Hallmark card or, you know, [Person S], names that if I  
13 wanted to remember the women's names, I'd affiliate  
14 something with their names. And I remember the Hallmark  
15 one because I thought, Oh, Hallmark card. I know that one.

16                   I knew so many of those women and so many  
17 of them have died. Their hurts, the struggle, you know,  
18 you hear from them. When I first started working down  
19 there, there was a lot of people who weren't connected to  
20 themselves. They weren't, you know -- they had circles;  
21 they called it

22                   "Women Surviving Together"

23                   and everybody would just sit everywhere,  
24 and they would talk, and one person would be recording what

1 they were saying. They asked me to do the circle with  
2 them.

3 And then, so I did it with them for a  
4 while, and then one day, I said,

5 "Why don't we all just sit in a  
6 circle because we're all equal.  
7 Let's just all try that."

8 And I said,

9 "Maybe you should just put the pen  
10 down,"

11 I told the lady, and I can see her face  
12 in my mind, but I can't remember her name. I said,

13 "Maybe, you should just put the pen  
14 down and let's just let the women  
15 talk."

16 And then Reta came in and she started  
17 working there and started bringing the medicine there. And  
18 I co-facilitated the group with her.

19 But it's been a really tough journey.  
20 It's been -- I think the first time I -- it's nice when  
21 people notice you and they acknowledge what is going on  
22 with you because I didn't know how I was carrying myself.  
23 And I remember when I first started working at Crabtree, I  
24 was sitting there like this, and Betty McPhee, she goes,

1 "Carol,"  
2 she says,  
3 "Why don't you relax?"  
4 And I go,  
5 "I am relaxed."  
6 And she says,  
7 "No, you're all bunched up there,  
8 and you're all like -- you can see  
9 the tightness in your leg,"  
10 and, you know -- and I'm just the way I  
11 carried myself. And I go,  
12 "What are you talking about?"  
13 She says,  
14 "Put your feet down on the ground,"  
15 and I'd go like this. She says,  
16 "Just relax."  
17 It's like, holy.  
18 And then, she says,  
19 "Sit there with your legs on the  
20 ground,"  
21 but I didn't realize I was doing that. I  
22 just wanted to puke just talking about it. I don't know  
23 why. But I'm sitting there, and then all of a sudden, she  
24 says,

1 "Give your feet a little tap."

2 And all of a sudden, I just felt  
3 something come into my body that's like -- I didn't realize  
4 I was tapping myself back into my body. I didn't realize I  
5 was dissociated for so long. You don't realize those  
6 things. You know, like, you're walking with your body, but  
7 it's -- you know.

8 And so, that was the first experience I  
9 had, tapping into my body. I tapped my legs, and she said,

10 "Do that every once in a while,"

11 and I'd just sit there. But the first  
12 time she told me that, I just felt something move into me.  
13 It was like whoa, what just happened? And so, I forget how  
14 I got to know -- what's her name -- Audrey Cook, and I made  
15 an appointment, and I started going to see her. I did a  
16 lot of work on that house, the stuff with the house, with  
17 the kids.

18 But she wanted me to take some pills so  
19 that I could remember more and do some more work, and I  
20 didn't want to take the pills because I didn't trust it  
21 because we tried something. Hypnosis or something, but I  
22 noticed that when she was doing it, my finger kept going  
23 like this, I kept tapping it to -- and she would say,

24 "What are you doing with your

1 fingers?"

2 And I say I don't know. She was trying  
3 to do some hypnosis work or something or something like  
4 that. And I'm sitting there and she's taking me on a --  
5 trying to relax me. And I just kept tapping my fingers on  
6 my feet and on my leg. But we did a lot of work and we  
7 started talking about what happened to me and what happened  
8 as a child in the group home.

9 I think the hardest one, the hardest thing  
10 I tried to work on was with my mother because when I was in  
11 Toronto in 1999, I went to see a counsellor there because I  
12 felt I needed to go talk to someone. And she said,

13 "What would you like to talk about?"

14 And I said that woman I call [Mother's  
15 first name] because she was still alive. So, we tried to  
16 do some work, and I think my mother did a lot of stuff to  
17 us that were done to the kids in residential school, you  
18 know, the sexual abuse because when I was first seeing the  
19 therapist, I remember being walking out after talking about  
20 her, and as I'm walking down the street, I can almost  
21 visualize myself in her stomach and something was happening  
22 to me and I just wanted to step out in front of the trucks.  
23 And I don't know what stopped me, but -- because we're  
24 talking about her --

1                   In Toronto, I was talking to a therapist  
2 there. She said this woman -- we talked about a lot of  
3 things that happened. She said,

4                   "What would you like to work on  
5                   today?"

6                   And I said,

7                   "The woman, the [*Mother's first name*]  
8                   woman."

9                   She asked me one of the difficult things  
10 about -- what would you like to talk about, and she was the  
11 one I mentioned, [*Mother*]. But I said I'm scared, and I  
12 didn't know what I was scared about.

13                  So, she said okay, visualize this big  
14 bubble around you. Nothing to penetrate it, nothing can  
15 come in. So I sat there, and she did this visualization  
16 with me. So, I'm sitting there and I can feel something in  
17 my cheeks. And I'm supposed to feel protected in this big  
18 bubble. So she said, okay, are you ready? And I said  
19 yeah. And she says the door's going to open and your  
20 mother is going to walk in. As soon as she said that, the  
21 bubble went right towards me and it just collapsed around  
22 me. And I couldn't talk about her. I said I couldn't do  
23 it. I just -- I don't know why that happened.

24                  Anyways, before she died, I put in a

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1 little capsule that I loved her still and I forgave her.  
2 She died some years ago. She had diabetes. She was a  
3 diabetic and her skin started discolouring. I didn't even  
4 recognize her sitting there, my grandmother's. Anyways,  
5 that was my first connection into my body when that lady  
6 from Crabtree told me to tap into my body. You know, all  
7 these years, my grandmother, whenever I go home to visit  
8 her, she used to always say she's waiting for me to come  
9 home. And I would tell her but I was just home. I was  
10 just home.

11 And then my grandmother passed away. I  
12 can't remember when. My sister passed away. I wanted to  
13 talk about my sister first.

14 My sister didn't disclose to me until I  
15 was working at the women's centre there, I think Rita  
16 Andrews was doing some work with her. She wanted to take  
17 Mr. and Mrs. C to court because of what Mr. C had done to  
18 her, sexually abused her in the group home. And she was  
19 using drugs.

20 She's been using drugs since she was 14,  
21 15, something like that when she took off. And she came  
22 down here. And she used to come see me all the time. She  
23 was like my rock; do you know that? Whenever I fell, every  
24 time I drank, every time I had thoughts of suicide, I would

1 always go down there and I'd sit in one of the bars and I'd  
2 wait for her to come, and she always brought me flowers.  
3 I'd sit there and I'd tell her, you know, this is how I'm  
4 feeling, this is what's happening.

5                   Because you don't realize the effects of  
6 what happens to you and how you carry it, you know. I  
7 always had thoughts of suicide and I would tell her, and  
8 she would always talk to me and push me back up and tell  
9 me,

10                   "Get back up, you're not like that.

11                   Don't think like that,"

12                   you know. She would just push me back up.  
13 And she used to do that to me for so long down here. I  
14 called her my rock. And it was a joke at first. I used to  
15 tell her you're like a rock. I can't even get a penny out  
16 of you, but you sure as hell could get something out of  
17 you. And then, I'd make a joke like, you know, you're like  
18 a rock. You know, you can't get any water out of you.

19                   And then I realized that she was actually  
20 my rock. You know, she was just solid even though she was  
21 hurting and using drugs and just carrying her pain. She  
22 never had a slice. She never was given a life to live a  
23 normal life, you know. She was, like, being touched when  
24 she was a little baby by relatives that we were supposed to



1 trust. And then, in the group home, you know, when you're  
2 taken away -- I mean, and then in a home -- when that woman  
3 who's supposed to be your mother, you know -- because she  
4 told me about him. And then she told me about Mr. and Mrs.  
5 C. They lived in Delta here in Vancouver area.

