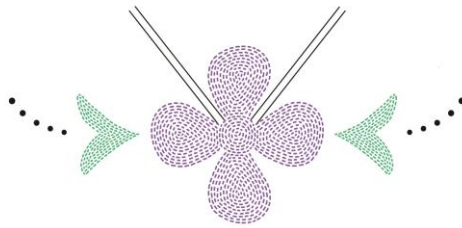


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

Sunday April 8, 2018

Statement - Volume 397

Sharna Sugarman

Statement gathered by Sheila Mazhari

Charest Reporting Services

II

ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 7 of *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*, Chief Commissioner Marion Buller ordered that all names save that of the witness be rendered anonymous in this transcript and any related documents. This order was made February 21, 2019

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Sharna Sugarman

April 8, 2018

Richmond, B.C.

(PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 1:20 P.M.)

SHEILA MAZHARI: Okay. So hello my name is Sheila Mazhari here statement gathering with the National Inquiry Into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Today is April 8th, 2018. We're here to receive the testimony of Sharna Sugarman. And we're at the Hilton hotel in room 209 in Richmond, BC. I'm going to read the consent for public statements. The information you share will normally be shared firstly with the governments and the other parties withstanding at the inquiry. The parties withstanding include such organizations as the Native Women's Association of Canada, police services, assembly of First Nations, and many others including some individual First Nations. However all of these governments and organizations are required to sign confidentiality agreements and are legally bound not to share the information or details you or others speaking to the national inquiry provide. If your statement is considered public or is given in a public forum, your full name and transcript of everything you have said on audio and videotape will be transcribed into a statement which is legally required to be provided to the governments and the parties withstanding. A public statement can also be used to write public reports, prepare educational materials, support research or question witnesses such as police witnesses.

So what have you chosen for your consent?

SHARNA SUGARMAN: I've chosen to go public.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Perfect.

SHARNA SUGARMAN: I think it's vital, not just for my story, but for me to add, you know, substance to the inquiry. I think it's anybody's personal perspective if they want to keep it private or if they want to go public, so yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Thank you. All right. Let's go into the introduction.

SHARNA SUGARMAN: My name is Sharna Marie Sugarman. And I was born [date of birth], 1969 in Lethbridge,

1 Alberta. I am a Sixties scoop child, which I
2 have recently found out through the other part
3 that the federal government is -- the other
4 process that they're doing. I was adopted at
5 11 months of age and grew up in Kingston,
6 Ontario. And I had -- I came from a -- raised in
7 a middle-class family. I had two older brothers.
8 My beloved father -- I consider him my father --
9 passed away when I was 12 and that was very
10 devastating for me. My adopted mother and I were
11 never tremendously close, and it makes sense why;
12 that will become part of my story.

13 And I am educated. I have a BA with honours
14 in psychology, I have a masters with honours in
15 abnormal psychology, and I have one pending in
16 criminology. I am a social justice advocate and
17 have been for close to 30 years. I am also a
18 mental health and addictions counsellor. I
19 volunteer my time here in the Downtown Eastside
20 helping the women. I have pushed for this
21 inquiry in my own capacity for a very long time.
22 I have written to my MLAs, my MP, and the prime
23 minister. And I also would like to see an
24 extension given to the inquiry. I think it's
25 vital.

26 I think it is, like, you know -- it's, like,
27 making a pie. You can't, you know -- if you --
28 you have to have enough substance and ingredients
29 in the centre in order for it to be complete.
30 And they have got half of the ingredients, but
31 they need the rest for in order for it to be --
32 to come to fruition. So I support that and I
33 have written to Prime Minister Trudeau and
34 Minister Carolyn Bennett in my capacities as a
35 First Nations aboriginal.

36 I have a beautiful 17-year-old daughter who
37 is the light of my life. She is a beautiful
38 child. And I have raised her in an advocate's
39 lifestyle. She does her own advocacy and
40 volunteers her time as well with the homeless
41 down in the Downtown Eastside. She's been doing
42 that since she was little. I used to take her
43 into the parks in Kingston and help with the
44 homeless. And she -- for her fifth birthday and
45 her eight birthday, she didn't want any presents
46 and she asked for any donations for the homeless
47 and the food bank and the SPCA. And she got so

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1 much money, it was ridiculous. So she was
2 really, really proud of that and she does that
3 every year now. She asks her friends to --
4 instead of buying her something, is to donate to
5 their favourite cause. So I am very proud of her
6 on that part.

7 She's very much wanting to get involved with
8 mental health and addictions. I have, sadly, in
9 the last almost two years of living down here in
10 the Lower Mainland gone through 13 narcan kits
11 with overdoses, sadly, due to the fentanyl
12 crisis. That plays a role -- the way that I look
13 at the inquiry and all the atrocities that have
14 happened to my people, to me it's like a tree
15 that's diseased. And the branches branch out.
16 One of it is for the residential school
17 survivors; one of it is for the murdered and
18 missing; you know, another branch is for the
19 mental health and addictions and the fentanyl
20 crisis. You know, the other ones are how the
21 bands are treating their own members. The
22 discrimination that happens, the racism that
23 happens, you know, our loss of our culture, the
24 truth and reconciliation commission, all of this
25 stuff.

26 And in order for this tree to heal, we need
27 to feed it all of the tears and all the
28 heartache, but also the power and the empowerment
29 that had come from this, from the women, from the
30 families, from the people that are trying to
31 raise their sons to be better, to not hit women,
32 to respect women, to raise strong daughters,
33 strong sisters, strong aunties. And to respect
34 our elders. And for all of that to feed the tree
35 because we only have one planet. We only have
36 mother earth, and she is so battered right now.
37 And she is angry and she has every right to be.

38 So that's what I look at all of this and, of
39 course, the atrocities that the federal
40 government and the catholic church have done to
41 my people. It doesn't surprise me that the pope
42 has not offered an apology to the residential
43 school survivors. If he did, it would be opening
44 up probably one of the biggest class action suits
45 in the world.

46 You know, I'm a Sixties scoop child and I
47 was taken from my family and placed in a

1 non-Indigenous family. But it was still my
2 family.

3 My story is I've been a very outspoken
4 person in my community against any type of
5 injustice and generally injustices that have
6 happened where the police are concerned. I do
7 have friends that are still police officers with
8 the Kingston Police Force. I've heard their
9 stories and their opinions on why they haven't
10 moved up in the ranks because they don't want to
11 deal or have any leadership over these kids that
12 they say have no respect, that are here just for
13 the paycheque, that are bullies, that are goofs.
14 You know, some of them said they're assholes.
15 There's all these different things.

16 SHEILA MAZHARI: Police officers?

17 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Police officers speaking about their
18 own police officers. So I have had some officers
19 that have commended me with my work, being in the
20 parks in the middle of the night, trying to help
21 the youth to wonder why a 14-year-old boy is --
22 3:00 o'clock in the morning in a park and
23 Skeleton Park in Kingston. And I have had cops
24 say, Well, he's a little punk-ass. He's a little
25 drug dealer or whatever. And I'm, like, I don't
26 look at that. I wonder why a 14-year-old child
27 isn't home. Why isn't he home? What's going on
28 at home for why he doesn't want to be there? Is
29 there abuse? Is there drugs? Is there alcohol?
30 Is there sexual abuse? Is there anybody there
31 that even cares?

32 So what I have noticed and when I have been
33 outspoken and living in low-income areas as I put
34 myself through post secondary and grad school, is
35 I'd have officers, you know -- I would call them
36 for, you know, whatever it was. If there was a
37 disturbance next door, a domestic violence, and I
38 would have officers say to me, well -- I had one
39 cop come in my house one day and say, Oh, it's
40 actually nice in here. And I looked at him and I
41 said, Actually nice in here? I said, What were
42 you expecting? A couple of milk crates and a
43 pizza box?

44 I said, I didn't bring you in here to
45 critique my house. I came in here [sic] because,
46 you know, a girl next door is covered in bruises
47 and she's got a jerk for a boyfriend or whatever.

1 I'd have had other police officers say, Look
2 where you live, Ms. Sugarman. And I say, I live
3 in the City of Kingston. Where do you live? I
4 said, Oh, I said, because I don't live in the
5 affluent area of town, so then you would take me
6 more seriously? And you're also saying, what,
7 that I should have to put up with this kind of
8 behaviour because I'm living here? I'm living
9 here because this is what I can afford. I'm
10 putting myself through school and I am a single
11 parent, so I can't afford to pay \$2,000 in rent.
12 I'm paying 800 or 900, whatever I am paying.
13 That's not the point. You work for the City of
14 Kingston, so you work and you're supposed to
15 serve and protect all of the citizens. You don't
16 get to pick and choose.

17 So what happened with my story was I believe
18 that I was being targeted by certain members of
19 the Kingston Police Force because I was
20 outspoken. I don't -- I never had a criminal
21 record in my life. I have never been charged
22 with anything. And my daughter and I were living
23 in a triplex and the couple that lived below us,
24 it looked like the boyfriend was selling drugs
25 because there were people coming and going at all
26 hours. He would go out to this shared shed that
27 we had, though it even had dividers in it, and I
28 couldn't understand why he was in there two,
29 three, four times a day considering all he had in
30 there was typical tools and couple of bicycles
31 and recycling bins.

32 But he would go into the shed and come back
33 out but never have anything to show for it. It's
34 not like he came out with garbage bags or his
35 bike. And then people would stop by. And
36 normally I don't normally care about that, but
37 what bothered me there was one time in the summer
38 and it was hot and I had my back door open to get
39 a breeze, and these two young guys came upstairs
40 and they thought it was his unit. And they asked
41 for him by name.

42 And I looked at them and I said, No, this
43 isn't his unit; he lives downstairs. And I could
44 tell they were sketched out. They were, like,
45 you know -- and I looked at them and I said, Wow.
46 So I showed them to the door -- and my two dogs
47 at the time too weren't happy that they kind of

1 walked in the house. So I walked downstairs with
2 them and I could -- down the back stairs, like,
3 the patio stairs, and I could hear them. And
4 they were itching to get their fix. And I am
5 just, like, I am not having this around my
6 daughter.

7 So I talked to the landlords about it and
8 they were really shocked by it. They were, like,
9 Oh, we never thought that, whatever. And I am,
10 like, Well, you know, if he does it off property,
11 I don't care. But I don't need two sketched out
12 guys coming to my back door. My daughter was,
13 like, 8 years old at the time. And I said, I
14 don't need that around me.

15 And the landlord was a very aggressive guy.
16 He was Caucasian; his wife was Asian and she
17 seemed very, very docile around him. They had
18 six children. He was really, really abusive to
19 his one son when he was there cutting the grass.
20 Like, he would yell at him, he would yell at the
21 wife, you're not doing it properly. Just really
22 abusive.

23 And our toilet had broken down in my unit.
24 And they were supposed to come by and fix it and
25 replace it. So they showed up, they hadn't even
26 given proper notice to come into my unit. And I
27 come home and they're in my unit. And I am kind
28 of, like, What are you doing in my house? And
29 the husband is, like, I'm allowed to be in here;
30 I own the place. And I am, like, No, that's not
31 how this works. This isn't an emergency. It's
32 not like the house is on fire or there's a flood
33 or something. And he didn't respect the
34 Residential Tenancy Act. He's, like, It's my way
35 or the highway. And I am, like, Yeah, no.

36 So he went. And he had this huge toolbox
37 and he made his wife -- and I am not kidding,
38 this toolbox was huge. It had to weigh about
39 80 pounds easily. And he made her carry it into
40 the bathroom. And I could see in her -- he drove
41 a really nice sedan and he drove a really nice
42 truck and she drove this old Ford Escort. This
43 really old beat up car. And he was going to take
44 my toilet off. And I went and looked in the back
45 of her vehicle. There was no new toilet anywhere
46 to be found.

47 So I called him and I said, You're not

1 taking my toilet off without a new one here. And
2 he was that kind of guy, like, he was really --
3 you know, he was cocky, he was ignorant, he was
4 all these things, and I looked at him and I
5 said -- I said to him -- I called him on it. I
6 said, You're planning on taking my toilet and
7 leaving me without one, aren't you? And he's,
8 like, Yeah, that's probably what I am going to
9 do. And I said, You need to leave now. I said,
10 I'm not putting up with this.

11 I said, You may be able to treat her like
12 this and talk down to her and belittle your
13 children, you don't do that in my house.

14 So at first he wasn't going to leave. And I
15 said, You leave or I call the police. I said,
16 for one, I said, You're illegally in my house.
17 You're not supposed to be in here without 24-hour
18 written notice. So they got up to leave and then
19 he's, like, I'm going to get my toolbox. And I
20 went like this to him and I said, I'll go get it
21 or she can get it, but you're not coming back in
22 my house. Well, he walked towards me and started
23 calling me all these names including the C-word
24 and said, You don't talk to me like that. And he
25 walked into my hand. And I just kept it like
26 this and I said, You are not going any farther
27 than my kitchen; get out.

28 So he went outside and he was swearing all
29 the way down the stairs. I had never really met
30 him before. I had always dealt with the wife.
31 But I did get the feeling -- she was the type of
32 woman when he was around and if it presented
33 itself where he was attacking somebody else, then
34 she would feel more empowered and be a little bit
35 more -- you know, but if it was him towards her
36 or the children, she was very docile and she was
37 scared and meek. So she was a little bit more
38 courageous around him where I was concerned. And
39 I just looked at her and I said, I don't know how
40 you put up with this. That's abusive.

41 So she got the toolbox and I -- she could
42 hardly even pick it up, so I picked it up. And I
43 put it out on the front -- on the back stoop and
44 I said, he can take it from there. And next
45 thing I know, I called the police because I said
46 I'm not -- I don't want him back in my house
47 unless it's through legal -- you know, he can

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1 have a plumber here or whatever. I said, I am
2 not -- he's a menace. He was quite a large man
3 too. Next thing I know, the police show up in my
4 house and I'm thinking they are there because I
5 called them. They come into my house and they
6 arrested me for assault. They said this was
7 assault. I had assaulted him.

8 My landlords had gone down to the police
9 department, said that I had assaulted him, said
10 that I had been harassing their downstairs
11 tenants -- the guy that's been selling drugs for
12 the past three months that I have noticed. I
13 took down license plates, I spoke to the drug
14 unit. They were all confirming that, yes, that
15 sounds very much like drug-related behaviour.

16 I had given blood at the police station
17 where they had a blood services clinic, talked to
18 an inspector there about the behaviour that I had
19 seen, and he said, That completely sounds drug
20 indicative. That is just, like, textbook. And
21 he said, Have you talked to our drug unit? And I
22 said, Yeah, I know one of your officers. I've
23 talked to him. I have got his cell number. I've
24 talked to him personally. All that stuff.

25 And they're, like, Good, sounds good. They
26 said, We don't need that -- you know, all that
27 stuff. So next thing I know, this cop has put --
28 and I am supposed to write a huge exam the next
29 day. I have got my books all over the place.
30 That was the other thing that bothered me is they
31 were in my house and I am, like, I have an exam
32 tomorrow morning at 9:00 A.M., a three-hour exam.
33 You have no business being in my house. Like, I
34 had my -- made sure my daughter was picked up at
35 school and stuff so I could study. And so they
36 put cuffs on me, they're leading me down the
37 stairs, I have still got, like, lounge pants on.
38 I had flip flops. They wouldn't even allow me to
39 put proper shoes on and a sweatshirt. The cop
40 behind me, who I believe his name was [Officer 1], I
41 have got a female cop ahead of me, then there's
42 me and then there's the cop. And he leans into
43 the back of my hair and says, I knew we would get
44 you at some time, you fucking bitch. And I just
45 sort of turned and looked at him. I have never
46 been arrested in my life. I don't have a
47 criminal record.

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1 My mother, my estranged mother, was trying
2 to get more access to my only child and she had
3 already tried, you know, through letters and all
4 this stuff. And I said you're disrespecting my
5 authority as the parent. She was taking her
6 around my daughter's biological father who had
7 nothing to do with her and it was against my
8 wishes.