6                   And she told me, she said she was calling  
7 them every month, she said. Didn't matter what time of the  
8 month it was. And she told me the reason she was calling  
9 them was because she wanted to keep track of where they  
10 were because she said she was going to press charges  
11 against them. And I think she went -- when she was working  
12 at Native police liaison, about all that when we were in  
13 the group home.

14                   When my sister died, I think she shocked  
15 the whole community because she knew she's been using drugs  
16 for a long time. And they said she overdosed. She was  
17 found crumpled on the floor. And then my cousin, Debbie  
18 and Margot were wiping her body down and preparing her  
19 body. The guy working there said she looked like she got  
20 hit in the head, in the forehead or something. She had a  
21 big thing on her forehead. I don't know. I didn't see. I  
22 thought I was going to die when my sister died.

23                   You know, I still remember that night. We  
24 were living on 13th and Fraser, and two officers came and

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1 they told me my sister was found. And I thought I was  
2 going to lose my mind. So when the officers left, I  
3 remember just standing there looking at this tree. And I  
4 gained all my strength from that tree. And you don't  
5 realize when you lose someone like that, going through  
6 childhood stuff and being there for you and you're going  
7 through so much, you don't realize you're -- you could lose  
8 it. You know, you could go over the edge and not come  
9 back.

10                   And I remember I went to sleep after I'm  
11 focusing on that tree outside our house. I left the door  
12 open when the police officers left. And I remember I fell  
13 asleep on the couch. And Carlos had come over and he lit a  
14 candle and left it outside. I closed the door and laid on  
15 the couch and fell asleep. And I woke up. I don't know if  
16 I woke up in my brain or if I woke up in my mind, but my  
17 sister was laying in my arms just solid, just -- and I was  
18 holding her like this. I don't know. I don't even know if  
19 I was awake or if I was dreaming. But I remember, in my  
20 mind's eye, I looked and she was there just cold, laying  
21 there beside me. And I cried. I broke down and cried.

22                   You know, I went to school at Native Ed  
23 and I took this course on Native Studies, and I understood  
24 a lot about the residential schools. And I look back on my

1 life and I realize I don't hate my people for what they did  
2 to me. I don't hate my mother for what she did to me. I  
3 actually cried because her life that she never got to live,  
4 the mother and daughter connection that we never had, and I  
5 cried for [Ex-partner 1] and us not having that  
6 relationship. There was so much that was taken from us  
7 that I didn't know if I'm going to explain that properly,  
8 but something was robbed from us.

9                   You know, a lot was taken from me;  
10 spiritually, mentally, physically, sexually, culturally, my  
11 identity. A lot of ugliness was inside of me, a lot of  
12 self-hatred, self-sabotaging. But I didn't want to hurt  
13 anybody and I didn't want to hate anybody. So when I  
14 started educating myself about a lot of this, I cried more  
15 for what they went through rather than what they did to me.  
16 I cried for the loss of their lives. I cried for the loss  
17 of their connection to their families. I cried for so much  
18 lost that had happened to them rather than what happened to  
19 me.

20                   I'm glad they have those little Native  
21 Studies, you know, where they teach us about the  
22 residential school. And if we can capture the essence of,  
23 you know, the intent and the essence of it, it brings more  
24 understanding to why people do the things they do. And,

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1 you know, I started working down at the women's centre and  
2 I started really educating myself and not getting so caught  
3 up in the white man's world so much, although you know I'm  
4 still trying to decolonize myself and still trying to find  
5 my roots because for years, I always felt like I was  
6 floating around like I didn't belong anywhere.

7                   A lot of thoughts of suicide, a lot  
8 ugliness about myself, a lot of -- I didn't understand a  
9 lot of that. I started educating myself about, you know,  
10 sexual abuse, alcohol, and drugs, and then the puzzles of  
11 my life started falling into place. But it's a lot of  
12 work. You say oh, I'm healed. You're not healed. You're  
13 healing every day over something in your life. You're  
14 healing every day about something that affected you or how  
15 someone made you feel or what they did to you or -- you  
16 know. Every day is a healing. You're healing over  
17 something that happened to you.

18                   And you carry it with you. You know, a  
19 lot of the hurt and the pain that happened to me, I tried  
20 to numb it with drinking and popping Tylenol, you know,  
21 pills, and it never went down. I never tried any drugs  
22 although I tried a few times, but it didn't work out. I  
23 wasn't meant to do drugs. So I started working downtown,  
24 started getting to know people, listening to their stories,

1 and, you know, really just listening to them. People need  
2 someone to acknowledge them for who they are as human  
3 beings.

4                   You know, this whole system is based on  
5 labels and stereotypes of who they believe we are.  
6 Everything that I've gone through and everything that they  
7 made me feel. Everything that they programmed me so well.  
8 They programmed me; they brainwashed me to think a certain  
9 way, to act a certain way, to behave a certain way, and I  
10 became that person. I lost myself, my identity, who I was.  
11 I didn't know --

12                   And then you can't fit in both worlds.  
13 You know, my family used to say, oh, go back to your own  
14 kind. What kind is that? I'm sitting, there like, what  
15 are they talking about? It's living with white people and  
16 becoming cognizant to being like a white person, to live  
17 like a white person, act like them and behave like them,  
18 dress like them, you know. And I didn't know that at the  
19 time. And so, that was really hurtful, you know, hearing  
20 family members say that.

21                   "Go back to your own kind."

22                   People who you married into the family,  
23 go back to your own kind, you know.

24                   So, I started learning a lot about

1 downtown, a lot of the women educated me. A lot of women.  
2 Oh my gosh, hearing their stories like -- and what can I  
3 say about downtown? I love the people downtown. I love  
4 them because they were there for me. I love downtown  
5 because people were real down there. Even though they were  
6 in their addiction or drinking or whatever, they were real.  
7 It was a strong community down there. People took care of  
8 each other down there. And I remember when the women all  
9 started going missing there. It's like -- it's unreal.

10                   And then you go through your daily life.  
11 You go home. You get beaten up. You come back to work,  
12 and you see another poster up there and it's like, you just  
13 take it in. It's just another layer on top of you and it  
14 doesn't feel real. That's not happening, here. It can't  
15 be happening here. Then you go through life, you're  
16 walking home. You're trying to figure out how you're going  
17 to survive making it home or how you're going to stop  
18 thinking of, you know, hurting yourself or constantly  
19 trying to live each day, trying to make it through another  
20 day, another week, another month, another year.

21                   It's horrible living like that because you  
22 have no sense of identity, you have no sense of grounding,  
23 no sense of anything. You don't learn nothing because I  
24 keep thinking How the heck did I get through all that? And

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1 even to this day, how did I get through all that?

2                   You hear a lot of violence downtown, like  
3 I became -- I started standing up for people downtown.  
4 Started standing up for someone the way I wanted someone to  
5 stand up for me, you know, like if you come in and you're  
6 hurt. Come into my office. I don't judge you. People,  
7 you know, come in and say, oh, I need money for food. If I  
8 see someone drinking, you know what, that was their life  
9 out there. Just leave it there. I'm not going to bring it  
10 in here.

11                   They came in here. They want to talk to  
12 me. I'm not going to judge them on what they did or what  
13 they've done. It's like when a person comes in, I see this  
14 broken little soul coming in and they just want  
15 acknowledgement, they want someone to hug them, they want  
16 someone to -- just listen to them. And that's how I work.  
17 I work with women like that, and I try to do everything I  
18 can for them.

19                   You know, it was not too long ago after  
20 going through all this stuff that I realized I left my kids  
21 behind. I was so focused on my life, my struggles, my  
22 survival. Getting rid of the thoughts of suicide, trying  
23 to make me feel good about myself, I realized I left my  
24 kids behind under healing, healing with me. But you don't

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1 know those things. You don't know. You don't know those  
2 things.

3                   And I watch my kids and I think, you know,  
4 you don't realize you pass things onto them. You don't  
5 realize those things. But now it's there to depend on me;  
6 I know that now. And you want to make changes with it.  
7 You want to teach them about unconditional love. Good,  
8 bad, or ugly. People have to accept each other. We have  
9 to all accept each other for how wherever we are in life.  
10 And that's how I work sometimes too.

11                   And, you know. There's a lot of issues in  
12 the Downtown Eastside. And I'm going to tell the raw dirty  
13 truth, even about the National Inquiry, and people who work  
14 in the organizations because a lot of those women who were  
15 very vulnerable in a very vulnerable state, and, you know,  
16 everybody just seeing them as labels. There's a lot of  
17 stereotype, a lot of racism, prejudicism, even against your  
18 own people. These women couldn't get into safe places  
19 like shelters or anything. I know that because I tried to  
20 get them in. A lot of them are red flagged, and I brought  
21 it to the Elders Council. They asked me to help, you know,  
22 be part of that. And we had a meeting with the community  
23 and we took over the women's centre and we have a shelter  
24 now for women. We had to keep the shelter at night in the



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1 centre, and then we would drop in during the day and now we  
2 have a space for the shelter.

3                   But when you become a figure downtown,  
4 people start asking to come and do things. So the reason  
5 they told me to come on with the elders is because our very  
6 Native women who were in those positions were taking  
7 advantage of our elders, and when people see us as a strong  
8 person, of course, they'll say I need your help here. So,  
9 of course, I was the one that they asked and the person  
10 didn't like that I spoke up, and the elders trusted me  
11 enough to say it has to stop. We've taken the advantage of  
12 these elders. You know, they're digging in our pockets,  
13 they shouldn't be doing that, you know, and I spoke up.

14                   I see that happen a lot downtown. You see  
15 when you look at the foundation of what the residential  
16 school has done to our people, an apology does not make  
17 that okay. When you look at the problems, I always say we  
18 became a reflection of the system because of things they  
19 did to our people. You know, we became what they were. We  
20 became a reflection of the people who ran the residential  
21 schools. And then they started pointing, said, Oh, look at  
22 us. Look at all those bad people, those bad Natives. You  
23 know, making us feel like dirty people, like we're drunks,  
24 we're lazy, we're no good for nothing, and all this and all

1 that.

2                   And the reason I say this is because I  
3 know of some people who are doing ceremonies who are using  
4 that mentality of the residential school when they use the  
5 Bible to sexual abuse our kids and brainwash them and do  
6 all this stuff. I see some people hiding behind some of  
7 the -- doing ceremonies and doing that to a lot of the  
8 vulnerable women in the Downtown Eastside. I see the  
9 problems with the residential school played out in their  
10 people when we do things. I see a lot of lateral violence  
11 and we're always talking about violence against women when  
12 the very people who are speaking out about it are sometimes  
13 the people who are doing it.

14                   And I think right now -- because I deal  
15 with a lot of those organizations when it comes to our  
16 women having to deal with violence. I feel like I'm coming  
17 up against some of those organizations because of the way  
18 we treat our Native women. You know, they bar them, a lot  
19 of racial profiling, a lot of -- just treating them really,  
20 really, really bad. And I remember I seen this one ad in  
21 the newspaper about the frontline workers and how much  
22 support we need.

23                   It's like, if I work in that field, I have  
24 to be accountable and I have to be able to have a wellness

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1 in plan for myself because I have to understand the work  
2 I'm doing. And if you're not doing that, you could be part  
3 of the problem too that contributes to a lot of what is  
4 happening with our women. But we forget about the women,  
5 like some organizations hire women to do outreach, and  
6 these women are dealing with frontline stuff before it even  
7 comes to us at the women's centre because some of us only  
8 work 9-to-5.

9                   But you never think of those women who  
10 were put out on the street to do the outreach with a lot of  
11 what is happening out there, like SWAG and WISH and all  
12 these places that hire these women to do outreach. What's  
13 in plan for them; what's in place for them, you know.  
14 Because it's horrible working down there because, you know,  
15 when you see a body that comes out of the window, like me  
16 as a worker, I've seen three bodies come out of one hotel.

17                   One year from each other. That's Ashley's  
18 body and then Verna's body. One year from each other. In  
19 the back and in the front. And you can see the differences  
20 when a person falls down out of the window, they fall  
21 straight down compared to when a person gets thrown out of  
22 the window, their body is further away than when the body  
23 just fell out of the window. And that happened twice, I  
24 think. The body got thrown out. I'm not sure about the

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1 third one, but they landed quite a ways on this side from  
2 the sidewalk.

3 I've seen people with broken ankles, their  
4 bone sticking out because they got punched out and their  
5 body twirled. I've seen a person get stabbed right in  
6 front of me. I've seen going to a bus stop another person  
7 got stabbed right there, and a woman's holding it, the  
8 blood -- he was stopping the blood. I've seen bodies  
9 covered down there. I've heard of one woman being thrown  
10 out of windows. I've heard of one woman getting  
11 decapitated. I've heard of -- and the women who ended up  
12 at the Pickton farm before he even went to trial, we got a  
13 list of how all those women were found. And I still have  
14 that list. And I don't want to remember those women like  
15 that.

16 And how is it that this world, how is it  
17 people in this world, how is it that we're not -- they're  
18 not -- how is it that they don't have their eyes open to  
19 all this? You know, when I look at the bucket, you know, I  
20 don't want to remember somebody in there or a hand or some  
21 body part in the fridge or freezer. I don't want to  
22 remember how those women were because those women were  
23 someone's daughter or someone's mother, grandmother,  
24 auntie, niece, cousin.

1                   You know, I remember this one guy. He was  
2 called

3                                 "The Balcony Rapist"

4                   or something, and he was released around  
5 the same time maybe I think Pickton was going on trial.  
6 And they were telling graphic stuff about how the women  
7 were found as the trial was going through and silence,  
8 nothing. And then they release this Native guy who they  
9 called The Balcony Rapist and all these women went and they  
10 were rallying and marching and everything.

11                   And when they had that last -- the inquiry  
12 before this, you know, they just showed you how our society  
13 and how the system portrays the First Nations women, that  
14 we're all hookers, that we're all disposable, that anybody  
15 can pick us up anywhere and do whatever they want. You  
16 know, and they gave WISH \$780,000 and they put two workers  
17 to work at the City Hall, and it's like nobody is angry  
18 about this? No one is upset about this? That, you know,  
19 this is how the outcome of the last inquiry that, you know,  
20 that this is how we're seen? It's like -- it's  
21 unbelievable.

22                   You know, when you go down there, you want  
23 to talk about anything. Homelessness, so many of our  
24 people, right now as we speak, people are getting evicted

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1 from Native housing. And, you know, you have all these  
2 people here who are rallying and marching for homelessness,  
3 but they're -- it's all just lip service. There's nothing  
4 concrete in place. Where are they when that people is  
5 getting evicted over there? Oh, my God, there's so many  
6 people getting evicted from places. So many people in  
7 addiction. Like, where's that -- where's the outcome of  
8 that? Where do people go when they want to quit drinking  
9 or doing drugs? They all focus on harm reduction and it's  
10 just probably one -- just one thing holding it up. There  
11 should be like three or four of them in place.

12                   They're so easy to give out needles and so  
13 easy to give out anything that has to do with using drugs.  
14 But where could people go? What can they do? Who can they  
15 call? I want to get out of here now. Where do I go? Who  
16 can I call? You know, the women were talking about that.  
17 And they're so focused on -- I don't want to call them the  
18 word, what they call them. I don't --

19                   I always think that women are pushed into  
20 those positions where they have to, you know, try to make  
21 money to try and survive. I don't see them as that. I see  
22 them as an end result of the social problems and where we  
23 push them. And they're not that. They're not that.  
24 They're not. Even if they're there, they're not that.