9 SHEILA MAZHARI: This is your biological mother or
10 your adopted mother?

11 SHARNA SUGARMAN: My adopted mother. But my
12 daughter's biological father.

13 So I cut off access and I said until you
14 respect my words and my rules, no more. And so I
15 get to the police station and I am booked and all
16 of that stuff. Then I'm in a room and this
17 police officer by the name Detective [Detective 1] comes in.

19 SHEILA MAZHARI: Can you spell that?

20 SHARNA SUGARMAN: [*Spells Detective 1's name*].

21 SHEILA MAZHARI: And how about officer [Officer 1]?

22 SHARNA SUGARMAN: I'm not sure what his first name is.

23 [Officer 1] would be [*spells name*], I believe is how
24 you spell it. And he was Caucasian. Very, very
25 pale. His hair was, like, blond blond blond.
26 [Detective 1] I knew only because her younger
27 sister and I had known each other since public
28 school and, ironically, [Woman A] moved onto
29 the street I grew up and she was only two doors down
30 from my mother's house.

31 [Detective 1] walks into the interview room, and I
32 am kind of shocked to see her at first. But
33 she's not in police clothing; she's in civilian
34 clothes because she's a detective. And I am,
35 like, Hi [Detective 1]. And she's, like -- she told the
36 brass that she wanted this case because she knew
37 my family. Well, she didn't know my family. She
38 knew my family but she didn't know any of us
39 personally. And I looked at her and I said, You
40 have asked to be on this case? And she said,
41 Yeah. And I said, How is that not a conflict of
42 interest? How exactly are you supposed to be
43 objective and not biased?

44 And I attributed it to her nephew,
45 [Woman A]'s eldest son and my daughter are
46 about six months apart, and the kids used to play
47 together on my mother's front yard. And there

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1 was one time she was there with [Woman A]'s kids
2 and [Child A] was acting up and wasn't listening. And
3 when [Woman A] -- excuse me, when [Detective 1] took him
4 back in the house -- and he was a boy's boy. He
5 was, like, definitely a boy's boy. And she kept
6 telling him what to do and he wasn't listening.
7 And when she let him back up into her sister's
8 house, when she opened up the door and he went
9 in, she slapped him across the back of the head.

10 And [Child A] was the type of kid that he would
11 hold his tears in until there was nobody around.
12 Like, even if he fell off his bike. He was a
13 tough kid. I heard him cry inside the house. I had never
14 seen [Woman A] or brother-in-law [Man A] ever spank their
15 children, let alone cuff them in the back of the
16 head. And I called her on it when she came back
17 out. And I said, What do you think you're doing?
18 And she looked at me like I was from Mars and
19 she's like, What do you mean?

20 And I said, Why did you just smack [Child A]
21 across the back of the head? She's like, You
22 need to mind your own business. I said, I am
23 minding my own business. I said, I have never
24 seen [Woman A] or [Man A] ever, ever, not even spank
25 [Child B] and [Child A], let alone do that.

26 And I end up taking [Daughter] and leaving sort
27 of the play group and I said, I am disgusted in
28 you. I said, Do you think because you're a cop
29 that you get to do that kind of behaviour?
30 Because I don't even believe in spanking
31 children. I have never laid a hand on my
32 daughter. I just -- to me it teaches violence.
33 That's the way that I see it.

34 So when she came in and it was just that
35 summer, so this is only, like, two months later
36 that all of a sudden she's the lead on my case.
37 And I said, What exactly am I being charged with?

38 So I was being charged with criminal
39 harassment of the couple downstairs for making
40 false reports about him selling drugs and going
41 to their landlords. And I was being charged with
42 assault because apparently this is assault, even
43 though he walked into my hand. And I said,
44 Assault on what? I was absolutely blown with
45 that. I looked at her and I said, Who the
46 hell -- who did I punch? What are you talking
47 about?

1 So, again, let me reiterate this. I have
2 never been arrested in my life; I have never been
3 charged. They put me in Quinte detention centre.

4 SHEILA MAZHARI: Can you spell that?

5 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Quinte is Q-u-i-n-t-e Detention
6 Centre. And it's in Napanee. It's just outside
7 of Kingston. It would be a 40- to 50-minute
8 paddy-wagon drive.

9 So I looked at her and I said, You're
10 putting me in jail? I have never been arrested
11 in my life. This is not like it's some
12 indictable offense. These are summary charges.
13 And I looked at her and she said, Well, you can't
14 return to where you live at the triplex. The
15 landlords don't want you there. And she said,
16 And the people downstairs don't want you there
17 either. And I said, Fine, then. I'll stay at a
18 friend's house or I'll stay at a hotel. She put
19 me in Quinte Detention Centre, and there's no
20 doubt in my mind the only reason I was there is
21 I'm outspoken and I am Indigenous.

22 So I went to Quinte Detention Centre for the
23 weekend and ended up hiring [Lawyer 1] who was a
24 renowned criminal defence attorney in my home
25 town.

26 SHEILA MAZHARI: Can you spell his --

27 SHARNA SUGARMAN: [Lawyer 1].

28 And he took on my case. When I was in the
29 jail cell after I was processed, the cop that I
30 knew on the drug unit that I had spoken with, his
31 name is [Officer 3], was coming in to give
32 everybody that was staying there, they buy
33 McDonalds is basically what they do. So he was
34 coming in to give me a hamburger and fries. And
35 I will never forget it when the cell opened and
36 he walked in and he saw me, and he did, like, a
37 double-take. And he's, like, What are you doing
38 in here? And I looked at him and I said, [Officer 3],
39 I would really like to know that too. I said, I
40 have no clue.

41 And he was dumbfounded. He just looked at
42 me and he was just, like, Sharna. And I was,
43 like, Yeah. And he's, like -- and I said, You
44 need to talk to somebody. I said, I need to know
45 why I'm in here.

46 SHEILA MAZHARI: How do we spell his last name?

47 SHARNA SUGARMAN: [Spells name].

1 SHEILA MAZHARI: [Officer 3]?

2 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yes.

3 SHEILA MAZHARI: Just for the record. Because
4 sometimes it's spelled ...

5 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yeah. So I spend the night there in
6 the cell. The other thing that was really,
7 really embarrassing and humiliating was I got my
8 period that morning. And I bled and I asked for
9 feminine products. And you're in a cell and you
10 have got one of those stainless steel, you know,
11 all-in-one toilet things. You're on a cement
12 bunk, no mat, no nothing. It was heated, that
13 was only thing, but they still had the air
14 conditioning on. It was freezing in there. So
15 the only heat I got was from -- that emanated
16 from the cement. I bled through my pants. They
17 never brought me any feminine products and I kept
18 asking for it.

19 I was taken to Quinte Detention Centre. And
20 even some of the guards there that I knew
21 personally but some of them I also knew through
22 my advocacy, again, they were, like, What are you
23 doing here? And I was, like, Yep.

24 So I was on -- I'm on SSRIs, which are
25 antidepressants, serotonin reup inhibitors. And
26 I didn't get my medication in all that weekend.
27 So that's another injustice that happens. I did
28 see the nurse. They said -- I told them that
29 they could call Shoppers Drug Mart, which was my
30 pharmacy. They never did. So I went into
31 withdrawal.

32 I was also at the time in the -- I was in
33 the public population with the females. I
34 recognized a couple of the females that I had
35 advocated for. One of them recognized me and the
36 other one did not recognize me because she was
37 too out of it from drug use. I managed to --
38 that weekend I was put into what they call --
39 it's sort of, like, on good behaviour. So they
40 moved me out of the general into the protective
41 custody -- it's sort of, like, a -- there's a
42 cell room where there's, like, five different
43 beds all in one room, and it's for good
44 behaviour. So then I was allowed to do -- you're
45 allowed to do chores, so I was doing stuff with
46 the laundry.

47 When I met with [Lawyer 1], to my

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1 recollection, I told him under no circumstance do
2 not come to me with a plea. We are taking this
3 right to trial. I am not pleading guilty to
4 anything because I haven't done anything wrong.

5 So he took it to chambers in regards to the
6 assault because I explained to him. And he got
7 some disclosure from the Crown. So they went to
8 chambers, and I believe it was Judge Beaman was
9 her name, so it would be B-e-a-m-a-n. Judith
10 Beaman, I believe her name was.

11 So they went to --

12 SHEILA MAZHARI: This is in Kingston?

13 SHARNA SUGARMAN: This is in Kingston. They went to
14 discuss the assault charge, and Justice Beaman
15 came back and said that's not assault. If she
16 did this and she was just saying you're not
17 coming back in and he walked into her hand,
18 that's on him; that's not on her. So it was
19 thrown out. It still comes up on my CPIC,
20 though. It just says no charges ever laid, but
21 it says "assault." So ...

22 SHEILA MAZHARI: CPIC?

23 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Canadian Police Information --
24 Canadian Police Information something. Anyway,
25 we call it CPIC. You guys call it Police
26 Clearance, I think out here.

27 So he was really mystified. And then I
28 remember [Lawyer 1] telling me that he was going to
29 Australia for, like, six weeks. So usually
30 December is -- like, I had got charged in
31 October. It was actually Thanksgiving day
32 weekend. So I spent the whole weekend in jail.

33 SHEILA MAZHARI: So what was the date of the incident
34 with the landlords? Do you remember?

35 SHARNA SUGARMAN: I think it was somewhere around
36 October 8th because I remember my mother's
37 birthday is [birthdate]. And that was the long
38 weekend. It was a Thursday, I think that it
39 happened, because I had my exam the next day.

40 SHEILA MAZHARI: In what year?

41 SHARNA SUGARMAN: 2008.

42 SHEILA MAZHARI: Okay. And what happened to your
43 exam? Are you going to go into that?

44 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yeah, I ended up talking to my profs
45 and all that stuff. This is my criminology
46 masters that is on hold. So that still hasn't
47 come to fruition. One also because it's very

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1 expensive to go through school and that's part of
2 this as well that my band won't pay for any of my
3 post secondary education.

4 So I'm in jail over the long -- long
5 Thanksgiving day weekend. My daughter has no
6 clue where I am. My mother got an -- hired a --
7 we had a hearing in September in family court
8 where Justice Robertson had told my mother --
9 also, at the time I think my mother was about
10 70 years of age, something like that -- and she
11 told my mother -- like, she had no grounds.
12 Like, she basically said, You're not going to win
13 this case. Like, Sharna isn't a drug addict, she
14 doesn't beat her child, she's in post secondary,
15 she's in grad school. You know, you're just
16 defying her wants and her way she's raising her
17 daughter who she doesn't want her around certain
18 people. You're being disrespectful. And she
19 said, you need to work this out. She also said,
20 You're also incurring a legal bill that you
21 really don't need.

22 But my mother's lawyer jumped all over it
23 when I got arrested. My mother got temporary
24 interim custody of my only child, which just
25 devastated the hell out of me. I just watched my
26 life go into this tailspin, and I had to be
27 compliant. My mother dangled my daughter in
28 front of me like an apple. My poor daughter
29 didn't know what the hell had happened.

30 And when I got out of jail, I ended up -- I
31 had a -- I had conditions. I wasn't allowed
32 to -- you know, typical, wasn't allowed to drink,
33 to keep the peace. I wasn't allowed around all
34 these people that the Crown had for their witness
35 list. And one of them was the mother of this
36 little boy that my daughter had befriended on the
37 street that we were living on. And I would pay
38 for this boy anywhere we went. Like, whether we
39 went to Dairy Queen, we went to the movies,
40 wherever we went. And I understood his family
41 was low-income, but his mother got quite a bit of
42 money from the government for being on disability
43 and then all of her child benefit tax.

44 And just the one time I asked for her -- he
45 wanted to come to the movie we were going to.
46 And all I said to him -- he was a couple years
47 older than my daughter. And all I said is I will

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1 pay for your ticket but if you want any goodies
2 you need to get a few dollars from your parents
3 because then -- you know. I told him I would get
4 the popcorn, but if you want, like, a candy bar
5 or anything like that, you're going to have to
6 get that.

7 Well, his mother gets on the phone and
8 starts chewing me out saying that I have paid for
9 everything up until now but now all of a sudden I
10 want some money. So I just said to her, I said,
11 I'm not an ATM and, you know, you're not chipping
12 in for my gas money or anything like that. Give
13 me a break.

14 Well, all of a sudden she was on the witness
15 list and, of course, when I had my meeting with
16 my attorney and he was, like, Okay, so what can
17 you explain these people [sic] -- what -- and I
18 sat there and I said, Why is she on this list? I
19 don't understand. I said, She lived across the
20 street and down a bit from us.

21 SHEILA MAZHARI: Witnesses for what the landlords did?

22 SHARNA SUGARMAN: No, these were witnesses for the
23 Crown. So they were also on my condition list
24 when I was released from jail. So I wasn't
25 allowed to contact them, which was fine. I
26 didn't -- had no desire to want to contact any of
27 these people; right.

28 So I said to him, I said, I have no clue
29 what this woman can tell you. I said, I don't
30 even understand why she's on the Crown's list.
31 And so I was kind of miffed at that. I said,
32 You're going to have to dig at the Crown then
33 because I can't give you any information on her,
34 why she's even on there. It doesn't make any
35 sense to me.

36 So I get out of jail, and I had to have a
37 surety. Again, I have never been charged in my
38 life. I don't have a criminal record. I had to
39 live with my very good friend who was my surety.
40 I had to live in her house. And I was -- and she
41 was Caucasian. And I couldn't get over it.

42 So that was all fine and dandy other than
43 that my mental health started to go downhill.
44 And I started having, you know, just -- I just
45 got very depressed because I went from, you know,
46 trying to complete my second masters and raising
47 my daughter to I'm in jail. I can't live in my

1 own house, and now I'm living in somebody else's
2 house. And I couldn't fathom what was going on;
3 where this was all coming from.

4 So the assault charge was thrown out because
5 this isn't assault, but before my attorney went
6 on his six-week sabbatical down to Australia, he
7 couldn't get any disclosure from the Crown
8 whatsoever. Nothing. And he had been a criminal
9 attorney for 35 years at this point. This is all
10 he's ever done. And I had a meeting with him and
11 he just sat there shaking his head and he said,
12 I've never seen anything like this. He goes, I
13 don't understand this.

14 So he goes away for six weeks. Comes back.
15 Still doesn't have any disclosure from the Crown.
16 So he talked to me about it. So he asked for a
17 meeting -- like, a preliminary meeting or hearing
18 or whatever with a judge and the Crown in
19 chambers. And, again, he's saying to the judge,
20 I don't have anything. I don't have one piece of
21 evidence, nothing.

22 And so by this point it had been probably
23 four or five months since I have been charged.
24 So the judge is saying to the Crown at the time
25 like, Where is the disclosure? So the Crown, you
26 know, basically said, We'll get to it. And then
27 I said, Well, you've got a week. I'm giving you
28 a week to give [Lawyer 1] what he needs. Still
29 nothing.

30 So then I'm still trying to fight my mother,
31 who is utterly relishing having this power over
32 me. And my daughter is devastated because we're
33 very, very close. My two brothers are completely
34 useless. They're not doing anything to help.
35 And all of a sudden come June, this was the other
36 thing that happened, which was just unbelievable.

37 [Child C], the little boy, called [Daughter],
38 and by this point we have moved into a new place.

39 I've now moved out of my Surety's place --

40 SHEILA MAZHARI: [Daughter] is your daughter?

41 SHARNA SUGARMAN: [Daughter] is my daughter. [Daughter].

42 And we're into a new triplex. And [Child C]
43 called -- because back then I didn't have a
44 cellphone. We still had a landline. So he
45 called my daughter and she picked up the phone.
46 And at first she said, Oh, momma, it's [Child C] on
47 the phone and he wants to see me. And I remember

1 thinking, okay, I'm not allowed to have any
2 contact with his mom. So he wants to go to a
3 movie or something. And he said, I've already
4 talked to my parents; it's fine. He said, I can
5 meet you. And I was still sitting there
6 thinking, I don't know if this is a good idea.
7 So I got on the phone quickly with him and I
8 said, [Child C], I really don't think this is a good
9 idea. You know, I'm really sorry. And he's,
10 like, Oh. And he's still -- I could hear his mom
11 talking. And then she said something, like, Oh,
12 you're not allowed to see her now? What's the
13 problem? Like this. And she grabs the phone and
14 gets on the phone and starts yelling at me. And
15 all I said was, [Woman B], I can't talk to you and
16 you know that. And I hung up.