1 They're a daughter. They're a human being. They're trying  
2 to survive.

3                   But we allow that to happen, you know. We  
4 allow that to happen. You know, and our children who  
5 continuously get taken. Do you know for 30 something  
6 years, I fought the system to keep my kids together? 30  
7 something years. And now, I'm starting it again with my  
8 grandkids. And they racially profile us because when I  
9 moved back to Commercial and Pender, I had my youngest  
10 daughter. [Daughter 3] was with me last night. And it  
11 never -- never a day went by when I would get a call or  
12 something or a card was there, having to deal with social  
13 workers. Social workers constantly undermining me, making  
14 me feel worthless that I'm not worthy of having kids or,  
15 you know, the kids are better off somewhere else, you know.

16                   But I fought hard for my kids, to keep  
17 them together, and I think every social worker in Vancouver  
18 probably knows me because of the way I treat them because I  
19 can't stand them as far as I throw them. And you can't sit  
20 there and tell me that there is a good social worker  
21 because their only mandate is to remove the kids from you  
22 if you're involved in any domestic violence. And they  
23 don't even look at you. They'll just look at you as an  
24 unworthy person incapable of being a mother or looking

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1 after your children. But I refuse to let them make me feel  
2 like that.

3 And now, I have grandchildren, and so, I  
4 fight really hard for them. Four social workers and five  
5 police officers showed up at my house trying to take my  
6 grandkids. I wouldn't let them in my house. I asked them  
7 for paperwork. And when they said they didn't have it, as  
8 far as I'm concerned, you're all predators and pedophiles  
9 and I said,

10 "you officers"

11 -- because they called for more  
12 policemen. Yeah, [Daughter-in-law] and [Daughter 4] were  
13 there with me. [Daughter 4] put the kids in the back room,  
14 all five kids, and [Daughter-in-law] locked the door and  
15 stood there, and she was thinking, If they got by my mom,  
16 they're not going to get by me.

17 So, we stood up, you know. And they  
18 called more policemen. And it scared the heck out of us.  
19 Scared me because I was shaking. And when this big officer  
20 came to me, don't talk to me, I don't even want to talk to  
21 you. He just turned and walked away and I said call your  
22 supervisor right now.

23 And her only remark is

24 "I'm sorry, Ms. Martin, but we have



1 to take the children."

2 I said no, you don't. I said,

3 "You have no documents to remove them  
4 from me."

5 I said,

6 "You can give them the orders to  
7 knock me down, handcuff me, kick me,  
8 beat me up, whatever,"

9 I said, but they're not going to take my  
10 grandkids, I said. And so, they went away with their heads  
11 down, their tails between their feet, their -- whatever.  
12 And from that time on, it was a battle.

13 I had six weeks off and it was a battle  
14 with them. They made things up. We went into the office -  
15 - this is how they work. We sat in an office. They said  
16 this is what we're going to bring up in court. And I said  
17 okay, okay. So, we're sitting there, sitting there, and  
18 then [Daughter 2] had to go to court herself. I said I  
19 want to see those documents when I get off work. When I  
20 looked at the documents, I fucking threw -- went through  
21 the fucking ceiling, I swear. And I was just livid. I  
22 phoned him up and I said,

23 "I don't know what meeting you were  
24 at, but like hell are you going to

1 take my daughter and tell them that  
2 she's neglecting her kids, the kids  
3 are at risk of sexual abuse or the  
4 kids are at risk of being abused."

5 He had four things down. And everything  
6 were not anything we talked about.

7 And I said,

8 "You little chicken. You better call  
9 me right now ASAP because your name  
10 is on that document,"

11 I said. So, within three days, he tried  
12 to get his supervisor to call me, and I refused to talk to  
13 her because her name was not on that document. Within  
14 three days, they changed the document. And then, I told  
15 them all of my daughter's support that she had in place. I  
16 named them all off. Me, her sister, [Daughter-in-law], you  
17 know. And [Daughter 2] went to her lawyer, tried to get  
18 them to change one little item on there, and the lawyer  
19 said he couldn't do it.

20 And I thought, How is it possible? I got  
21 them to change the whole document that they presented in  
22 court, and a lawyer couldn't even remove something that  
23 said that I was the only support that she had. So I phoned  
24 them up again just mad. Oh boy. I tell them what is

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(Delilah MacDonald)

1 [Daughter 2] supposed to do? Carry two babies up the  
2 stairs while doing laundry or doing something, you know, or  
3 wait till I got home.

4 They just set up everything to fail, but I  
5 kept accurate information about everything they did, and I  
6 called them on everything. And I told them, I said --  
7 because we asked for the documents for them that they said  
8 that they sent to the band office, and they said the band  
9 office approved the court documents. So, I said,

10 "[Daughter 2], can I have a copy of  
11 the letter you sent to the band that  
12 they approved?"

13 "Oh, we didn't send them one, but  
14 it's just --"

15 I forget what she said. It's just  
16 something we present to the judge to -- I said you're  
17 committing perjury here. And they also wrote a report when  
18 they showed up at my door. They said that they removed the  
19 kids from [Daughter 2] and they said that because they  
20 couldn't find a home for all five kids, they said that they  
21 placed them with me.

22 Oh my God, I made note of that. And so, I  
23 said to the social worker, when I go in front of that  
24 judge, I'm going to tell them -- I'm going to show them you

1 guys are committing perjury, you're writing inaccurate  
2 reports, you're misleading and your misinforming them. So,  
3 I guess they though about it and they withdrew from court.

4                   And they sent [Daughter 2] a thing saying  
5 that her kids were back with her when they've always been  
6 with her. And then, they turned around. They tried to buy  
7 me. They wrote me a letter to get the family allowance.  
8 She sent me a big list of all the stuff they would buy, and  
9 they said I would get \$500 per child. And I thought, What  
10 is wrong with you guys? You just sent my daughter a thing  
11 saying she got the kids back. Why would you want to make a  
12 home visit to do everything --

13                   Because they have a new system in place  
14 where they do home visits, and then they have to -- you  
15 have to fill out all these reports and get -- I think what  
16 two or three people fill out some kind of form for you.  
17 And I thought, Why would I want to pull all my friends into  
18 something like this? And they wanted to check everybody  
19 who lived there and do a police check. They sent me a big  
20 list of all the stuff they were going to buy me. I told  
21 them my kids are not for sale and I'm not for sale. You're  
22 not going to buy me like that. I said,

23                   "You're not taking the rights away of  
24                   my daughter."

Carol Martin  
(Delilah MacDonald)

1                   So -- and I told them I'm going to stick  
2 around my daughter as long as I have to with my grandkids.  
3 If you guys don't come around and bother them. You see,  
4 the reason I fight so hard for my kids is my grandkids  
5 because I understand how the system works because I've gone  
6 through it and I see what happens.

7                   And working downtown, I see a lot of the  
8 kids who have aged out, and I see a lot of families who  
9 fight really hard to try and get their kids. And even  
10 trying to keep them off the pills they try to put the kids  
11 on to control them or try to cut their hair because they're  
12 boys and they should have short hair. I've had to sit with  
13 families fighting for those things.

14                   I just see them stealing our kids. That's  
15 a fact. They're still stealing our kids. The residential  
16 school has not dissolved or gone away. They just replaced  
17 it with the welfare system where I think more of our  
18 children are in care. And they don't allow the families to  
19 come with the child. They don't allow you to have that  
20 relationship as a family. They disintegrate the family  
21 unity. They just separate everybody. And then, two weeks  
22 before a child is going to turn 19, they call the parents  
23 and it's like all of a sudden, oh, can you come meet us in  
24 the office here? You know, we want to talk about your

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(Delilah MacDonald)

1 child. Meanwhile, the child is going to be aging out in  
2 two weeks. They have no education. They have no job.  
3 They have no homes to go to, and they've been totally  
4 isolated from their families and plus they might be using  
5 some kind of drugs that -- where it calms them down they  
6 say, and they can control them a little bit more. And a  
7 lot of these kids end up on the streets.