17 Next thing I know, the cops are at my house
18 a couple days later. And this officer was very,
19 very respectful of me. He didn't put handcuffs
20 on me or anything else. They told me I was in
21 breach, that I had communicated with somebody on
22 the list I wasn't allowed to communicate with. I
23 said, I didn't call her; she called me. I had
24 call display.

25 I got put back in Quinte again. Back in the
26 detention centre. I stayed there -- I'll never
27 forget it. I got out the day Michael Jackson
28 died. I stayed in Quinte for 12 days. Because
29 what they do, when you're put in those
30 positions -- because I know how it works --
31 they're hoping that you're going to crack and
32 you're going to turn to your attorney and go,
33 fine, get me a plea. Just get me out of here.
34 When I was in Quinte, I got put in protective --
35 I was in general pop at the beginning and I got
36 assaulted by this girl. I was on -- they had two
37 pay phones on the wall and I was calling one to
38 talk to my lawyer and one to talk to my daughter.
39 And this other girl was manipulating and
40 monopolizing the one phone. And it doesn't take
41 much to set off the inmates when they're in
42 there.

43 And I had sort of earned their trust there
44 because a couple of the girls by this time I
45 had -- they had remembered me from helping them
46 on the streets and with the Elizabeth Fry Society
47 and things like that. So -- and I was also

1 counselling some of them because some of them
2 were doing -- you know, not doing well inside the
3 system. So I was earning respect. And I had
4 respect of the guards. I was not considered an
5 issue in there.

6 This girl clocks me on the back of the head
7 with the hand receiver of the phone. Well,
8 they're quite hard plastic. And she took the
9 cord and wrapped it around my neck. Well, I
10 managed to turn around and I managed to fend her
11 off me. But this was all -- the camera was,
12 like, here, but the camera would not pick up that
13 part of the wall. It wasn't within the eye of
14 the camera.

15 So we get separated by the guards and they
16 took me out of general pop and they put me in
17 protective custody so I had my own cell. And I
18 spent the next -- I think it was about seven
19 days. And the person that was occupying the cell
20 next to me was Tooba Yahya and she is the wife --
21 do you know who I am speaking about?

22 SHEILA MAZHARI: No. Can you spell her name?

23 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Tooba was spelled T-o-o-b-a and
24 Yahya is Y-a-y-a [sic], as far as I know. She
25 was the wife of the Shafia family, S-h-a-f-i-a,
26 who intentionally murdered their daughters and
27 the first wife of the husband in my home town.
28 They were found in the Rideau Canal. She was in
29 protective custody in the cell next to me.

30 So I would hear her cry literally all the
31 time. And I would hear her pray because she's a
32 Muslim. They would bring her meals in a bag
33 because she would have to have halal meat because
34 she -- it has to be slaughtered a certain way,
35 the kosher way.

36 So I ended up talking to her through the
37 vent at the bottom. I had no clue who she was at
38 first. So she seemed very nice and I talked to
39 her and she would ask me, Do the guards have the
40 right to beat me? And stuff like that. And I
41 said, No, they don't.

42 The guards -- the females seemed to be not
43 respectful of her, but they were -- they didn't
44 bother her at all. So I talked to her for quite
45 some time. I never asked her why she was in
46 there. The guards were the ones that told me who
47 she was and why she was in there. And, of

1 course, this was all happening -- you know, the
2 murders and everything happened while I was in
3 jail, so I didn't have access to the media. So I
4 had no clue what was going on. And, of course, I
5 had no contact with really anybody else. It's
6 not, like, my mother called me or anything like
7 that. I was lucky if I heard my daughter's voice
8 every couple days. And that was very hard
9 because I had never -- I had never been away from
10 her, really, at all.

11 [Lawyer 1] came to see me and I told him,
12 again, unequivocally, I am not pleading guilty
13 and you're not coming to me with any plea. And
14 when I told him, he said, You're not supposed to
15 be -- he goes, You know you're not supposed to
16 have contact. I said, I didn't contact her. And
17 I told him about her son. I said, Her son called
18 my daughter. I said, He's about three years
19 older than she is. And I said, I have call
20 display. And he looked at me and he said, Can
21 you get me the phone? And I said, Yeah, I can.

22 I called my [Friend 1] who went over to my
23 house, got my handset and took it down to his
24 office. And it clearly -- and not only that, it
25 had her name on it. Clearly showed the date and
26 time, same thing as he got -- anything that he
27 got from the police reports clearly showed I
28 didn't call her. So that's why they let me out.
29 I spent about 12 days in custody in a jail cell
30 in a detention centre because I refused to play
31 their game.

32 And that's what they do. They wait until
33 you crack until they break you. And that's why
34 some people plead guilty to things because
35 they're getting beat up in jail. They're getting
36 all these things and they want out.

37 Well, I am not pleading guilty to something
38 I didn't do. And by this time I was -- oh, I was
39 furious. I was burning inside I was so mad being
40 kept from my daughter. So get out and all of a
41 sudden the charges are withdrawn from the Crown.
42 After nine months of this I have lost my house, I
43 had to drop out of school, I have lost my
44 daughter, which was the greatest loss that I had,
45 you know. So that was in June of 2010, but --
46 excuse me, 2009.

47 So I spend the summer trying to make the

1 best of it. Seeing my daughter when my mother
2 would let me, which was ridiculous because there
3 were no accusations, they were nothing. She was
4 just using -- of course, when the charges were
5 dropped, she didn't have anything to stand on
6 anymore. So I took her back to family court.
7 And, of course, she had a high-paid attorney. I
8 only had somebody from Legal Aid. And the judge
9 had decided that my daughter was to be returned
10 to me.

11 And at that time my daughter was at a camp
12 and they said when the camp is over, she needs to
13 go back to her mother. So my daughter comes back
14 to me, and I have told my mother, I'm done with
15 you. That's it; I'm done with you. I am so done
16 with you. You just don't do that.

17 So this is when this attack happened. So --

18 SHEILA MAZHARI: Before we get into that ...

19 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yeah.

20 SHEILA MAZHARI: Would you like to say the names of
21 the landlords?

22 SHARNA SUGARMAN: His name was -- her name was [Landlord],
23 which was [*spells name of landlord*].
24 And his first name was -- oh my God, it's
25 escaping me. Scottish name. [Landlord] and
26 her husband's name was ... Oh, it will come to
27 me.

28 Yeah, and then -- so September comes around
29 and I am doing my advocacy --

30 SHEILA MAZHARI: 2009?

31 SHARNA SUGARMAN: 2009. And this is the night that
32 the attack happened. So I went out in my
33 advocacy role to Queen's University for
34 homecoming weekend and it was a horrible weekend
35 weather-wise. And I went out to hand out free
36 condoms, talk to any women to let them know where
37 the rape crisis centre was, where the health
38 centre was, where the hospitals were, just in
39 case. I had a huge army backpack that I borrowed
40 off a buddy that had been in the military, and I
41 was collecting beer bottles. And what I was
42 doing is I was pouring them into plastic beer
43 cups and then handing those back to the people so
44 they couldn't use them as weapons at the police
45 or smashing them on the ground. So if somebody
46 was walking their dog the next day, they
47 definitely had some horses on horse mount --

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1 police mounted horses.

2 So I did that for, I don't know, about four
3 hours or something. Went home and I was on the
4 top floor of my triplex on [Avenue].

5 SHEILA MAZHARI: Can you spell [Avenue].

6 SHARNA SUGARMAN: [*Spells avenue*].

7 SHEILA MAZHARI: And this is in Kingston?

8 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yes. 1024, I'll never forget it.
9 1024.

10 SHEILA MAZHARI: In Ontario?

11 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yeah. I was blasting the Tragically
12 Hip. I went to high school with The Hip; they're
13 friends of mine. And I was just sort of, like,
14 decompressing from being out in the cold weather
15 and, you know, dealing with drunks and all of
16 that stuff. And there was a knock on my door.
17 And when you get into my building, you would open
18 the door and it was -- it was the exact same
19 design as the one that -- where the [Landlords] were
20 except for the staircase was on the other side
21 and we were on the top floor. So you would open
22 the door and you would come up the staircase and
23 then there was my door, like, right there.

24 And I hear this knock on the door and I am
25 thinking ... So I went and I am, like, Hello. I
26 didn't even open the door. And it was a Kingston
27 police officer. So he's, like, Kingston Police.
28 And I opened the door. And I recognized him from
29 years ago going into the gym and whatever. His
30 name was [Officer 2]. And I am, like, Hey,
31 [Officer 2], how's it going? And he's, like, Hi Sharna.
32 And he's, like, Can you turn the music down a bit
33 please. He said, We've had a call.

34 And I looked at him and I said, A call? I
35 said, There isn't anybody in the building. I'm
36 the only one home. And he's, like, Sharna,
37 please. He's like, Tonight is already stressful
38 as it is. Because it was homecoming and I'm,
39 like, Okay. [Officer 2], no worries. I said, I'm going
40 to bed anyway. I have got a big day tomorrow.

41 So I turned off the music and I went to bed.
42 And I wake up to this banging on the metal
43 aluminum door, like, old fashioned door. And it
44 set off both my dogs. They were growling and I
45 was, like -- and I had already also taken my
46 sedatives for the night. And I was just, like,
47 What the hell? So I get up and my daughter had

1 stayed with my mother that night. That was
2 another part of the agreement that we had that,
3 you know, she had to care for my daughter if I
4 ever -- that's what she got from the family court
5 judge, which I really didn't like.

6 SHEILA MAZHARI: If you were ever busy, you mean?

7 SHARNA SUGARMAN: If I ever needed childcare she had
8 to be the first choice, which I was just, like,
9 whatever.

10 So I went through my daughter's bedroom,
11 which overlooked the front of the house, and I
12 looked through her window and I see this [Man B].
13 And [Man B] is spelled [*spells name*]. And
14 this guy was a chronic drunk. He would order --
15 couldn't drive because he lost his driver's
16 licence to DWI. He was from Wawa, Ontario, which
17 is W-a-w-a.

18 He would order either a 12 or a 24 of Coors
19 Light every day after work and he would drink.
20 And he was proud of being an alcoholic. He was
21 just this young punk-ass. And the girl that --
22 his girlfriend who lived in the -- she originally
23 lived in the basement unit. And then when the
24 couple that lived below me moved out, because he
25 was another loser, he was abusive, and they moved
26 out. So they moved in to the unit below me -- or
27 I should say [Neighbour 1] did because [Man B] didn't
28 until later.

29 And he's absolutely hammered and he's
30 banging on the door. He's calling me the C word,
31 he's calling me a bitch and all this stuff. And
32 I opened up the window and I said, What are you
33 doing? Or something to that effect. And he's,
34 like, Fucking let me in. Like this. And I said,
35 I'm not letting you in in that state. And I
36 said, And you also don't live here. I said,
37 Where's your girlfriend? Where's [Neighbour 1]? And
38 he's like, I don't know where that fat bitch is.
39 You know, kind of thing. And I am, like, Well,
40 I'm definitely not letting you in now. I said,
41 You don't live here.

42 So he's still banging on the door. Well,
43 they knew because I had sadly and stupidly
44 confided in [Neighbour 1] when she was going through
45 something. I sometimes when I'm helping somebody
46 and if they're telling me something very personal
47 or raw for them, I'll disclose something from me

1 so that I can say, you know, you're not alone.
2 So she knew I had been charged because she had
3 also asked me one day why [Daughter] wasn't living
4 with me. Like, [Daughter] would come and go. So I
5 let her know what happened. And I thought she
6 was a nice girl and she's, like, Oh my God. I
7 can't believe that. She said, You need to fight.
8 And I said, I am fighting to get her back and,
9 you know, fighting these charges.

10 So sadly she went and told her douche bag of
11 a boyfriend. So this is when he says, Oh, well,
12 I'm going to call the cops and tell them you just
13 punched me. And I'm, like, Oh, I'm not dealing
14 with this. So I went back and that's when I
15 called directly down to the Kingston Police and
16 asked to talk to the watch commander.

17 So [Watch Commander] comes on.

18 SHEILA MAZHARI: Can you spell her name?

19 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Do you know how to spell [Watch Commander]?

20 SHEILA MAZHARI: Just for the record.

21 SHARNA SUGARMAN: [*Spells name of Watch Commander*].

22 And so I get on the phone with the watch
23 commander, because I don't even bother -- I just
24 go right to who I know is in charge. So I let
25 her know what was going on and she says to me --
26 I disclosed who I was as well. And she says,
27 This guy, is he intoxicated? And I said, Oh,
28 he's hammered. I said, He's a chronic alcoholic;
29 he's drunk every night after work. He works in
30 construction. And I said, He's drunk all the
31 time.
32

33 And she goes, Oh, well, Mr. Happy will
34 probably be spending the evening with us then.
35 And I said, You know what, I would really
36 appreciate that. I said, Because I'm a little
37 tired of this. I said, I have to get up tomorrow
38 morning and all this stuff. She said, Don't
39 worry about it. She said, Well, you know it's
40 homecoming? And I said, Yeah. I said, I was
41 down there earlier tonight. So this is all being
42 recorded. And she said, Well, when my officers
43 show up, if there's any issues, she goes, You
44 have them call me directly. And she goes, And
45 you tell them he's to be removed from the
46 property because he's not a tenant.

47 And then -- whether that's -- he just goes

1 on his merry way, because she also asked me if he
2 was driving. And I said, No, he doesn't drive.
3 I said, He already lost his license for drinking
4 and driving.

5 So I see these two cops show up in two
6 separate cruisers. And one of them is a
7 Caucasian with dark hair, looked like about maybe
8 around 30 years of age. And the other guy was an
9 older Caucasian guy, and he had like -- looked
10 like almost, like, white hair and a white
11 mustache. And I said through my daughter's
12 window upstairs that I had spoken with -- I
13 think -- I don't know if she was a sergeant by
14 them or she was a corporal, but Watch Commander
15 [last name] was how I referred to her, I believe.
16 And that this is what she's told me, and if you
17 have any issues you're to call her directly. But
18 he's intoxicated, he's harassing, I have been
19 asleep, I don't need this.

20 So they're talking with him. I figured
21 that's it. I went back to bed. Then I can hear
22 them coming up the stairs a few minutes later.
23 And I am lying in bed going, it's, like, 1:30 in
24 the morning or something by this point, and I am,
25 like, what do they need now? So he bangs on my
26 door. So I go and I opened up the door, but I
27 had a chain. And I said, What? Like, what do
28 you need? And he's, like, I need you to open the
29 door. I need to talk to you. And I said, No, I
30 don't have anything to say to you. I said, If
31 you have an issue, you call your watch commander.
32 I said, I'm done here. He's drunk. He's in a
33 public place. Deal with him.

34 So the cop says to me, I want you to open
35 the door right now, more aggressively. And I
36 said, No, this conversation is over. So I shut
37 my door. I said, I'm going back to bed. Dead
38 bolted it. Turn around and he goes, You fucking
39 bitch. And he kicked in my door. Blew my dead
40 bolt right out of the thing, broke the door jam
41 and everything. And I just remember going,
42 like -- thinking, like, oh my God. Ran into my
43 bedroom to grab the phone. He comes in, grabs me
44 by my hair. I grabbed the phone. The phone fell
45 all over the place. Throws me on my bed but I
46 also hear the other officers say, Holy fuck.
47 What the fuck did you just do? We can't do that.

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1 And he goes, Yeah, looks like I just did.

2 SHEILA MAZHARI: Which one was the one who did --

3 SHARNA SUGARMAN: The younger cop is the one that
4 assaulted me.

5 SHEILA MAZHARI: And kicked the door in?

6 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Kicked the door in.

7 So he's throwing me on my bed and calling me
8 every name in the book, and I am telling him, Get
9 off me right now. Get out of my house and get
10 off me. He's calling me a bitch. He's calling
11 me, like, every name in the book. And next thing
12 I know he's got his -- trying to put his hand up
13 my top. He managed to put my hand down my pants
14 and inserted his finger in my vagina and was
15 laughing while he was doing it. Saying, Yeah,
16 that's the best you ever had, and all this stuff.
17 And I am sitting there at the time, I remember
18 thinking -- because I boxed for five years when I
19 was younger. And also there's my rape -- my rape
20 training that I have.

21 And at the time all I wanted to do was claw
22 his eyes out, but the whole time I'm going, it's
23 a cop. It's a cop. It's a cop. And I was just
24 so floored. I was, like, sitting there -- it was
25 almost surreal. And next thing I know, he's
26 pulled me up, he's pulled me by my hair. So he's
27 already groped the hell out of me. He's already
28 violated me. And pulls me up, and I remember my
29 dachshund and my smooth fox terrier barking and
30 him yelling at them, Shut those fucking dogs up.
31 My smooth fox terrier, he hoofed him underneath
32 his rib cage and with his foot and threw him
33 across my apartment, and my dog landed on my
34 dining room table chairs. And I heard him yelp.
35 And I remember yelling at the cop going, Don't
36 you fucking touch my dogs.

37 And I didn't realize until later because
38 when I did this last year with the SIU, I
39 didn't -- before I met them I didn't review any
40 of the emails, anything I had sent to the
41 standard of conduct officer at the time with the
42 Kingston Police. I wanted to recall everything
43 that I knew in my brain. I didn't want to have
44 to refer to anything. But apparently I had
45 forgot at the time but I have remembered now
46 after talking with the SIU, the other cop is the
47 one that put the -- the older cop is the one that

1 put the handcuffs on me.

2 They took me out down the stairs. So I
3 can't even shut my apartment door. They did but
4 they couldn't -- it wouldn't shut. It just would
5 touch the jamb. And -- excuse me -- [Man B] is
6 standing at the bottom of the stairs laughing at
7 me. And he high-fived with the cop. This guy is
8 absolutely obnoxiously drunk, Caucasian. He's
9 the one that's being obnoxious and drunk and
10 intoxicated. I'm in bed and next thing I know,
11 I'm leaving in handcuffs.

12 Cops haven't told me why they have got me in
13 handcuffs, haven't mentioned anything. He throws
14 me in the back of the older cop's cruiser. They
15 drive me down to the new police station. And all
16 the older cop kept saying to me -- I'll never
17 forget this, all the way -- I am so sorry. I am
18 so sorry. I am so sorry, ma'am. I am so sorry.
19 And I am in the back and I am livid. And I said,
20 You damn well know that what you are doing is
21 against the law. You have no right to break down
22 my door. You don't have a warrant, you don't
23 have just cause and what you're doing right now
24 -- and I said to him, I said, If you want to make
25 this right, you turn around and you let me go.
26 You take me back home right now.

27 So I get to the police department and I am
28 livid. I am in there -- they take -- because you
29 go into a -- you go into a garage because it's a
30 brand new police station, the garage door comes
31 down, they bring you out of the cruiser and you
32 go into a door, and then you're in the processing
33 room. I am demanding to see [Watch Commander].
34 I said, You get her down here right
35 now.

36 And nobody is listening to me. There's cops
37 all over the place. They just made me sit on the
38 bench. No charges, no nothing. Didn't tell me
39 anything. Put me in a cell, that was it. Next
40 morning doors opened up, there's a guy wearing a
41 white shirt, so that means that he's a higher
42 upper; he's probably an inspector or whatever.
43 Opens the door and said, You're free to go,
44 Ms. Sugarman. And I looked at him and I said,
45 And you are? And I said, I want to know the name
46 of that officer. And he said, I'm not at liberty
47 right now to discuss any of that with you. And I

1 said, What are you charging me with? I said,
2 Have you charged me with anything? He said, No,
3 he said, You're free to go. And I said, Do you
4 have any idea what happened last night? I said,
5 You have no right to do what you did. You
6 completed violated my charter rights and my civil
7 liberties and my human rights.

8 I'm in my pajamas, I have no money, I have
9 no shoes. They called me a cab. I stood outside
10 the police department. So this, again, is, like,
11 October. So it's cold out. Cab picks me up,
12 takes me home. I had to go -- not only that, my
13 landlords were in Portugal at the time, so their
14 brother-in-law was looking after the unit. And
15 the other thing that had been going on in my unit
16 was the heat -- the thermostat was in [Neighbor 1]'s
17 unit, and what [Man B] would do when she wasn't
18 home or when he was leaving is he would turn it
19 off. So there would be no heat in the apartment.
20 And he was playing games.

21 I kept telling the landlords to put a cage
22 over it, which means that it's locked and they're
23 the only ones that control it. I paid for a
24 plumber to come to check out the furnace to make
25 sure it wasn't the furnace. And they said
26 there's nothing wrong with the furnace. They
27 said somebody is playing with the heat.

28 He came downstairs while the plumbers were
29 there, which I was paying for, and made -- it was
30 unbelievably disgusting, his behaviour. He was
31 telling them, he said, Hey, if she can't pay for
32 the bill, I hear she gives pretty good blow jobs.
33 Maybe she could pay for it that way, guys. Ha ha
34 ha.

35 SHEILA MAZHARI: This is the plumber?

36 SHARNA SUGARMAN: No, this was [Man B], the loser that
37 was drunk talking to the plumbers. And I was
38 just standing there going, Oh my God, like, Who
39 raised you? What's wrong with you? And the one
40 plumber finally had enough, and he turned to him
41 and he goes -- he goes, Is this your unit? Like
42 this. And he goes, Yeah. And he goes, That's
43 where the thermostat is, isn't it? And he goes,
44 Yeah. And he goes, Yeah, you need to stop
45 fucking around with that, you little piece of
46 shit. He was really mad. And he goes, And you
47 stop talking about that lady around me. He goes,

1 You don't talk like that around me, you little
2 punk.

3 And [Man B] was, like -- he was just this
4 little stick thing of a guy. And he was just,
5 like, Oh man, I was just trying to make fun. And
6 he goes, Yeah, you're not funny. He goes, Get
7 out of here.

8 It was Donaldson Plumbing was the plumber.
9 Because I ended up talking to the owner
10 afterwards. And she said, If you need anything
11 in writing for the police, I will give it. She
12 said, There is nothing wrong with your furnace.

13 So I had to call [Landlord's brother] was his name,
14 that was the wife's brother, to let me back into the
15 unit because I don't know if it was [Man B] or the
16 police, but what they did is -- I thought the
17 door was completely busted and it was busted, the
18 dead bolt was busted, the chain was busted, but
19 they turned -- the little lock on the door handle
20 was enough to lock the door. Well, I had no
21 keys. I had nothing to get back in.

22 So he shows up, and I am still -- the cab
23 driver is eventually really nice when I told him
24 what happened. He stopped his meter. And he
25 said, I don't care. He goes, I will wait here
26 all morning with you. I can't believe what you
27 have gone through. And he's, like, You need to
28 call the media. You need to call a lawyer. And
29 I said, Yeah, I know.

30 So [Landlord's brother] shows up. I go in and get my
31 wallet, check on my dogs. My apartment is just a
32 mess from the cops being in there. And paid for
33 my cab ride. And I remember calling [Lawyer 1],
34 I remember calling [Lawyer 2] who was the
35 executive director -- who still is the executive
36 director for the Kingston Community Legal Clinic.

37 SHEILA MAZHARI: Can you spell his last name.

38 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yes, *[spells Lawyer 2's name]*.

40 SHEILA MAZHARI: [Lawyer 2]?

41 SHARNA SUGARMAN: [Lawyer 2] is his name.

42 SHEILA MAZHARI: He's the director of ...?

43 SHARNA SUGARMAN: He's the executive director and
44 senior lawyer for the Kingston Community Legal
45 Clinic.

46 So I'm just -- I have got so many emotions
47 going through me. And my landlords come back,

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1 and [Lawyer 2] is advocating for me in the legal
2 capacity with the landlords for me to try to keep
3 my place. I ended up losing my unit. They --

4 SHEILA MAZHARI: On what grounds?

5 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Oh, they just said that -- again,
6 that I was harassing -- well, this was the other
7 thing. Okay. So this cop does all this to me.
8 The charges that I had were all thrown out by the
9 Crown. By this time, I have already called the
10 Centre of Conduct Unit who is [Watch Commander].
11 This is also her role. I have left her several
12 messages.

13 SHEILA MAZHARI: So what conduct?

14 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Standard -- professional standard
15 and conduct officer. Their role is to take any
16 complaints from the general public against
17 officers or civilians. And you can do a formal
18 or informal complaint. It's sort of first stage.
19 But by this time, because of my charges being
20 thrown out and everything happened, I was
21 starting -- I had retained a civil lawyer.

22 Well, [Watch Commander] for some reason
23 thought that she was on the receiving end of this
24 civil complaint -- or this civil matter so she
25 wouldn't hear me at all. She wouldn't -- this is
26 why I still don't know this officer's name. She
27 said, I can't interview you, I can't -- nothing.
28 I said, Well, then, there's somebody else that
29 needs to take over your role for this situation.
30 I am not letting this go.

31 So what did they do? To protect the cop,
32 they swing around and charge me again with
33 criminal harassment of [Man B], of the
34 drunk, who wasn't even a tenant in the building.
35 And for public mischief that I had made that
36 night when I called the watch commander that it
37 was an unfounded call. He wasn't drunk. He
38 wasn't causing a scene. I was in bed asleep, but
39 apparently all of that didn't happen.

40 And they had to do that in order to protect
41 the cop for kicking in my door. So they think
42 after putting me through hell for nine months to
43 the point that I pushed the Crown with my
44 attorney to get the charges dropped -- because he
45 did. He had many meetings with the Crown. And
46 the Crown went to [Lawyer 1] several times and
47 said, Okay, we'll drop the criminal harassment if

1 she pleads guilty to this. And he said, Don't
2 ever come to me, he goes, I'll tell you right
3 now. She's a tough cookie. She is not going to
4 comp to anything, so we're going right to trial.

5 The day of the trial for the charges that
6 were withdrawn -- and I am not kidding you --
7 we're at trial, the day of my trial, the Crown
8 that was generally the one that he was talking to
9 apparently was involved in another case. This
10 other Crown attorney came up, which was really
11 ironic, her name is [Crown attorney 1] who I had
12 helped as an advocate with one of her victims
13 through a sexual assault trial with a military
14 personnel.

15 SHEILA MAZHARI: Can you spell her name.

16 SHARNA SUGARMAN: [*Spells Crown attorney 1's name*].

17 She went to [Lawyer 1] and said, I'm not
18 interested in your client. If she agrees to a
19 peace bond, meaning no contact with these people,
20 I'll drop the charges. And he came back to me
21 with it and I said, No. I said, I want to go to
22 trial. I'm not agreeing to anything, not even a
23 bloody peace bond. Didn't find out until later,
24 much later, do you know why she did that?
25 Because one of the lead -- because one of her
26 lead witnesses refused to come to court that day.

27 She has a legal obligation to tell the
28 defense to disclose that one of her witnesses
29 refused to come to court. Because I saw
30 everybody in the waiting room and I went down a
31 separate hall to be away from them. And I said
32 to [Lawyer], I said, So-and-so is missing. She's
33 not there. And he said, Are you sure? And I
34 said, Oh, yeah, I'm sure. I kept going because I
35 had to go that way to go to the bathroom, and she
36 wasn't there. And I said, I find it very odd, I
37 said, That the Crown is now coming up to you and
38 is willing to basically drop everything for a
39 peace bond.

40 And I said, Isn't she supposed to disclose
41 to you whether or not there's a witness not
42 testifying? And he's, like, Yeah, she is. But
43 this was all afterwards.

44 So I am arguing with my attorney and he's,
45 like, Sharna, please. He goes, It's a peace
46 bond. He goes, There's no -- like, he goes,

47

1 We've got a very strong case, he said, but this
2 makes it go away really fast. And I was like --
3 I don't know why I agreed to it, but I did. I
4 think I did one of those you're an attorney and
5 you have been doing this for almost 40 years,
6 kind of thing.

7 So we get into -- before the judge and
8 everything has been agreed to. But the weird
9 thing was before we were called to the judge as
10 we were sitting there, so I am in the one row
11 here and then there's a wooden kind of, like,
12 barrier here. And the lawyers sit here, and then
13 there's their chairs in front of the judge. And
14 my lawyer is sitting on the bench with other
15 lawyers. And [Detective 1], [Detective 1],
16 and [Crown attorney 1] are sitting together in
17 the chairs. And I leaned over and I said, [Lawyer 1],
18 I said, I need to ask you something.

19 And you could hear me. And he said, What's
20 that? I said, I need to know the name of a
21 really good civil attorney. And he looks at me
22 and he goes, Oh -- he goes, You're going to sue
23 the cops, aren't you? And I said, Yeah, I am.
24 They heard me. And you should have seen the
25 look -- the colour went right out of
26 [Detective 1]'s face. And the Crown looked at her
27 too. They both sat there and whispered and were
28 writing on --

29 So I have already seen the peace bond at
30 this point, that I am not to contact any of these
31 people. They're not to contact me. I am not
32 basically on probation -- nothing like that. It
33 was just -- I think it was good for, like, six
34 months or something. It was nothing -- nothing
35 on it was anything I would have objected to. I
36 was, like, whatever. So I have already seen it
37 and I have agreed to it.

38 Next thing I know, these two little hens are
39 having a little chitty chat after they hear I'm
40 going to sue their pants off. When the peace
41 bond was given to -- I believe it was Judge
42 Masse. And Masse is spelled M-a-s-s-e. He's
43 reading out the conditions. Well, all of a
44 sudden -- and it's already -- it's been typed
45 out. There's handwriting at the bottom of my
46 peace bond saying that under no circumstance will
47 Sharna Sugarman ever call the Kingston Police

1 again other than -- ever again. And the judge
2 sat there and read it. And he questioned it, and
3 he said, Hang on a minute here. Because they're
4 already alluding -- they're thinking that I am
5 nuts and that I am just calling the police;
6 that's all I like to do.

7 Well, I live in a low income area that also
8 had drug dealers and stuff like that. But the
9 police were expecting me to put up with that kind
10 of behaviour, like I told you before when they
11 were saying, Well, look where you live,
12 Ms. Sugarman. And I am, like, Well, I live in
13 the city of Kingston, so you're basically telling
14 me you pick and choose where you think people are
15 worthy of, what, your services? Give me a break.

16 So the judge reads it, and he says, I am not
17 signing off on this. He said, You're telling me
18 she doesn't have the right to call 911. And he
19 kind of made a joke. He said, You guys are
20 opening yourself up to a lawsuit. He goes, If
21 she sees something and doesn't call because of
22 this and someone dies or whatever. So they
23 modified it. But it basically said that I was
24 not to call unless it was a credible call.

25 And I leaned over and tried to get [Lawyer 1]'s
26 attention because they're addressing the Crown --
27 or the judge, right. I'm trying -- I actually
28 said to one of the lawyers, Can you get [Lawyer 1] for
29 me. And he was kind of like, I can't right now
30 because he's addressing the judge. And I kind of
31 hate that behaviour. I'm, like -- I don't think
32 it's disrespectful. I'm trying to tell my lawyer
33 that was not part of the agreement. I never
34 would have agreed to that. You're telling me I
35 don't have the right to call emergency services
36 because the cops screwed their job and charged me
37 and, you know, here we are and you're screwing up
38 my life.