8                   And then the residential school, another  
9 story, I see a lot of this downtown, this is how I know  
10 about all this. The impact of the residential school, the  
11 impact of all the women who died and went missing, the  
12 impact of our children who continue to get stolen, the  
13 impact of taking families away and destroying families, the  
14 impact of the residential school, what's happened to all  
15 the elders, and, you know, the money, the horrible,  
16 horrible -- the assessment that was done on them. Like,  
17 how is it that you can how see if a person got anally raped  
18 or beaten up or sexually abused. And they gave them  
19 points. Everything was based on points.

20                   How could they do that to our elders? How  
21 could they do that to a kid, women who are really old now  
22 and they can't hear because they lost their hearing in  
23 residential school. They give them like \$50,000. And the  
24 whole life and how it impacted their lives.

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(Delilah MacDonald)

1                   And my interaction with police. Yeah,  
2 they sure know how to show their power, man. They were  
3 just horrendous downtown before because, you know, you  
4 would see them lining everybody up; you see them emptying  
5 purses out. They just grab your purse away and just pull  
6 you against the wall. They did that to my daughter when  
7 she was young. She went to court once and they slam her on  
8 the car because she's not allowed -- they give her a zone  
9 area where she's not allowed --

10                   And one time, I guess they slammed her  
11 against the wall and she got a gash on her neck. And we  
12 were downtown, she got pepper sprayed by a girl, so we went  
13 to the police station right away. And the officer, you  
14 know, goes,

15                                   "Oh, what happened here?"

16                   And she goes,

17                                   "One of your police officers did that  
18 to me,"

19                   she says, and he was quiet really. They  
20 sent the dogs after them when they seen -- the thought --  
21 you know, the girls are walking down the street there, and  
22 I remember my daughter telling me a story when they were  
23 walking, and the police sent the dogs after them. And they  
24 just went booting at and stood against the wall, and the

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(Delilah MacDonald)

1 dogs come running around the corner. So when those stories  
2 that were told to me --

3 And one time, I think it was like 25, I  
4 can't remember. I was doing my criminology course. And my  
5 sister was still alive then, and my friend came to pick me  
6 up and he parked his car up by the police station, which  
7 was by 312 Main Street. He came down to Gastown to get us,  
8 and I went on to go by Pigeon Park there to see if my  
9 sister was around.

10 And there was so many policemen and  
11 people; the bars were all closing. And I'm looking, I'm  
12 looking, I'm looking, then I see all these officers here.  
13 And they had some guy and he had his face against the wall  
14 and they were kicking at him, kicking at him. And I  
15 started yelling around,

16 "What's going on here? Why isn't  
17 anybody helping him? You can't do  
18 that."

19 They handcuffed me.

20 Well, he told me if I didn't

21 "Shut up, bitch,"

22 he was going to throw me in the drunk  
23 tank. I wouldn't shut up, and he grabbed me, and I tried  
24 to grab onto the tree. And he handcuffed me and he threw



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1 me in the smaller part of the paddy wagon because on that  
2 side is a big empty space and this is the wall here, and  
3 I'm sitting here with my arm behind me. And I guess they  
4 wanted to take me -- I thought they were going to throw me  
5 in jail. Of course, that's what you think.

6 Well, they took me for a ride, and I  
7 didn't realize, and I must have fell asleep. And when they  
8 stopped, I moved like that, and I woke up. Then I thought  
9 -- it was so dark, and I could hear the cars, I'm  
10 listening, cars above me. I'm under a bridge. You can  
11 hear boom, boom. They're going over, boom, something. And  
12 all of a sudden, my heart just started pounding. You can  
13 hear it just pounding. Someone is getting beat with that  
14 noise up there.

15 So I started kicking on the wall. And the  
16 first thing that came to my mind is my friends are gone to  
17 the police station, they got your badge number and licence  
18 plate, and I'm listening. I can just hear the traffic.  
19 And they must have been talking about it. So I kicked it  
20 again. I said the same thing. I was hoping my friends had  
21 done that. That was the first thing that entered my mind.

22 So next thing you know, they drove off. I  
23 must have dozed off because next thing you know, the doors  
24 open and it's like bright like that morning like that, but

1 you can tell the lights got an orange to it. It's ready to  
2 go off the street lights. And all I see is his back. All  
3 I remember is seeing his back and then I looked, and that's  
4 all I see was the street. I don't remember getting out of  
5 the van. It was morning. I don't even know how I got  
6 home. I was so scared. I was so scared.

7                   And then, I went to Toronto in 1999. I  
8 came back after 2000, I moved to 13th and Fraser. I moved  
9 to 49th and -- I get up on Fraser or somewhere. Then I  
10 moved to Surrey. I moved back to 54th and 9th, and then I  
11 moved to 49th and Butler. I got home from work. And  
12 Hallmark gets a call on the phone, and they ask me if Carol  
13 Martin's there and I say yeah. I'm Carol Martin. And I  
14 said,

15                   "How did you get this number?"

16                   And they said,

17                   "Oh, we punched your name in."

18                   I said,

19                   "Who is this?"

20                   He said,

21                   "Constable from the Vancouver City  
22                   Police."

23                   And I go,

24                   "What are you calling me for?"

1 And he says,

2 "Oh, we have your daughter."

3 "You have my daughter? Why do you  
4 have my daughter?"

5 He said,

6 "You reported her missing."

7 I said,

8 "I didn't report her missing."

9 He says,

10 "Well, ma'am,"

11 he says,

12 "We have your daughter here. Are you  
13 going to come pick her pick up?"

14 I said,

15 "I didn't report her missing."

16 And then he goes,

17 "Well, we can throw her in the --"

18 juvie thing or whatever he called it.

19 And I said no, no, no. I said bring her home. I guess she  
20 didn't want to talk. She didn't talk to them, tell them  
21 where we live or anything, didn't even give them my number,  
22 but they managed to find [O.]'s number. Then he says,

23 "What's your address?"

24 I said,

1 "You just -- who the fuck is this?"

2 Sorry for the language. I said,

3 "Quit playing fucking games here."

4 I said,

5 "You know, this is not serious,"

6 I said.

7 He said it's Constable from Vancouver City

8 Police or something, he was saying. And I thought, If I

9 reported her missing, why don't you guys have my phone

10 number or my address? And he says,

11 "Ma'am,"

12 he says,

13 "Do you want us to drop your daughter  
14 off?"

15 And I said,

16 "Yeah, I can't come pick her up,"

17 I said. So, I gave them the address and I  
18 said,

19 "I want to talk to you. I want to  
20 know who you are,"

21 I said.

22 But they only asked me two questions. I  
23 don't know if you remember how they look or their numbers  
24 or anything, but they picked her up when she was like 12 or

1 13. And only two questions,

2 "Are you Carol Martin?"

3 Yes.

4 "Is that your daughter, [Daughter  
5 4]?"

6 Yes. Open the door. They wouldn't  
7 answer any other questions in mind and they just drove off  
8 after they dropped you off. So I found that a little odd,  
9 you know, that they would do that. And I'm still a little  
10 puzzled about that.

11 But, you know, it just gives you -- it  
12 reflects a lot of what our people have gone through, you  
13 know, from being a child growing up in the foster home, in  
14 a white home, trying to connect back with your family, with  
15 your culture. Lost. I think they say a lot of our kids  
16 didn't come home from residential school. You know, that's  
17 true. A lot of them died and a lot of them got lost inside  
18 of themselves. We got lost. We were lost. We are lost.  
19 I don't think any of us have come home.

20 Although, I understood, when I went to the  
21 sweat lodge, my culture really grounded me and started  
22 making me find out who I am. I went to sweat lodge with  
23 this elder, these two elders. One has gone to the spirit  
24 world, and my grandmother used to always say she was

1 waiting for me to come home. And I went to the sweat  
2 lodge. And of course, you know, elders, they want to go  
3 eat, so we went to the restaurant. And I went to reach for  
4 something. And I noticed my hands and I said wow. I said  
5 look at -- and they were both sitting there, and I said,

6 "Wow, look at my hands. They're so  
7 brown. Look at them."