39 So that gets done. And I talked to [Lawyer 1]
40 afterwards and he goes, Yeah, I noticed that. He
41 goes, That wasn't on the original. And I got mad
42 at him. And I said, Why didn't you say, Your
43 Honour, my client and I didn't agree to that.
44 That was not part of what the Crown brought me.
45 So that was, like -- I think I got charged again
46 in November of 2009. And when that happened,
47 that's when I had a total breakdown. I

1 absolutely lost it. It was nothing but racial
2 profiling. I was -- I felt humiliated, I felt
3 belittled.

4 And, again, my mother went and acted with
5 her family lawyer and tried to get custody of my
6 daughter again. And I am sitting there going,
7 what in the hell is going on here? Well, I had a
8 total mental breakdown and I tried to take my own
9 life, which was the second time in my life I
10 tried to do that. I tried to do it when I was
11 16. My dad -- my beloved dad died when I was 12,
12 my adopted father who was my dad. And I started
13 having horrible flashbacks and that's also what
14 prompted -- I couldn't control the visions I was
15 having and the flashbacks I was having.

16 And I was having flashbacks because of what
17 the cop did to me when he sexually assaulted me.
18 It triggered all of these repressed memories that
19 I was having of my adopted mother, [Adoptive mother], and
20 [Adoptive mother] is spelled [spells name],
21 abusing me when I was a young child and a young
22 youth. She was sexually molesting me. And
23 that's why I tried to kill myself when I was 16.
24 And I went through serious therapy all over this
25 and I've grappled with it and I have come to
26 terms with it as best as anybody can.

27 I was in the hospital. I was diagnosed with
28 post-traumatic stress disorder, which I still
29 have to this day. I had lived with depression
30 most of my life because my body doesn't produce
31 enough serotonin, but also the trauma that I had
32 gone through. But I had never been an anxious
33 person in my life. So it's the anxiety that I
34 have an issue with. So when I was in the
35 hospital and diagnosed with that, they also came
36 back and they said, these flashbacks, these
37 images, these really, really, you know, vivid
38 images that you're having is what you repressed
39 what you were younger and that's why you have
40 such an acrimonious relationship with your
41 mother.

42 SHEILA MAZHARI: She's the same woman that was taking
43 care of your daughter?

44 SHARNA SUGARMAN: And then I sat there and I had a
45 whole breakdown over that because I'm, like, oh
46 my God, if she's touching [Daughter], you know.
47 So long and short of it, I got my daughter back.

1 My daughter really started to turn on her
2 grandmother too. You know, she became -- my
3 daughter is a very well behaved child and
4 teenager, but she became very resentful towards
5 her grandmother. And my mother would start
6 calling me in tears demanding that I tell [Daughter]
7 to be respectful of her. And I said I'm not
8 telling my daughter to be respectful of you.
9 Look what you have done.

10 So then she would start -- she had [Daughter]
11 basically move back home with me. Even though
12 she was lying to her lawyer saying she still had
13 my daughter, she didn't. She was only with my
14 mom for a very short amount of time.

15 SHEILA MAZHARI: And [Daughter] is -[spells name].

16 SHARNA SUGARMAN: [Spells name].

17 So my mother was, like -- and I sat there
18 and I said, You're -- I called her every name in
19 the book and I said, This is what you have done
20 to me. And I said, Who does this? And she had
21 she would always say, I don't want to talk about
22 that. I don't want to talk about that. It's in
23 the past. It's in the past. I don't want to
24 talk about that. And I went to my brothers about
25 it. My eldest brother who is my adopted parents'
26 natural child was already out of the house by
27 then because he's almost ten years older than me.
28 And my other brother -- when we moved, I met a
29 guy, my former partner, when I was in the
30 hospital, and he was also a patient. And we
31 moved in together. He was going through a really
32 bitter divorce and his wife had turned his two
33 teenage kids against him. It was awful.

34 And we moved in together. And then in
35 October of 2012 [Ex-partner] got a job in Saskatchewan
36 in his field. And we ended up moving out there.
37 And I moved on December -- I left Kingston and
38 drove out there, waited for everything to be
39 packed up. And then my brother brought [Daughter] out
40 to me. I let her finish the semester in school
41 because there was only a couple of weeks left.
42 And my brother [Brother 1] brought my daughter out and
43 she's been with me ever since.

44 My mother made an agreement with her -- I
45 honestly had to agree to it because I didn't want
46 to have to keep flying back to Ontario for any
47

1 family court things. I couldn't afford that. So
2 she made an agreement that I agreed to, grinding
3 my teeth, that [Daughter] -- my mother would pay for
4 her to fly back every summer for a month when
5 school was done and that she could call anytime
6 she liked. And [Daughter] could call her collect, if
7 she wanted, if we didn't have long distance
8 service or anything like that.

9 And that only transpired, I think summer of
10 2011 she went back and the summer of 2012 and I
11 think '13. She hasn't been back since. My
12 mother passed away in July of 2016 and that is --
13 that's when my healing started.

14 When I was in Saskatchewan and talking with
15 my attorney, he suggested that -- he thought
16 that -- at the time that my mother should have
17 been charged. And I said, Well, I agree. So I
18 called the sexual assault unit of the Kingston
19 Police. I had to because that's where the crime
20 took place when I was molested from the time of
21 about age of 5 to 13, and I talked to a constable
22 [Constable 1].

24 SHEILA MAZHARI: And [Constable 1]?

25 SHARNA SUGARMAN: [Constable 1].

26 And she believed me and we -- what happened
27 was I was living in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan.
28 And that's two separate words. And they did a
29 video interview set up with the RCMP. And all
30 the RCMP was basically a liaison for the Kingston
31 Police. So I was on camera, and the officer
32 basically asked me the same thing. Tell your
33 story. I think she asked me a couple of quick
34 questions. And then that videotape was sent to
35 the Kingston Police.

36 I don't know if they brought my mother in
37 first or if they brought my brothers in first.
38 But they brought both my brothers in for an
39 interview, my eldest brother -- basically
40 everything that I had said was verbatim. I said,
41 My eldest brother moved out when he was, like,
42 18. I would have been, like, 10 at the time.
43 And I said, I don't know what my brother does
44 know and what he doesn't know. I said, I know my
45 other brother probably is the one that -- because
46 his bedroom was right beside the guest room which
47 is where my mother would take me.

1 In my house, if this was my upstairs, the
2 stairs are here and you come up and my bedroom
3 was here overlooking the front of the house, the
4 guest room was here, my brother [Brother 1]'s bedroom
5 was here, and then down the hallway a bit was my
6 brother's [Brother 2]'s room and right across was
7 the master bedroom and then my dad's den was
8 here. And we lived in a very large house.

9 So I would go to bed in my own bed at night.
10 And, of course, being the youngest I was the
11 first one obviously to bed. And my mother
12 generally would be -- because she was drinking,
13 would get me out of bed, like, pick me up,
14 literally -- I would probably still be asleep,
15 and take me into the guest room and shut the
16 door. And that's where the molestation would
17 happen. And it was right next door to my
18 brother's bedroom.

19 So my brother had to admit, and he did, that
20 he remembers unequivocally many times that he
21 would see me go to bed in my own bed but for some
22 reason I would wake up in the guest room and
23 leave with my mother in the morning. Or he would
24 see my mother come out and then me out after her
25 or vice versa. And he couldn't explain it to the
26 police officer. Because he said, Was your sister
27 ill? Was she recovering from surgery? I mean,
28 there was all these questions I'm sure that they
29 asked. He said, No. He said, There was no
30 reason why my daughter -- not my daughter, my
31 sister would not be in her own bedroom.

32 And he also admitted that I had a very
33 acrimonious relationship with my mother and that
34 had really stemmed after my dad died. My father
35 was everything to me. I just adored him. He was
36 just the most amazing, beautiful human being.
37 And there's times that I think that he maybe --
38 he would have been the type of man that if he
39 suspected my mother doing that, he probably
40 couldn't bring himself to accept it. Like, he
41 just -- it would have been too much for him. So
42 I think he probably would have thought about it
43 and said, You're crazy, you're crazy [Father],
44 you're crazy, like, that's just not happening.
45 Or my mother would have been manipulative enough
46 to explain why she was staying in the same bed
47 with me. Like, she wasn't feeling well, or she

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1 had a nightmare last night or whatever it was;
2 right.

3 SHEILA MAZHARI: What year did this statement take
4 place?

5 SHARNA SUGARMAN: This was 2011.

6 SHEILA MAZHARI: In what month?

7 SHARNA SUGARMAN: I think it was -- I think it was
8 March. There was still snow on the ground. I
9 remember that.

10 So when I talked with [Constable], when
11 she brought my mother in -- now, keep in mind
12 when I was arrested, I never asked for an
13 attorney. I let them question me. I said I have
14 nothing to hide. I'm not guilty of anything.
15 When my mother was brought in for questioning
16 over this -- and she knew it because I brought it
17 up at family court. I brought it up in front of
18 the judge, and the judge was the one that told me
19 that I had to contact the Children's Aid Society
20 to make sure my daughter wasn't being abused and
21 that I also had to contact the Kingston Police.

22 My mother in the courtroom didn't say a word
23 in family court. Now, I'm sorry, anybody ever
24 accused me of harming a child or harming an
25 animal, I'm going to be really vocal about it.
26 I'm the type of person that would say, You better
27 have me on video because it never happened and
28 come hell or high water, you're going to regret
29 saying that. Those are two things -- I might be
30 guilty of a lot of things in life. Those are two
31 things I'll never be guilty of.

32 My mother didn't even make a peep. If the
33 roles were reversed, I don't care in front of a
34 judge, I would have flipped out. How dare you
35 even accuse me of that. I would have been
36 inconsolable. My mother didn't say a word.

37 She goes in for her interview. She knew why
38 she was going to the Kingston Police, why they
39 were bringing her in for questioning. So she
40 goes in. And the cop explained it all to me.
41 She was very, very vivid in her description of
42 how my mother's demeanour was and all this stuff.
43 She said she was very guarded. When she told my
44 mom, she said, [Adoptive mother] you know why you're
45 here. There's been an accusation. She explained to
46 my mother -- I think she had already interviewed
47 both my brothers by that point, and both my

1 brothers totally explained exactly what I said in
2 the videotape. And when I spoke with [Constable 1].
3 on the phone, I said, I don't think my
4 eldest brother [Brother 2] -- I said, If he
5 suspected anything, I don't know if he would have
6 it in him -- both of my brothers, I really don't
7 know if they would have it in them to rat out my
8 mother. Because my one brother said to me, he
9 said, If it did happen, Sharna, please let it go.
10 Mom is getting old and all that stuff. It was a
11 long time ago. And I sat there and I said, Don't
12 you condescend me. I didn't do anything wrong
13 here. I was a child. I don't care how old mom
14 is. You don't do that to a child. But when my
15 mother went in for her interview and the police
16 officer said I'm going to ask you some questions,
17 my mother proceeded to say to the officer, On the
18 advice of my criminal attorney, I have been asked
19 by my family attorney to speak to a criminal
20 attorney, which she did, I'm not answering any of
21 your questions.

22 Who does that if you're innocent? And
23 that's what the officer told me that she told
24 her. She said, You know what that tells me as a
25 cop? She said, You're not willing to answer any
26 of my questions? And she said, No, I am not on
27 the advice of my attorney. I'm not answering any
28 of your questions. And my mother left.

29 And the constable called me that day because
30 I asked her -- I also was emailing with her as
31 well in Saskatchewan. And they couldn't charge
32 her. She went to the Crown. She said there's no
33 doubt in my mind that this happened to you. And
34 she said also after speaking with your brothers,
35 she said everything that you told me is exactly
36 what your brothers told me. And she went to the
37 Crown, and the Crown did not charge my mother
38 based on the fact of her age. The fact that the
39 abuse had been so many decades ago and there was
40 no physical evidence. It wasn't that they didn't
41 believe me, but the Crown also said they didn't
42 think they would get any jail time for my mother,
43 so it wasn't worth his time.

44 And I am, like -- I'm of the opinion, it's
45 another part of colonization in this country. I
46 do not believe-- and it's not just with my
47 people. I think it's with anybody. If you're a

1 victim of a crime, especially something as
2 heinous as child molestation or rape or something
3 like that and, God forbid, murder, I don't think
4 it's the Crown's call. They get to sleep well at
5 night. You don't have the right to take that
6 justice and that closure and that process away
7 from the person.

8 And she pleaded my case to him and she also
9 told him, she said she has contact with
10 Ms. Sugarman's only child and they were concerned
11 about that as well. Believe me, I have berated
12 my daughter as anything. And I also told her --
13 I said -- because my daughter was also taking
14 karate at the time. And I said, If Nana tries
15 anything, you do what you have to. Get out of
16 there. She has promised me that nothing has ever
17 happened but she doesn't -- she never trusted my
18 mother again after that.

19 SHEILA MAZHARI: Did she have contact with her after
20 that?

21 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Not really. Not once we moved out
22 west. She went home -- my mother would call.
23 She would send, like, cards, like, birthday cards
24 or anything like that. [Daughter] went home a
25 couple of summers in a row for, like, a month.
26 And she did -- my daughter is an equestrian, so
27 she would do equestrian camp. My mother kept her
28 calendar with my daughter quite busy. I called
29 every night and talked to my daughter. She also
30 had my phone number, so she could call anytime.
31 We emailed, all those things. She didn't
32 after -- my daughter is 17 now, she'll be 18 in
33 June. She hasn't seen -- my mother died in July
34 of 2016.

35 That's the other thing. We didn't find out
36 for six months that my mother was dead. I
37 actually found out through -- a fluke through --
38 in regards to her estate. A friend of mine that
39 I went to high school with contacted me through
40 Facebook, and she works for the bank that my
41 mother banked with. And she said, You need to
42 get ahold of me. She goes, It's official
43 capacity. And I'm just, like, that's kind of
44 weird.

45 So I called her and she said, You need to
46 talk to my boss. He's been trying to get ahold
47 of you. And how she found out was even a fluke.

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1 She was just walking the halls between breaks and
2 overheard her boss saying to some guy, I don't
3 know how to get ahold of this Sharna Sugarman
4 girl. She [sic] goes, I got to talk to her.
5 She's the -- you know, she's -- her daughter is
6 the beneficiary. And my friend was, like, I can
7 get ahold of her. Because we had been friends
8 since high school.

9 So turns out my mother completely
10 disinherited me, which I wasn't shocked at. But
11 she left everything that she would have given to
12 me to my daughter. So I'm my daughter's, like,
13 trustee. But when I got an email from CIBC
14 Wood Gundy, and I sat there and I thought about
15 it, and I was, like, my mother must have died.
16 This poor guy that I was on the phone with, I
17 called him and I said, Can you tell me when my
18 mother passed away? And he's sitting there,
19 like, dead silence. And I remember he's, like,
20 Can you hold the line for a second? And I am
21 like, Yeah, sure. He comes back, like, a minute
22 later and he goes, Ms. Sugarman, I'm so sorry.
23 He goes, You didn't realize your mother passed
24 away? I said, You know what, I have no contact
25 with my brothers.

26 My brothers basically -- we basically became
27 estranged over this because my one brother wanted
28 me to let it all go. He was in a quandary of
29 whether to believe me or believe my mom. My
30 other brother and I are estranged because I can't
31 stand his wife. She is a piece of work. And she
32 had also pushed my daughter when she was five
33 years old right in front of me at a family event,
34 and you don't touch my child.

35 So that's what I have been dealing with for
36 the past year and a half with her estate
37 attorney. But no, my daughter hasn't talked to
38 my mom, anything like that. My ex and I broke
39 up -- he left Saskatchewan about a year after we
40 lived there. He up and walked out on [Daughter] and I
41 one day. He had mental health issues that
42 stemmed from his divorce and his estrangement
43 from his two beloved children because his wife is
44 using them as pawns and all that stuff.

45 And he went into a hospital in North
46 Battleford, which is just about an hour from
47 Meadow Lake. And I brought him home because it

1 was the Thanksgiving day weekend and, you know,
2 you don't see any psychiatrist over the weekend.
3 And his psychiatrist actually was in India on
4 vacation, so she wasn't going to be back for a
5 while.

6 Long and short of it, he ended up walking
7 out on my daughter and I and took up with some
8 girl that he met in the hospital and completely
9 left us. I called the hospital to make sure that
10 he made it back because I drove him to the
11 hospital, but he left his vehicle at my work
12 because I was working at the Meadow Lake hospital
13 in my capacity as a mental health counsellor.
14 And I was also working in the detox unit.

15 So I drove him to the hospital to pick up
16 his vehicle because we were living out in a farm.
17 We get home. I was going actually to pick [Daughter]
18 up because she was with a friend of mine who was
19 also a teacher. But we had made a deal that she
20 said, you know, by the time you go get him and
21 come home, I might take the girls to a movie.
22 And I said, Fine, if she's here, great. If not,
23 she said -- she goes, She can sleep over. I'll
24 take her to school tomorrow. She goes, You and
25 [Ex-partner] need a night together.

26 So they weren't home, so I knew that. Then
27 I talked to her -- her boarder and she said, No,
28 she decided to take them to a dinner and a movie.
29 And I said, Okay. That's great. So I drive all
30 the way home.

31 We lived about 20 minutes outside of the
32 city, of the town I should say. I get home and
33 the whole house is lit up with candles. And he's
34 got a fire going in the fireplace. And we had a
35 lovely evening together, a couple hours because
36 it was late. We went to bed. We were passionate
37 together. And the next thing I know, he's
38 telling me he wants -- he should be by himself.
39 And I'm just, like, where the hell is this coming
40 from? I was totally floored. And I got up and I
41 am just, like, Why the hell did you just sleep
42 with me then? This is not -- I'm not that type
43 of person.

44 So I had a bit of a panic attack and that
45 was part of my post traumatic. I cannot handle
46 my anxiety. I'm not an anxious person and it's a
47 hard thing for me to cope with. So I jumped in

1 my car, I drove back to my work, and I sat in the
2 spiritual room there and an elder came in. They
3 ended up giving me a little shot of Lorazepam to
4 calm me down. So I sat with my coworkers. I
5 ended up sleeping in one of the emergency
6 bedrooms because it wasn't busy that night. Get
7 up the next day, drove home, and he's got a bag
8 packed. Hasn't got all of his other stuff, just
9 a bag packed. He's not telling me anything, but
10 he said, I'm going back to the hospital. He
11 suffered from anxiety. And he's, like, I need to
12 go where it's safe, I need to go to the hospital.
13 And I'm, like, You need to talk to me. Where is
14 this coming from? Like, you know. And it was
15 just not like him.

16 And so he left and I was devastated. I
17 was on his next to kin, so I could talk to his
18 medical team. Not only that, I worked with some
19 of the mental health nurses because they would
20 also come to our hospital as well. Well, I
21 called the hospital and said he's on his way back
22 to the hospital. It should take him about an
23 hour and a half. And they knew I was upset, and
24 they said, Look, just take care of yourself.
25 They said, You know he'll be safe here. Call
26 later and let's, you know -- they said, I'll talk
27 to him -- the one nurse I knew, and she said,
28 I'll talk to him and see where he's at. She
29 said, This seems really odd. She said, He was
30 really looking forward to going home and spending
31 time with you.

32 Because I was bringing him home for the
33 weekend because I knew he wasn't a threat to
34 himself and because he was self admitted they
35 couldn't technically hold him. His psychiatrist
36 was coming back on Monday from holidays, so they
37 said, look, go home for the weekend, bring him
38 back Sunday night and then he'll see his doctor
39 in the morning and, you know, we'll go from
40 there.

41 So -- but when I called later that
42 night, a couple hours later, he had taken me off
43 as his next to kin, so I couldn't get any
44 information. And they tried -- implored him.
45 They said, You need support; you need -- you
46 know, and she's well educated, she knows what's
47 going on and, you know, it will also give her

1 some peace of mind.

2 So they just said, Talk to the doctor on
3 Monday. Well, the doctor calls me at 7:30
4 Monday morning and asks to talk to [Ex-partner]. And
5 I said to her, I said, He's not here; he's at the
6 hospital. And I could hear her flipping through
7 papers. She said, No, no, no; it says here he
8 checked out last night at about 9:30. And that,
9 you know, she said, There's notes here from the
10 staff saying they tried to implore him to stay
11 here, but because he was self admitted we can't
12 hold him. And that he's going home to his
13 family, is what he has told them. And I said,
14 He's not here. And she's, like, Oh.

15 So then I'm becoming concerned because
16 it's already almost 12 hours since he's left the
17 hospital. So I called his mom in Ontario, I
18 called his brother, I called his sister. And I
19 tried to be very calm and I said, Have you heard
20 from -- they knew he was in the hospital. And
21 they're all, like, No, we haven't heard from him.
22 And I was, like, Okay. Well, if you do, tell him
23 that I need to hear from him. Trying his cell
24 all that stuff. So the doctor calls me back
25 about an hour or so later and she said, Any luck?
26 I said, No. And I said, Now I'm not sure what to
27 do.

28 I have got this thought did he roll his
29 jeep and is he in the ditch, where is he? Where
30 would he have gone? And I told her about what
31 had happened the other night, and she said, Oh,
32 yeah, I've read the notes here. And I said --
33 she goes, Can you think of where he would go?
34 And I said, No, I have absolutely no idea where
35 he would go. I said, He doesn't have any friends
36 here. He didn't make any friends. I said, He
37 just did work and -- like, when he's with
38 somebody, he makes that person their life -- or
39 his life. And he's a bit of an introvert as well
40 in some ways.

41 So I said, I'm not sure what to do. I
42 have called his family and all of that stuff.
43 She said to me, she goes, You need to call the
44 RCMP right now. And I said, Really? Do you
45 think it's too soon? And she goes, No, no, you
46 call them right now.

47 So I called the RCMP. Before the end

1 of the day, by 5:00 o'clock that day, I was
2 standing -- and by that time too she had also
3 called the RCMP. So that makes it even more
4 affirmative is you're getting a call from a
5 psychiatrist; right.

6 So before the end of the day I was standing
7 in front of a judge getting a warrant of
8 committal for my common-law partner. They
9 thought he was a threat to himself. So it was
10 only good for the province of Saskatchewan. It
11 was only good for a week. And I asked the
12 justice -- the judge to give the RCMP permission
13 to go into his banking information to see if he
14 had used his ATMs or anything. He said, I can't
15 at this point. He said, In a couple days more,
16 then they'll have more real authority to do that.

17 So I am just sitting there just reeling
18 from this going, like -- and I am calling him,
19 I'm emailing him, where are you? Where are you?
20 Nothing. Nothing. Giving them full description
21 of his jeep, his license, all that stuff. So
22 this is out as an APB, so it's across the
23 province. Cops called me couple of days later to
24 tell me that they went into his banking
25 information, that he had fuelled up in Thunder
26 Bay. That's when it hit me that he had actually
27 really abandoned his family.

28 We moved out there -- I left my job, an
29 Indigenous job that I had part-time but very well
30 paid job, and my advocacy, everything, to support
31 him to go out -- I had to become financially
32 dependent on him until I got the job at the
33 hospital, which was only casual. And he left us
34 with nothing. All of his stuff was there, and I
35 didn't know for probably about another month that
36 he had met somebody in the hospital who he's
37 still with, I believe, to this day. They drove
38 to Alberta where she had family, and then they
39 drove across Canada to where she is from in Nova
40 Scotia and set up life there for a bit of time.
41 It really devastated my daughter. She really
42 loved him.

43 But then something else really
44 traumatic happened. When he finally got through
45 to me or when he finally contacted me and I said,
46 you know -- I still had no clue that this woman
47 existed. I still had no idea that she -- because

1 he never gave me the impression that he was like
2 that. You know, I told him, I said, you have
3 left us destitute; we have no money. Like, he
4 was emailing me telling me he was going to cut
5 off the gas and -- and not that he was going to
6 cut it off, but he was closing the accounts and I
7 needed to open them in my own name and stuff.

8 And I said, well, what about your stuff?
9 Like you left all your clothing, you left, like,
10 everything that your wife would allow you to take
11 out of your house, your matrimonial house, it's
12 still here. He wanted me to send it to him to
13 the address that he provided me. And I said, I'm
14 not sending you anything. You're going to grow a
15 pair and you're going to come back here and stand
16 before me and [Daughter] and you're going to explain
17 yourself, you coward. By this time I was mad and
18 really hurt.

19 So we had bought a snow blower. I
20 brought my washer and dryer from when we moved.
21 We had a flat screen TV. All of these sort of
22 big ticket items. He said, well, sell those and
23 you can live off those proceeds, whatever. So
24 some of them were in this detached garage that we
25 had. We had the house and then we had this
26 detached garage. But the garage door had seized,
27 so it was partially open. So I had everything in
28 there. I had listed some stuff on Kijiji. And
29 he had also taken our internet stick. That's the
30 internet because it's all through the government
31 and because we were in a rural area, that's all
32 we had. Well, he took that when he left. So we
33 had no internet at home. So I drove in every
34 time -- and not only that, the jeep that I had
35 was a jeep that he bought me before we moved out
36 west.

37 And I said to him, I can't afford to
38 make any car payments. I'm still paying off my
39 student loans; right. And I said I'm also
40 leaving a job going to no job. So I drove into
41 town every day to go to the employment centre so
42 I could access the email to see if he had reached
43 out to me. There was a neighbour down the road
44 from us that lived on -- I swear to God, like his
45 acre. He lived on an acre. And he had these two
46 white horses, these to grey horses, that
47 literally were in a paddock about this big of

1 this room. So they had no room to manoeuvre
2 around in and, of course, it gets cold in
3 Saskatchewan.

4 So they had been on our farm -- because we
5 were living on a 40 acre farm. We had no
6 livestock. And I said, we have got all this tall
7 grass, this beautiful -- let them come here and
8 fatten up for the winter; right.

9 So I had already -- every morning -- it
10 was already getting cold. It was November. And
11 we had a -- like, a trough for them. And I went
12 down -- I would have to go down in the morning
13 usually and break up the ice. So I went down,
14 did that. And that morning I forgot, so when I
15 went into town and checked the email and he
16 wasn't there. And I had also -- my daughter was
17 taking the school bus to school.

18 I came home and drove my jeep down to
19 where the trough was for the horses, and I
20 watched this white pick-up truck come into my
21 driveway -- so I'm living on a rural property --
22 and it backed up to my detached garage and these
23 two aboriginal guys got out, one of them was
24 really, really heavy set and the other guy was
25 quite tiny. They started loading -- they loading
26 my snow blower and my ex's golf clubs and a bunch
27 of other large items that I had in there. And
28 they obviously didn't see me. And I was quite a
29 good distance from them, but, of course, in my
30 head, I'm, like, you little such-and-suches. So
31 I went storming up there and I am, like, Hi guys,
32 what do we think we're doing, kind of thing.
33 Like, who the hell do you think -- what you're
34 doing? I could tell they had both been drinking.
35 The larger guy didn't seem as intoxicated as the
36 smaller guy.

37 I told them to leave. I said, Get
38 everything off the back of your truck.

39 Sadly I had a large dog at that point
40 but I had left the dogs in the house because it
41 was cold out and I didn't know how long I was
42 going to be in town. And normally they're always
43 with me, and this was the one day that they
44 weren't. They grabbed me. And I spent the next
45 couple of hours being sexually assaulted,
46 sodomized, burned with cigarettes. They both
47 were speaking Cree. I didn't understand a word

1 they said. They pulled my -- I was wearing a
2 sweatshirt, a heavy sweatshirt at the time. They
3 pulled that over my head. I had -- they took a
4 beer bottle because they were drinking beer.
5 They sodomized me with that. What stopped them
6 was my daughter's school bus came home in front
7 of my driveway. And they realized that the bus
8 had stopped. I don't know if they thought at the
9 time -- like I said, I don't know what was going
10 through their head, but they obviously -- it
11 scared them. So then they spoke English to me
12 and they said -- my daughter got off the bus, so
13 she exited from the far side of the bus and came
14 around. And I yelled out to her not to move.
15 And she stood there. I said, Stay there. And
16 she stood there and obviously she didn't continue
17 moving.

18 So the bus driver got off the bus and
19 was probably in his head, he was, like, okay the
20 kid is still standing in the middle of the road
21 and why are you still standing there. I heard
22 her say to the bus driver, My mom said not to go
23 anywhere. And so he started holding her hand and
24 said, Honey, I'll bring you home and started
25 walking in. They got back in their truck. And
26 because in Saskatchewan you only have to have a
27 licence plate, like, on the front, not on the
28 back, I never got their licence plate because
29 there wasn't one on the back.

30 So they told me that if I called the
31 cops or told anybody that they knew where I
32 lived, they now knew I had a little girl, and
33 they would come back and violate her and they
34 would slice our throats. I was covered in blood.
35 They had ripped -- I had pants on similar to
36 this, and they had taken out a hunting knife or
37 jack knife and sliced my pants. I grabbed a
38 moving blanket that was still in the garage -- a
39 blue blanket that you get at U-Haul, and I
40 wrapped it around me.

41 They had punched me in the face and in
42 the nose and stuff like that. I yelled out to
43 the bus driver that it was fine to send my
44 daughter. And my daughter -- and I will never
45 forget the look on her face because obviously I
46 had blood on my face. I had to lie to my
47 daughter. I told her I slipped on the ice

1 because we had patches of ice. I said, Mama
2 slipped and I fell and I banged my face. I'm
3 okay. I'm okay. And we went in the house and I
4 tried to act as normal as possible. Got her
5 something to eat. And I think I popped her in
6 front of the TV and threw on a movie. And I
7 said -- and I did the one thing that as a rape
8 counsellor that you shouldn't do, but I
9 understand why women do it. And I said momma is
10 just going to have a shower. And I went and
11 showered. I just wanted everything that they
12 had -- that they had put on me and in me off me.
13 It is the most -- you have never felt so
14 disgusting in your life.

15 So I went and showered, and I could see all
16 the abrasions and the cigarette burns on me and
17 stuff. And I became -- that night I didn't sleep
18 a wink. I slept with a cleaver and a chef's
19 knife underneath my pillow. I had my daughter
20 sleep with me that night. I could hear my
21 dogs -- that was the other thing when this was
22 all going on. My one large dog just barking up a
23 storm inside the house. Like, they did not stop.

24 And when I got in the house with my
25 daughter, my large dog was just frothing at the
26 mouth. Like, there's no doubt that he could hear
27 me screaming. And our neighbours were nowhere
28 close. And not only that, it was cold out. It's
29 not, like, summer, people are out; right. And,
30 of course, they kept telling me, putting their
31 hand over my mouth and whatever. And any time I
32 did make a lot of noise, that's usually when I
33 got punched.

34 So I didn't sleep a wink that night. I was
35 terrified that they were going to coming back.
36 And where my bed was situated in our -- in the
37 master bedroom which was on the back of the
38 house, when the sun came up in the morning, which
39 was actually quite late in Saskatchewan, all I
40 could see was the garage through my French doors
41 that led off the bedroom.

42 I wanted out of that house so badly,
43 and I ended up having a huge breakdown. It took
44 about a week for it to really all sink in. And I
45 kept reaching out to [Ex-partner] and telling him to
46 get us out of this house. That that was the
47 least that he owed us. And that I was not

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1 abandoning everything that we owned. I wasn't
2 going to do that.

3 And his family basically turned their
4 backs on us. And I ended up having a breakdown,
5 went into the hospital, which is the hospital I
6 worked at.

7 SHEILA MAZHARI: What was the name of the hospital?

8 SHARNA SUGARMAN: [Hospital] -- yeah, it's
9 called [Hospital], I
10 believe is what it's called. And it's underneath
11 the Prairie Regional Health Authority, which is
12 the sort of -- like, you have Fraser Health and
13 Vancouver Coastal Health. And when I was
14 talking -- I don't know if it was -- I assume it
15 was one of the nurses. They wanted me to report
16 it, and I said, No. Like, I was fearful and all
17 those things. Somebody went and there was
18 already police officers in the hospital there and
19 in the emergency room. Because the hospital --
20 it was brand new, but it was a very, very tiny
21 hospital. It's tiny tiny.