8 And I heard the elder whisper to the other  
9 one. He says,

10 "It sounds like she's come home."

11 And right then and there, I knew what my  
12 grandmother was talking about. I'm still there looking at  
13 my hands. I realize I was a brown person. It looks so  
14 beautiful and so nice. So now, I know what my grandmother  
15 meant, you know, when she said she was waiting for me to  
16 come home.

17 And, you know, as an Indigenous woman, we  
18 endure a lot. We hold ourselves up, but we fall, we  
19 crumble. I know me. I still have thoughts of suicide, but  
20 now it's not so. It doesn't last a long time. Like, when  
21 the old women's centre opened up, all of a sudden, it's  
22 just -- it came over me and I felt like -- I was walking  
23 down the street, and I couldn't wait, and I see all these  
24 familiar faces. I just couldn't wait to go see them.



Carol Martin  
(Delilah MacDonald)

1 National Inquiry because you know so many issues are social  
2 problems that they put on us. I always say the government  
3 got really smart, and, you know, created all these  
4 problems, and then all of a sudden, he wants these big  
5 reports written about, you know, what happened, how has it  
6 happened, when they know what they've done. They created  
7 all these problems. And all of a sudden, I'm going to give  
8 you all this money to write a report. We're going to find  
9 out what the problem is.

10 I had mixed feelings about the National  
11 Inquiry. You know, I'm on the coalition for the missing  
12 and murdered women. I'm on Sister Watch. We actually  
13 tried to take over the women's police station when Chief  
14 Jim Chu was there because a lot of inaction and how they  
15 were treating people. 20 years of that at that time.

16 And so now, we sit at the table with the  
17 Chief of Police, try to bring awareness. I always tried to  
18 pull Ronnie in there or Evelyn or a lot of our sisters from  
19 the streets got filtered out of there, and I thought that  
20 was a horrible mistake. Because then they became focused  
21 on the working girls, and it left out -- you walk down the  
22 street, you're walking with girls, and if they're not  
23 working girls and they exit out of there themselves, they  
24 always say they feel left out.



Carol Martin  
(Delilah MacDonald)

1                   So, there's a lot of things that happened  
2 down there, that they really focused on working girls, but  
3 it leaves out a whole bunch of other women who are not  
4 working girls. And they feel left out and they feel like  
5 they're not being helped or just left to the side. But  
6 then they get treated the same way the working girls get  
7 treated.

8                   When the National Inquiry started, working  
9 within all these other organizations and the organization I  
10 work with, I felt like we -- there's no communication.  
11 There's no transparency. There's no structure in place  
12 that we could visually see. I even offered to help them  
13 because I help coordinate the February 14 Memorial March.

14                   And you know that as a First Nations  
15 woman, you come up across a lot of other First Nations  
16 women. And this is where the raw truth is going to come  
17 out and this is where something you're going to have to  
18 listen to because I like honesty and I like transparency.  
19 There's a woman that somehow befriended -- I guess she's  
20 friends with the commissioner. And then, from that, a lot  
21 of things flowed from that.

22                   There's not a lot of women who like me.  
23 They say they don't like the way I work, but I like  
24 honesty; I like transparency; I like to work that way, and

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(Delilah MacDonald)

1 I like to acknowledge people. And even if I'm mad at you,  
2 I forget about it the next day. I'm happy to see you, you  
3 know, but the true fact is that there's a lot of lateral  
4 violence within our communities.

5                   There's a lot of sexual abuse; there's a  
6 lot of incest; there's a lot of stuff that happened from  
7 residential school that have not been addressed in any way  
8 or form. We haven't acknowledged all that. Yeah, the  
9 government got up and acknowledged that yeah, they were  
10 sexually abused, yeah, they were this, yeah, they were  
11 that, but no one has -- there's no groundwork that has been  
12 put in place that is helping a whole group of people.  
13 Might be helping a bit here and a bit there, but we need  
14 something like big to address a lot of the issues that are  
15 going on.

16                   I'm actually really disappointed with the  
17 National Inquiry when I came here because there are people  
18 who have known me out in that community, and on for some  
19 unforeseen reason don't like me because of this one  
20 particular person that got hired on. And so, when you're  
21 walking, you get this feeling that hits your stomach. And  
22 you walk in here, and it hits my stomach. It literally  
23 hits my stomach because people have been told about me or  
24 they don't -- they don't know me, but they've been told

1 about me.

2                   And so, when a person reacts to that, you  
3 can feel it when I'm walking by the registration bin,  
4 there's a couple of them, and I feel that feeling or if I  
5 say hi to someone when I'm going by, that person that don't  
6 want to acknowledge me, don't want to say hi to me, and she  
7 works for the inquiry. And it's like it hits my stomach  
8 and you walk around with that feeling. You know, you walk  
9 around with that.

10                   And she's hired a lot of her family and  
11 friends and people who are affiliated with her. So when  
12 you come in here, it feels like one person is controlling  
13 this whole inquiry for some reason because she has all her  
14 friends and families and everybody working here, and this  
15 is my truth. This is also the truth of women who have come  
16 to me and told me of how they've been treated by people  
17 over the years. Some of them have died off.

18                   And to add more salt to the wounds, I've  
19 been really vocal about how they have not been including  
20 the Downtown Eastside because I always stood up for the  
21 Downtown Eastside, and I was told -- I was called  
22 downstairs to an office where I work by a manager, and she  
23 said I would be expecting -- I'd either have an e-mail sent  
24 to me or I was expecting one. So I said,

1 "What is this about?"

2 And she says something about the justice  
3 system and our funders. And I looked at her and I go,

4 "What about them?"

5 I'm supposed to stop what I'm doing on  
6 Facebook, social media, about how people downtown are not  
7 included in anything, any form or anything, especially with  
8 that 44 place, how we haven't been informed about it.  
9 People from downtown who were not informed about it. There  
10 were no leaflets sent out to us. I've only seen it on  
11 Facebook. And of course, my mouth went off, and she said  
12 they want me to stop what I'm doing and I was like really?

13 So what I did is I went on Facebook and I  
14 removed some of the stuff because it scared me. It scared  
15 me because I've seen what the police can do, what they did  
16 to me and when they picked up my child. How did they  
17 affiliate my child with -- and I started getting like --  
18 I'm coming here on the SkyTrain, and this white dude gets  
19 on the SkyTrain. I looked up and all of a sudden, I went  
20 like this because he's just walking back and forth. He had  
21 a bag. And I thought, Okay, what's he going to do? And  
22 then, when I was standing by the SkyTrain there, I'm  
23 drinking my coffee and all of a sudden, I become aware of  
24 people around me, and I thought I moved away from the side

1 of the train track.

2 I never thought like that before, but for  
3 them to do that to me? So I called someone who I know in  
4 Filo (ph) and I asked her about it, and then she got back  
5 to me, and she said,

6 "Nope, your funders would never do  
7 something like that or even the  
8 justice --"

9 anyone from the justice because we have a  
10 board of directors there. She said that they would  
11 probably go to them first to come to me.

12 But that didn't happen. The manager came  
13 to me, so I thought, someone from -- who's working here,  
14 who's seen all this stuff I'm doing to Facebook, called my  
15 boss. And this is what they told me. And it's like, how  
16 is it that they want to shut me down like that, instill  
17 fear in me like that, and they're working for this thing.

18 And so, I was telling my friend here, I  
19 said,

20 "Do you know what happened to me?"

21 I said,

22 "Someone from the JI called and  
23 someone from our funders --"

24 but I said I'm not sure about it yet,

1 though, but this is what I was told, and I said,

2 "And my ED is going to call me. Once  
3 we drop in on Thursday, she's going  
4 to have a talk with me."