22 Next thing I know, there's two police
23 officers coming in to my room and they want to
24 talk to me. And I just lost it. I said, Get
25 out; get out; get out; get out. I just remember
26 going, Get out. And I didn't want to talk to
27 them. I also, of course, didn't trust them
28 because after what I had gone through with the
29 other officer.

30 So I was in the -- my friend [Friend 2] who had
31 taken [Daughter] -- well, I drove down to try to get
32 my ex out of the hospital, she stayed with
33 [Daughter] -- sorry, [Daughter] stayed with her. So she
34 got her to school every day. I tried to keep my
35 daughter's life as normal as possible.

36 And, of course, I didn't want child
37 protection to be involved.

38 SHEILA MAZHARI: And she didn't know what happened to
39 you?

40 SHARNA SUGARMAN: She does now, but it took a while
41 for me to -- I didn't think -- [Daughter] would have
42 been 11 at the time. And she already was going
43 through enough with the abandonment that [Ex-partner]
44 did that she did -- I believe she believed that I
45 just fell on the ice. I didn't let her see my
46 body. It was just my face. And I just said,
47 Yeah, mama slipped and I didn't get my hands down

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1 fast enough and, you know, it does happen and
2 whatever. So I eventually told her later.

3 We moved to BC in -- the first couple of
4 days of January 2012, so this is about six weeks
5 later.

6 SHEILA MAZHARI: Can I just get the exact date of when
7 the incident took place.

8 SHARNA SUGARMAN: The assault?

9 SHEILA MAZHARI: Yeah.

10 SHARNA SUGARMAN: It happened on November 8th, 2011.

11 And my attorney that I had hired back in Ontario
12 who has now been disbarred. That's another part
13 of this. His name is John Farant. And his name
14 is spelled F-a-r-a-n-t. He was supposed to
15 launch a civil suit against the Kingston police.
16 The other part that I forget to tell you was back
17 when I was in the hospital, my uncle had become
18 my surety on the second round of charges. And I
19 was living in my grandparents' old duplex. He
20 lived in one half and I lived in the other. And
21 I ended up having a big breakdown because it was
22 just not where I wanted to be and it was just --
23 I couldn't believe after everything I had gone
24 through, like, I'm sorry -- there are -- what do
25 you call, like, career criminals out there where
26 they have a rap sheet this long. I'm not one of
27 those people.

28 I would not have gone through everything I
29 went through to get charged again, and the only
30 reason I got charged was because they needed
31 something to give onus of why the cop kicked my
32 door in. Apparently through the SIU
33 investigation he came back and they felt
34 justified because they thought I was going to
35 breach my conditions of my peace bond. You can't
36 do that on an assumption. You actually have to
37 breach. How am I breaching inside of my own
38 house asleep when the guy is drunk outside
39 banging on the front door who isn't even a
40 resident or tenant of the building?

41 So the reason that I am coming back to this,
42 when I went into the hospital and I tried to kill
43 myself -- this was the other thing -- I had
44 driven my car, had my two dogs in the car with
45 me, and I put my keys in the glove -- I locked
46 the glove compartment with my keys and I pried it
47 open and I threw the key in there. So there

1 would be no way that I could be -- if anything
2 happened that I wouldn't operate the vehicle or
3 anything like that.

4 I called my mother and I remember talking to
5 my daughter and telling her how much I loved her
6 and all of that stuff. And I couldn't deal with
7 the flashbacks I was having. They were just so
8 constant and all the time. It didn't matter if I
9 was asleep or I was awake and I couldn't hack it.
10 Like, everything that I had repressed for most of
11 my life came flooding back, and it was just too
12 much. And then not having my daughter there, it
13 was just too much.

14 SHEILA MAZHARI: Was that the first time in your life
15 you had flashbacks?

16 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yeah, and they're brutal. Like,
17 they're -- like, I can't describe them. It is,
18 like -- it's like being -- I don't know if you
19 ever seen Clockwork Orange movie. You know when
20 he has got his eyes propped open? It's like
21 that. You can't escape it. And they just -- it
22 comes on and you sit there and it's -- I'm
23 watching these -- my mother violate me and I am
24 reliving it and I can't turn it off.

25 I would wake up -- my daughter -- when my
26 daughter was with me, even my ex would tell me
27 they would wake me -- I would be screaming in my
28 sleep, Get off me, get stopped at [sic], don't
29 touch me, get off me. And I wake up in sweats.
30 I would be waking up bawling. And it was just
31 brutal, and I don't wish that on anybody.

32 SHEILA MAZHARI: And that year when you -- do you
33 remember -- I think you told me but just to have,
34 again, the year you went to the hospital?

35 SHARNA SUGARMAN: 2009. Yeah, it would have been in
36 November of 2009.

37 I earn the trust of the medical teams in the
38 hospital. I have been in the hospital a couple
39 of times in my life and I earned the privilege of
40 being able to go out for a walk or whatever very
41 fast. And I went for a walk because my dogs were
42 still at my uncle's house and for the first
43 little bit -- it was my mom's younger brother --
44 one of my mom's younger brothers. And he was
45 also afflicted with polio when he was a young
46 child. So he had been on disability his whole
47 life.

1 And my uncle [Uncle 1] was fine looking after
2 my dogs at the time. And I would walk, I would
3 leave the hospital and walk to my uncle's house,
4 which was about a 10 or 15-minute walk from the
5 hospital to go see my dogs, which gives me a lot
6 of therapy. The same large dog I was telling you
7 about is still alive and he is like my therapy
8 dog. I really wanted to bring him to the inquiry
9 because I have seen dogs in the hotel this week.

10 But the one time I went over, I had taken in
11 before this happened, I took in one of my
12 brother's friends who had been -- was going
13 through a separation with his wife. And he
14 had -- like, nothing abusive or anything, but
15 just, you know, she didn't want him living at
16 home anymore. And he kept showing up at my
17 section of the house because my brother used to
18 live in that part of the duplex before he bought
19 his house. And I would come home sometimes and I
20 didn't have a lot of furniture in the house --
21 and I would come home and [Uncle's Friend] would be in
22 the house. And I am, like, How did you get in here?
23 And he's, like, Oh, I know how to get in here.
24 And he's, like, There's lots of times -- it was
25 an old house.

26 And I told him he could crash. I said, But
27 don't make this a regular thing. Well, he had
28 nowhere to go and all of a sudden he wouldn't
29 leave. And I said, No, you need to leave. I
30 said, I am not comfortable with this anymore.
31 You're also bringing alcohol here. I said,
32 You're drinking a lot. I don't want that around
33 me right now.

34 Well, he went and talked to my uncle and my
35 uncle said it was fine for him to stay. So I
36 went and talked to my uncle and I said, It's not,
37 I said, I am not comfortable with him staying
38 here. And I said, Then he needs it start paying
39 rent because this is ridiculous. You can't
40 afford this. And I didn't like the alcohol. I
41 did catch him one time using cocaine in the house
42 and that's when I flipped out. I was, like, I am
43 not having that around me. I don't do drugs; I
44 don't want any of that around me.

45 And my uncle all of a sudden decided he
46 didn't want -- and he didn't tell me at the time
47 but he didn't want to be my surety anymore. He

1 went down to the provincial court, walked down
2 there, which is all within walking distance and
3 removed himself as my surety. So when that went
4 into system with the police and everything which
5 I didn't know about, he told me about it later,
6 that means that I didn't have somebody that was
7 willing to support me and sort of be accountable
8 for me. So when I found that out and I got in a
9 big argument with my uncle about that, and I was
10 really disappointed that he did that. He also
11 didn't want my dogs. That was the other thing he
12 did, he didn't want my dogs. Took my dogs to the
13 humane society and surrendered them.

14 This is all -- I find this all out within a
15 24-hour period and I have just lost -- I have got
16 these thoughts of my dogs being alone, I have got
17 are they going to be adopted out. I'm in the
18 hospital. I am just beside myself. I had the
19 psychiatrist, I had the medical team call my
20 uncle, they called my attorney, called my mother,
21 my mother wouldn't take the dogs. Nothing.

22 So I'm walking back home after being at my
23 uncle's house. I am no longer allowed to stay at
24 my uncle's house, that's the other thing he said.
25 He said, You're in the hospital, and he said,
26 [Uncle's friend] needs a place to stay. He's willing
27 to pay rent right now, like this. I'm walking back
28 to the hospital. I'm hysterical. I'm so upset. I
29 just feel like every support I had is gone, and I
30 see this cruiser. And then I'm getting, Oh,
31 crap, here comes the cops.

32 So I managed to get back in the hospital
33 before the cop came. I get back into the mental
34 health unit, which is all, you know, like, you
35 have to be buzzed in and stuff. That night two
36 cops showed up at the hospital demanding that the
37 mental health nurses, that they have -- they're
38 going to remove me because I no longer have a
39 surety. The nurses advocate as best they could.
40 There was no doctors there by this time because
41 it was, like, 10:30 at night. They're coming,
42 they're talking to me. And I said, I'm not
43 leaving. Because actually my psychiatrist --
44 because I had a fear of the police, so he wrote
45 in my records on every page under no circumstance
46 is Sharna to be released to -- in the police
47 custody unless there's a warrant, unless there's

1 something he can't override.

2 Well, they didn't have a warrant. They
3 wouldn't let them in at first into the unit.
4 Then they threatened the nurses with obstruction
5 and a bunch of other stuff. So the one nurse
6 finally caved, buzzed them in. By this time the
7 one cop, and his name was [Constable 2]. Don't
8 know his first name. I think it's [Constable 2].
9 He's livid. He's already been -- you know, they've
10 already -- in his opinion -- wasted his time for
11 the past hour trying to get into the unit. He
12 takes me out in handcuffs. He's really harsh on
13 them. He's got his hand clamped down on them and
14 he's really tugging on me. My ex who befriended
15 me in there and the other patients were really
16 agitated. The one guy was, like -- wanted to
17 challenge, and I said, Don't, don't get involved.
18 I said, I don't want to see you harmed.

19 He gets me outside and he's still clamping
20 down hard on my handcuffs. And it was the other
21 cop was, like, Relax, calm down, to him. Takes
22 me down the staircase, we get outside and they
23 have got one of those doors, like, the outside
24 doors, the [Hospital] doors where you can't get back
25 in. Well, as soon as it shut he threw me up
26 against it as hard as he could, and he was
27 swearing at me and stuff like that. They put me
28 in the cruiser. They took me back to the
29 Kingston Police unit, and I am telling them, I
30 said, You have no right to remove me from there.
31 And they're telling me about my uncle. I said, I
32 don't care what my uncle has done. I said, I am
33 in a hospital getting care. I can't leave
34 without signing out, all of those things. And I
35 said, If you need me at court, then you just need
36 to tell my attorney and I will be there.

37 They threw me in a police cell for the
38 night. They laughed at me; they thought it was
39 funny. Well, the one cop laughed at me; the
40 other guy didn't laugh so much. And I did tell
41 them that they were violating my rights and that
42 they would find themselves on the end of a civil
43 matter and a human rights complaint. They threw
44 me in a cell for the night. I went before a
45 justice that day --

46 SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you remember the date of this?

47 SHARNA SUGARMAN: No, I have no -- it was in December,

1 I remember that.

2 SHEILA MAZHARI: 2009?

3 SHARNA SUGARMAN: 2009. And I remember the Crown and,
4 sadly, he's not alive anymore. His name is
5 [Crown attorney 2]. He
6 was mortified. I have -- and he's a really hard
7 ass. He was so apologetic to the justice that I
8 was removed from the unit. By this point, I no
9 longer needed an surety. The reason why they did
10 that is because I no longer had a permanent
11 address because my uncle removed himself from
12 being my surety. My uncle also did tell me that
13 he felt like he was being harassed by the
14 Kingston Police because the officers were coming
15 by the house too often and asking him questions.
16 And I think they were harassing him hoping that
17 he would do this. And that's exactly what
18 happened.

19 So they put down the Hotel Dieu mental
20 health unit as my temporary address until I found
21 a place to live, which at this point was what I
22 was doing and with the social workers inside the
23 hospital. So I go back to the hospital with this
24 brand new, you know, instructions from the --
25 conditions from the court. And this little son
26 of a bitch -- I don't even know if he was a
27 nurse, but he was always on the unit, his name
28 was [Health worker], wouldn't let me back into the mental
29 health unit. Because it says on it there's some
30 type of wording that says "if" or something like
31 that. And he's reading it and he's being cocky.
32 And he says, it doesn't say here that I have to
33 let you back in here.

34 And I said, You're letting me back in here.
35 I said -- he had my stuff all packed. He said,
36 Well, you didn't come back here last night. I
37 said, I was removed here by the police last
38 night. What exactly did you think was going to
39 happen? He wasn't on duty the night before. One
40 of the custodians was there and he came over and
41 tried to intervene. And [Health worker] is, like, I'm
42 handling this; back off, kind of attitudy [sic]
43 thing. Wouldn't let me in.

44 Hands me all of my stuff in a white plastic
45 bag and says, We have already given your room to
46 somebody else. By this time it's after court
47 hours. I can't go back and talk to anybody. My

1 lawyer is gone for the night. I called his line,
2 got through to his service. I said, It's an
3 emergency please let [Lawyer 1] know this. And I
4 couldn't believe it. I was absolutely appalled.
5 I am teetering on exhaustion, I am teetering on
6 the abuse that I have gone through, the
7 violations of my civil and human rights. All of
8 those things being thrown up against a [Hospital]
9 door by a cop while I have handcuffs on.

10 So they hand me all my stuff, and I went
11 downstairs. My ex came down because he had
12 passes as well, he could leave. And he came
13 outside and sat with me. And we were becoming
14 friends then. And he wanted to stay with me and
15 I said, Don't. I said, I'm going to figure this
16 out. I said, You have got your own journey and
17 stuff like that.

18 So I called my uncle and pleaded with him
19 that if I could stay with him, and he said, No.
20 He said, I've been harassed by the police; I
21 don't want this anymore. So I didn't know what
22 to do and, of course, at that time my head was
23 just swimming. I didn't sleep the night before
24 in the cell at all, nothing. And I wasn't
25 sleeping well in the hospital as well.

26 So I became desperate. I went into my
27 belongings that they had given me and I found all
28 of my medicines. And some of them were my
29 narcotics for my back and stuff, which were all
30 locked up in the nurses room. But when you leave
31 they give you back all your stuff. So I downed
32 all of them, walked into the emergency room and
33 told them I had just overdosed. Got taken in,
34 they gave me charcoal to vomit up and stuff and
35 the doctor and the nurse that I spoke to, ended
36 up finding me on the system as an inpatient. I
37 hadn't been removed yet. Well, this doctor lost
38 it. He was just infuriated. And -- sorry, she
39 was a female. Sorry, the nurse was a male. And
40 I told him what happened. And I said, That's why
41 I did what I did. I said I'm not going back to
42 jail. I'm not going through this again.

43 She took me upstairs personally and there's
44 [Health worker] in there. And she took him in and she
45 said, You, with me now. And he just looked at
46 her and she looked at me and she said, Don't you
47 ever go near this patient again. She goes, I'll

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1 have your job. She was furious.

2 SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you remember her name?

3 SHARNA SUGARMAN: I don't remember her name. It would
4 be in my health records.

5 SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you have your own health records?

6 SHARNA SUGARMAN: I think my family doctor here in BC
7 has some of them. I know I asked -- I did sign
8 consents for her to get all of them. I don't
9 know if she got all of them. I have no clue.
10 But I could, you know, look into that.