5 But when that woman from Filo went to  
6 check on stuff for me and came back to me, it's like  
7 everything, all this relief just left, just came over me.

8 And I thought, Holy shit. Do you or do  
9 you not understand what they put me through? You know, the  
10 fear I felt, you know, when I seen this -- I thought this  
11 white guy was going to do something to me on the SkyTrain.  
12 And then I thought someone was going to come push me off  
13 the SkyTrain. I said, oh, and I hugged this person and I  
14 felt a relief come over me. I even told my daughters, I  
15 said,

16 "If anybody picks you up, if the  
17 police pick you up, you have to call  
18 me right away,"

19 and then I was going to give them --  
20 what's the lawyer's name here.

21 MS. EVELYN YOUNCHIEF: Breen.

22 MS. CAROL MARTIN: Breen. I said -- I  
23 wasn't even going to give them Breen's phone number if they  
24 ever got picked up by the police or anybody. So, that was

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(Delilah MacDonald)

1 my impression of the inquiry when I came to this hotel and  
2 seen that person. I sat there and I thought, She's related  
3 to her. She's related to her. Oh, she's got all her  
4 friends. Oh, my God.

5 MS. EVELYN YOUNCHIEF: They did it across  
6 the Canada, okay.

7 MS. CAROL MARTIN: And then, they have one  
8 person who works in the medicine. She's working for the  
9 medicines here, and this is what happened. After hours  
10 came, the police came, we worked with the car 68, the  
11 social worker, and of course, you know, I see this little  
12 white social worker, and of course, and my mouth is just  
13 going a mile a minute there, you know, and she wants to  
14 come in.

15 I won't let her in, but I'll let the  
16 officer come -- he can look around because I know social  
17 workers, they have very critical eyes. They critique  
18 everything from how -- Oh, there's smoke over there. Oh,  
19 it smells like marijuana. Oh, this -- and everything blows  
20 up into the report, so I don't trust them. So anyways, I'm  
21 beaking off on her and this is the Creator's honest truth.

22 He steps around her and he hands me a  
23 card, two cards. He said,

24 "Here's my card, ma'am."

1 I said,

2 "Don't call me ma'am. I'm not your  
3 ma'am."

4 And then he puts another card down, and  
5 I look and I fucking flipped. Sorry for swearing. I said,

6 "Take this piece of garbage off my  
7 doorstep. It's just garbage. This  
8 puppet, this token Indian,"

9 I said and I threw it down on the ground  
10 and he picked up it and he goes,

11 "She's not a puppet. She's my  
12 friend."

13 I was just so mad. And it was [Person  
14 X]'s card. We have a person named [Person X] doing the  
15 medicines downstairs. It was her card that he handed with  
16 his -- and I go,

17 "You're starting to use our women to  
18 --"

19 what did I say

20 "-- build a bridge, come and take our  
21 children now."

22 I said,

23 "Take that token Indian puppet person  
24 card. It's littering my doorway,"



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1 I said. I was so mad.

2 And I told one person that. That person  
3 went and told another person that I was spreading rumours  
4 about her, but I don't spread rumours. I can only speak  
5 the truth. I only speak of what I know, just like when I  
6 get up and speak, I speak on what I've been educated about  
7 or what I learned or what I've felt, what I've seen, you  
8 know, like the truth about how women are being treated, you  
9 know. How they're being racially profiled, how they get  
10 barred, how they become targets downtown, how they --  
11 they're not allowed in certain places and they're not  
12 allowed -- they're red flagged or --

13 But you know what I find really odd is  
14 since the National Inquiry started, that fentanyl was  
15 surfaced on the ground, on the streets, and a lot of our  
16 people had died. So you deal with visuals of violence, you  
17 see actual blood, you see broken bones. You see people  
18 being stabbed, being thrown out the window. You see  
19 posters of women, missing and murdered, and then all of a  
20 sudden, people are just dropping around here, just dying.  
21 You go to work, and there's a memorial table there and  
22 there's pictures on there all that time for women who are  
23 dying. And it's men and women too dying down there.

24 So, you know, I'm tired on how Canada is

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1 treating our people. I'm tired of the fact that they come  
2 and depopulate us. They use us as guinea pigs still for a  
3 lot of their diseases and their medications and their  
4 operations. And I'm tired of them. You know, you got to  
5 look at Hollywood too because they did damage to image too  
6 as First Nations people.

7                   You have to look at the foundation of  
8 these scientists and all these people who laid that  
9 foundation, that First Nations people were seen as less  
10 than, that white women, blonde-haired, blue-eyed women  
11 dominated the screens of Hollywood, and how they made us  
12 look, that we were worthless, and they can use us for  
13 anything. And if they can't find any use for us, we're  
14 disposable and it's all justifiable on this Canadian  
15 system. I always say this occupied land they call Canada.

16                   I don't trust the system. I don't trust  
17 the justice system. It does not work for our people. I  
18 would like to meet someone who says that it does because  
19 look at the courtroom systems where families are fighting  
20 to get their kids back, where women are incarcerated. Look  
21 at the jails there, look at the men, you know, look at the  
22 group homes, look at the psychiatric wards, look at all  
23 these places that -- where they're putting our people.

24                   Look at the graves. I see the toll it's

1 taken on our women when I'm going to memorial marches or  
2 when I look in the grave or look in the coffin, you know,  
3 and see a person, a warrior who has fallen and struggled  
4 through this system that just did not acknowledge or  
5 recognize them, you know. They've taken so much from them.

6                   You know, it would be good for our people  
7 to start recognizing that some of us are not well, you  
8 know, that the residential school has done a lot of damage  
9 to us. And, you know, I see it. And when I see it, you  
10 know, when I walk in here and I see. I see someone given  
11 some power, and it's like okay. This really tainted the  
12 elements of what I have, what the National Inquiry should  
13 have been doing.

14                   You know, one high recommendation that I  
15 would like is our First Nations people to start being part  
16 -- being recognized first and acknowledged as First Nations  
17 people as human beings, that we have a connection to  
18 somewhere. That I am this guy. I'm Gitxsan. And my  
19 brothers, I call them my brothers, they met me in Hiwou  
20 (ph), and I walked from Prince Rupert to Smithers.

21                   And they came out there and they drummed  
22 for me, and they acknowledged me. They said my name. They  
23 said where I came from. They talk about my delinane (ph)  
24 of where I came from and they spoke of who they were and

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1 how they were connected to me and where I came from and  
2 where I belong.

3                   And I'm hoping CFNR has a copy of that  
4 because they recorded it all. And I cried and they gave me  
5 a medicine pouch, and he's a hereditary chief. And I  
6 thought, Wow, this is what our Native women need, for our  
7 men to stand up and remind the world. So I'm hoping they  
8 have a copy of that because I would like a copy of that to  
9 actually stop us, drum for me, acknowledge me as a human  
10 being and who I am. My roots, my connection to the  
11 community, to the people, to the culture, to the clan, to  
12 them, where they came from. And I was like so powerful.  
13 And I thought, Wow.

14                   I can see this happening to all those  
15 women who died and all those women who were struggling and  
16 all those women who were yet to be born. And that needs to  
17 take place and that's what the government needs to do.  
18 But, you know, I don't expect too much from him because I  
19 watch them from a distance and I don't partake in their --  
20 it's all about divide and conquer and that's something  
21 that's been put in place. And they did that to me.

22                   They divided me and they tried to conquer  
23 me. They tried to brainwash me and make me feel like I was  
24 a white person, that I had no connection to nothing. And

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1 so, if we don't recognize that, we're not going to heal.  
2 And I've stood up against a lot of people, and of our  
3 people too, but I love my people, but I understand the  
4 foundation of where they're coming from. I just want to  
5 grab them and just say smarten up. You're so powerful as a  
6 leader, but when that white side comes in, that ugliness  
7 kicks in, then that takes over. But I always see the  
8 goodness in everybody.

9                   And I want our people to heal our people  
10 because it's our wounds that's going to heal us. It's  
11 going to release us. I want my grandchildren to stand  
12 beside me when I'm a little old lady, 70 years old, going  
13 like this to the government and standing up against Kinder  
14 Morgan.

15                   MS.[Daughter 4]: 85.

16                   MS. CAROL MARTIN: Protecting my land and  
17 our water and our salmon. My grandbabies are already  
18 learning to drum. Anna sings the warrior song, doesn't  
19 she? So, I do hope my kids become like me.

20                   MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: I hope so too.

21                   MS. CAROL MARTIN: I do hope they become  
22 outspoken. We really need our own healing centres run by  
23 our own people who are traditional. There's a difference.  
24 You got to know there's a traditional healing. There's

1 traditional medicine. There's -- what is that other one  
2 called?

3 MS.[Daughter 4]: Western medicine.

4 MS. CAROL MARTIN: It's something you use  
5 out into the public. A lot people ride with their  
6 medicines and they shouldn't be doing that. Political  
7 medicine and spiritual medicine.

8 MS. EVELYN YOUNCHIEF: Eagle.

9 MS. CAROL MARTIN: Yeah. Big difference.  
10 There's traditional elders and then there's other elders.  
11 You got to really know the difference if you're going to  
12 work with our people to make change. You have to know  
13 what's coming from the heart. What is coming from there.  
14 You got to talk to the community. Find out about these  
15 people if you're going to work with them. You have to.  
16 Because when I walked in here, it just saddens me to see  
17 who were put in place, who were given that power to do what  
18 is happening.

19 And then for them to silence me and then  
20 instill fear in me, for a while, it grasped me. But then,  
21 after a while, I just felt relief. I thought I got to find  
22 another job. That was my first thought.

23 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Well, I am honoured  
24 that you came forward and shared all that truth.

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1 MS. CAROL MARTIN: We need people -- we  
2 need the social workers to stop doing what they're doing to  
3 our families because right now, we had a meeting on  
4 domestic violence and what they want to do is they want to  
5 work in collaboration with specialized services like me and  
6 the police. And I thought. I was vocal all that day and  
7 not one social worker who worked at Bacfast (ph), she kind  
8 of stormed out of the room because I kept getting up.

9 I said not once have I ever known social  
10 workers to work in collaboration with anybody. They're  
11 only working for their benefit, what they can benefit from  
12 it. That's more access to information. And so, if  
13 domestic violence happens in the home and the police get  
14 called, they're mandated to call the social workers if  
15 children are involved. And they're focusing on Section 13,  
16 which is Emotional Harm.

17 So you got to look at all the changes that  
18 are happening and everything that's affecting our children,  
19 our families, our youth, and our young girls. We just had  
20 a young girl who took her own life. She hung herself just  
21 maybe a week before this happened. And it reminded of my  
22 son's girlfriend in Calgary. She just turned 19. Where  
23 her daughter was taken away and taken to her mom, but her  
24 mom wouldn't allow her there so she was kind of isolated

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1 from her own family, and she actually hung herself in their  
2 hotel in Calgary. So that triggered some stuff more for  
3 me.

4                   And I see a lot of things that happened  
5 here, like some of the families that know me, recognize me,  
6 but I can also tell who's been influenced by this one  
7 person about me. She's painted a picture of me because now  
8 I see this one family who I knew her -- I knew her sister  
9 so well, and when I met her, she came to me, hugged me, and  
10 I would tell her stories about her sister because I was  
11 hired on as a one-to-one worker.

12                   And now, I see her. She keeps her  
13 distance way over there because she's friends with that  
14 person and the other family now who have painted a picture  
15 of us. And so, I can still say hi to them, but they kind  
16 of keep their distance over there now. And I have stories  
17 to tell her about her sister. I have stories to share with  
18 her about her. I worked with her. I know her. I seen her  
19 in the community. You know, I pulled her up. I helped  
20 her, you know, but I want to tell the good stuff about her,  
21 about what she doesn't know, you know, but it's saddens me.

22                   MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Well, I do still have  
23 hope, at least I do, that the inquiry will make some  
24 positive difference, some positive change. I know it's not



1 perfect.

2 MS. CAROL MARTIN: If you guys ever need  
3 help writing down that report, I'll help you because I  
4 understand. I understand so much about it. I see  
5 everything. We can sit here and talk about anything.

6 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: I appreciate that.

7 MS. CAROL MARTIN: Even the problems that  
8 we face with our own people. And I understand the roots of  
9 it.

10 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Well, thank you again.

11 MS. CAROL MARTIN: One more thing I would  
12 like is -- you know, when monies are given to  
13 organizations, they should be Native organizations to begin  
14 with. And also, there should be something measured. You  
15 know, when you put money in place, like I'll give you  
16 something, and you're going to help all these women here,  
17 and what I want is two things from this.

18 You see, they don't hold people  
19 accountable when you give money. I want women to know that  
20 you can come here and there's help here. I want that --  
21 kind of self-measurement put in place. Okay. So, you know  
22 women should be able to have a voice about what is  
23 happening when you access this centre. Maybe they got  
24 turned away, maybe the person treated them badly.

1 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: They need that  
2 feedback.

3 MS. CAROL MARTIN: They need their piece  
4 to be heard, and also to -- how is this person putting this  
5 to work, to ensure the safety of women and not hold things  
6 personal because we can go in there with a mean heart.

7 We can go in there with a self-hatred and  
8 that racism and that stereotype because when I walked into  
9 Native -- I don't know how many times I walked in with  
10 Native women. And it's like, you people. What? You  
11 people? Watch how people interact with other people. Talk  
12 to someone. If you watch them, if I'm watching you talk to  
13 her, and she goes away and she's like this. You know, I'm  
14 going to say, hey, what's going on? Is there any way I can  
15 help you? And I go to her, you know, can I help you?  
16 What's going on?

17 You know, we need to start doing something  
18 concrete to start making the change. I want to feel it. I  
19 want to live it. I want to be able to walk down the street  
20 with my grandkids without someone calling the social worker  
21 because they think I -- oh, she yanked her kid there. She  
22 did something. I want to be able to go to the police and  
23 the police to be able to look at me and say,

24 "Hey, Ms. Martin, how are you doing?"

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1                               What can we do to help you?"

2                               Not come in assuming and, you know,  
3 right away call social services. Or the schools.

4                               The schools are really bad at that. And  
5 when I moved up to 49th and Butler, it's like, why do you  
6 have to call the social worker? Am I not a human being?  
7 Why can you not talk to me? Because one of my kids had  
8 hair lice or something, and they called the social worker  
9 right away. It's like something concrete needs to be in  
10 place to acknowledge us as human beings. We're human  
11 beings.

12                              We're probably the first human beings ever  
13 to be here. We are so connected to Mother Earth. And our  
14 culture needs to be brought back to us by very traditional  
15 people. And the government needs to recognize our  
16 hereditary chiefs and not use those puppets he's got  
17 playing and stealing our land from us. I can get really  
18 political here.

19                              MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Well, I think you're  
20 going way beyond the inquiry.

21                              MS. CAROL MARTIN: One more thing. Just  
22 one more thing though. But it is. That is where it goes.  
23 They got to stop trying to control our people by a  
24 government, church, or police. And if you guys want to

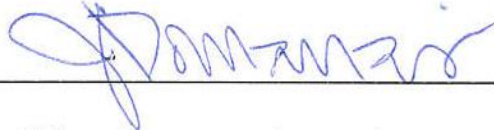
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1 really talk to me face-to-face, and if that's you, Ms.  
2 Audette, listen to me, please call me. I know you're on my  
3 Facebook. But I love her. She's got a good heart,  
4 Michelle Audette. Peace out, ladies.

5 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: It's 7:21 and I'm  
6 going to shut this off.

7 --- Whereupon the proceeding concluded at 7:21 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I have, to the best  
of my skill and ability accurately  
transcribed the foregoing proceeding.



Jovelle Domanais, Court Reporter