11 So I am back on the unit. The patients are
12 all just happy as hell to see me, but they're
13 also, like, what in the hell is going on and all
14 of this stuff. And yeah, it was -- I had the --
15 the head of psychiatry was there. There were a
16 couple of other big wigs. I think the chief of
17 staff was there as well all within 24 hours of me
18 being returned, and I am sure in their head they
19 were, like, lawsuit.

20 And yeah, it was really a brutal, brutal
21 experience. And then we ended up finding this
22 townhouse, and my ex and I moved in. We also
23 moved in another patient with us, another female
24 who needed a place. So we rented this
25 four-bedroom townhouse. And, you know, we -- my
26 ex and I became really, really close really fast.
27 And my mother brought [Daughter] a couple times when
28 I was in the unit. My mother would never come
29 fully into the hospital. She would go as far as
30 the nurse's station. And my daughter never felt
31 threatened. Like, my mother -- I never grew up
32 in a family that understood or took the time to
33 understand mental illness. I'm the black sheep
34 of the family. My brother likes to call me crazy
35 and all these things. Well, I'm not crazy. And
36 I find my family is quite ignorant towards mental
37 health.

38 My mother used to say to me when we get in
39 these big fights and especially after I accused
40 her of molesting me, she would tell -- she had it
41 in writing with her lawyer and she brought it up
42 several times and she would say it in front of my
43 family that because I was an Aboriginal child, it
44 must be fetal alcohol syndrome. It automatically
45 means that my biological mother must have
46 consumed alcohol when she was pregnant with me.
47 Because there would be no other reason why I

1 would be as angry as I am. It's nothing that she
2 did wrong or anything like that.

3 And, you know, I used to love to say to my
4 brothers, I'm, like, I'm sorry I have a masters
5 in abnormal psych and, I'm sorry, what do you
6 have? That's why I got into what I do because I
7 can be empathetic towards people. And I don't
8 have any relationship with my family whatsoever
9 and I am happier for it.

10 So my daughter is my beginning and end all
11 of my life and I absolutely just adore her.
12 She's just the most beautiful soul. I just adore
13 her. And she's a very empathetic and very
14 compassionate person and she deplores any type of
15 discrimination as I do, and she tries her best
16 with the homeless. And, you know, she'll text me
17 sometimes when she's in Vancouver with her
18 friends and she'll say, Mama, I found, you know,
19 somebody. Can I buy them a sandwich? Can I get
20 them something? You know, because she's always
21 checking in with me with that. And she knows
22 that as long as we're financially doing okay -- I
23 mean, I'm not swimming in money by any stretch of
24 the imagination -- that's what she likes to do.
25 And I am so proud of her for that.

26 And she did, she's told my mother off many
27 times. And my daughter is not that type of
28 person, but she came down very hard and she has
29 written -- in the past she's written -- she's
30 showed me the emails to my mom where she goes, I
31 know what you did to my mom and you could have
32 done that to me. There was only a couple times
33 that [Daughter] told me that she was a little
34 uncomfortable with my mom. There were a couple
35 of times, I guess, my mom wanted to snuggle with
36 her in bed. And [Daughter] said, No, I don't want you
37 to. And my mother tried to persist and [Daughter]
38 said, No, out now.

39 SHEILA MAZHARI: Even before she knew?

40 SHARNA SUGARMAN: No, she knew by then. She suspected
41 by then. But she was also resentful to my mom
42 because she couldn't understand why she wasn't
43 with me. And by this time CAS, which is the
44 Children's Aid Society, was involved because the
45 judge had ordered me to contact them. And they
46 came back with their report saying there's
47 nothing wrong with Sharna's parenting. And they

1 couldn't understand why this was a family case
2 and all of this stuff. And, like I said, the one
3 judge said to my mom a month before I was
4 arrested, she said there's no reason for this.
5 Like, all it is, is you're disrespecting your
6 daughter's wishes, you're being -- you know,
7 you're being noncompliant. She's asking you not
8 to bring her around certain people and you're
9 doing it sneakily. I'd find out through my
10 daughter. My daughter would be telling me, I saw
11 so-and-so today. And I would be like, I'm sorry,
12 you saw who? So then I would call my mother.
13 And that's how it happened, is she kept doing it.
14 And then she would write it writing, I won't do
15 it anymore; I won't do it anymore. And she kept
16 doing it.

17 So I finally cut her off. And I said until
18 you realize I am her parent and what I say goes.
19 I'm not asking you to spank her; I'm asking you
20 to not take her around people I don't trust and I
21 don't want her to have any contact with. And
22 you're being defiant and you're being sneaky
23 about it. And that's also when she changed her
24 will. And I don't care about that.

25 SHEILA MAZHARI: Did you ever go to counselling for
26 the effects of what your mother did to you?

27 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yes and no. I've had counselling
28 off and on, but not since -- I just got a vehicle
29 last summer so that's been an issue because I was
30 living -- I am very much connected with horses,
31 so we lived on a horse farm when we first moved
32 to BC. We have lived on a couple of them.

33 We went through quite a very unsettling time
34 in BC. We had some landlords that were far from
35 the up and up. I was assaulted by one and he was
36 charged and convicted. But we had to leave the
37 house because of that because he lived in the
38 downstairs part.

39 We had another landlord that I didn't find
40 out until the neighbour next door that the for
41 sale sign that I thought was on his property,
42 because it was a shared piece of grass, was
43 actually for the house that I was renting and it
44 was in foreclosure, which they didn't tell me.
45 We had another one where we lived on a horse farm
46 down in [Village] with this sociopath. And she
47 and her family ended up stealing everything that

1 we owned, like, everything. I was assaulted by
2 her mother. She threw a rock in my face. And
3 when I went to the RCMP about it, he turned
4 around and charged me with public mischief. Said
5 it never happened. I had this massive bruise on
6 my face and he determined it because the
7 grandfather had a little hand video camera. And
8 he filmed the day that I was trying to get my
9 family out of the house. And his daughter
10 through a rock over -- lunged it from about here
11 to the door, hit me in the face, but over her
12 five-year-old granddaughter's head. She could
13 have easily have hit this child. This rock was
14 probably about the size of a clementine. But
15 because of this video, even though the video
16 wasn't complete, it doesn't show the assault in
17 the video. This cop thought I was lying.

18 I took it to trial, was found not guilty.
19 He was completely berated by the judge in
20 Penticton. Stated that I clearly had -- was the
21 victim of an assault. And I also think it was
22 racially motivated because I was Indigenous. And
23 [Village] has a very large -- for the size of the
24 village -- Indian reserve around it.

25 What has happened since then, I have
26 demanded that the RCMP purge my records. This
27 was the -- he was the top cop at the time. He
28 was Corporal [Officer 4], and now he's
29 Sergeant [Officer 4]. And he's actually in Richmond
30 now. He left his post in [Village] and took up --
31 I found that out at trial.

32 Then this [Officer 5] is his name.
33 I don't know his first name. I called last year,
34 last summer, and demanded that he purge my
35 records and he won't. And I asked him -- I said,
36 Is it because I'm Indigenous? And he said, Yeah,
37 that's part of it. So now he's facing a human
38 rights complaint, which has now been accepted by
39 the Canadian Human Rights Commission. I want it
40 all purged. He's also told me a lot of the
41 information in those files has nothing to do with
42 me; it has to do more with the other people. And
43 I said, Fine. Then you can sit down with
44 somebody and you can pick it apart, but you're
45 going to get rid of anything that has association
46 with me because I am not -- I don't have a
47 criminal record. But if I do a CPIC it shows the

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1 charges even though it says not guilty and it
2 says withdrawn. It still has a stigmatization on
3 it.

4 The irony is underneath the human rights
5 code, it's against the law in regards to certain
6 things tenancy, employment, stuff like that, to
7 not hire somebody because they have gotten a
8 pardon for a conviction. But there's no
9 protection for anybody underneath the human
10 rights code that's been charged and even though
11 you're not guilty or you're acquitted, there's
12 nothing there to say that that's a violation.
13 You actually have to have the conviction and the
14 pardon in order for it to violate the code, which
15 I disagree with.

16 So that's where I am at there.

17 SHEILA MAZHARI: Can we just go to [Village]. What
18 date did this incident --

19 SHARNA SUGARMAN: That happened in September of 2013.

20 SHEILA MAZHARI: And do you have the name of the woman
21 that threw it?

22 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yeah, [Woman C], and [Woman C] is
23 spelled [spells name]. We lost everything we owned.
24 And we also lost my beloved Siamese cat that I
25 had rescued. He was not an outdoor cat, and
26 that's what started it. I took my -- we already
27 had tension in the house because the SPCA kept
28 coming by about the horses on our property.
29 [Landlord 2], is the girl that
30 I was sharing the house with.

31 SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you want to spell her name?

32 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yeah, [Landlord 2]. And her
33 last name is [Landlord 2]. She was about
35 27 years of age, and she told me that all the
36 horses on her property was because she was
37 starting a horse rescue. And that the horses,
38 some of them that were emaciated, had come to her
39 like that.

40 Well, I realized after being there for a
41 couple of weeks that that wasn't the case. She
42 was the one that owned all these horses and she
43 couldn't afford to feed them. And she only
44 worked at Walmart. And there's no way between
45 the rent and everything else, her car payments,
46 all this stuff -- I just did a rough math and I
47 am, like, there's no way you could afford this

1 many horses.

2 But the SPCA showed up about a week after we
3 moved there because the farm is in [Village] just
4 as you're leaving the village on Highway 3, and
5 somebody had seen one of the mustangs and a foal,
6 and they looked quite thin. And that's why they
7 reported it. So when the officer showed up, I
8 introduced myself, but I said, No, I am not the
9 owner of these horses. I said, I just moved here
10 with my daughter. And he said, Well, you know, I
11 have got a complaint. And I said, Okay, well,
12 let me go get the owner. And I went in the house
13 and I told her who he was and why he was there.
14 And she's, like, Oh my god, get rid of him. And
15 I looked at her and I said, I'm not getting rid
16 of him. And she's, like, Well, I don't want to
17 talk to him. And I said, You have to talk to
18 him. He has a legitimate reason to be here. And
19 I looked at her and I said, You need to -- I
20 said, What you should do is take him around the
21 whole farm and show him every animal that's here,
22 and that way if he has any concerns, they can be
23 addressed then. I said, You don't send him away.
24 I said, That's not how this works. And it also
25 makes him -- a red flag go up.

26 So I said, Fine. I said, If you don't want
27 to deal with him, I'll deal with him. So I went
28 out and I took him around the whole property and
29 let him see every horse. And there was a couple
30 of chickens there and we had a donkey and we had
31 two pot belly pigs and an alpaca. He had some
32 concerns about a couple of the horses because she
33 had stallions, and that's one thing that also was
34 a red flag to me. Horse rescues don't keep
35 stallions. They'll geld them because they're not
36 looking to breed; right. They're trying to keep
37 the population down.

38 And [Landlord 2] had three stallions at the time,
39 and she wouldn't geld them. She is not right in
40 the head at all. The whole family are nothing
41 but sociopaths. So long and short of it, her
42 mother is this short, obese, just this
43 foul-mouthed person. And she's missing half of
44 her teeth here, and I don't know how we brought
45 it up one day about it. [Landlord 2] is the one that
46 punched her mother in the mouth. That's why
47 she's missing her teeth. Her eldest daughter.

1 She has three adult children.

2 She has guardianship of -- at the time, of
3 her five-year-old granddaughter. And I was
4 living in the same house with the father, her
5 youngest son. And MCFD was involved with the
6 family, and she would speak so brutally to this
7 child. She would say, If your father had worn a
8 condom my life would be better now. You know,
9 You better not be such a problem to me as my kids
10 were, you know. It was just horrible. And she
11 was just this delightful little girl.

12 So when things start getting ugly and I
13 started putting two and two together about the
14 horses and the state of the farm, I went to [Landlord
15 2] and I said, Here's the deal. I'm not paying you
16 rent come the first of the month. If you don't
17 have enough hay for these horses, that's where my
18 money is going. I will get hay and I am feeding
19 them.

20 Her family was coming to me and saying that
21 they wanted me to help her. That they felt that
22 she had serious mental health issues that she
23 wasn't addressing. And I said, I can talk to
24 her. And they said she needs to be hospitalized.
25 I think she needs this. She needs -- and I said,
26 You can't do anything like that. And they said,
27 Why? And I said, because she's an adult. You
28 don't have any leverage over her. She has no
29 children, so you can't threaten -- well, we'll
30 take the kids or we'll call MCFD if you don't get
31 the help that you need. I said, I can talk to
32 her. I said, She's already talked to me herself
33 about a couple things that she's concerned about.
34 I said, But I can't force her to do anything.

35 I actually think she's bipolar. That was my
36 assessment of her after living with her for
37 several months. And she's also an animal
38 hoarder. That's the other thing I noticed. So I
39 ended up buying the donkey off of her. I paid
40 \$500 for him. And there was this abused horse
41 named Shilo that my daughter had gotten close to.
42 And Shilo had -- she was also an auction horse
43 and we think that she had been hit down her
44 muzzle and that at one point she had had a break.
45 She was very, very head shy and you couldn't
46 really get close to her, but my daughter managed
47 to.

1 So I bought Shilo for \$500. I was helping
2 this man that had -- I had met through my former
3 landlord, the one with the foreclosure, who had
4 been in a horrific -- he was a truck driver and
5 he was in a horrific crash in the States, even
6 though he was Canadian. But he had to go to the
7 US for all of his coverage because the company he
8 worked for was American. So I was taking him to
9 his appointments in Tenaska and just over the
10 border because he wasn't allowed to legally
11 drive. We came back and she had taken -- so I
12 have already bought -- and I have got the
13 contract signed, all that stuff, the purchase of
14 the donkey and the horse. [Landlord 2] took Diesel
15 the donkey, Shilo the horse, the goat Billy, the
16 alpaca all to the auction. And we never saw them
17 again.

18 And that's when things really deteriorated.
19 So I also -- not only did I demand where they
20 were, I said, You're going to give me back my
21 \$1,000. Never saw any of it. Came home the day
22 I was assaulted to my cat being outside -- my
23 beloved cat who never went outside. He was not
24 an -- he was a scaredy-cat. He would not be
25 outside. And he comes up to me and he's got this
26 look on his face and he is talking to me but he's
27 looking at me, like, what the hell am I doing out
28 here. And the other reason I didn't want him out
29 is she had three large dogs and they were all
30 tethered outside, which I do not support. But
31 her one dog Finnegan who was this white Akbash
32 crossed, I think, with a Shepherd was a cat
33 killer. She got off her tether one day and
34 grabbed one of the barn kittens that was only
35 about four months old and swung it around like a
36 rag doll. I tried my best to get it away from
37 her and I couldn't. And it died.

38 So I was terrified of my cats being outside.
39 My other cat was inside the house. And after she
40 threw the rock in my face, I left. Got in the
41 car, went over to this -- the man's house that I
42 was helping and I called the police from there.
43 [Officer 4] called me back about an hour
44 later, didn't come and see me for three days. By
45 this point, that evening I went back with the
46 RCMP, got our belongings, tried to get my cats,
47 my Siamese cat was never seen again even though I

1 put him in the house. Got my cats and my two
2 dogs and we went into a local motel. And he came
3 by to see me. I was furious, like, I remember
4 talking to him saying, What do you mean you're
5 not coming to see me. He drove out to the farm
6 to get their side of the story before mine.

7 Also there was a time just before that when I
8 was in bed and [Landlord 2]'s -- the mid child [Child
9 D] was there, and she seemed to be the only really
10 levelheaded one out of the whole family, which
11 isn't giving much credit. And [Landlord 2] was going
12 off saying that none of her animals were leaving
13 the farm. If anybody were to interfere with her
14 life or her farms or take anything from her,
15 meaning her animals, and she said, I have got
16 a -- and I don't know weapons at all, but some
17 type of gun in her bedroom and that she's not
18 afraid to use it. And [Child D] is, like, you can't
19 threaten people with violence. And I took it --
20 because she was -- when she said it, she walked
21 towards my bedroom and stood outside my bedroom
22 door, and that's when she said, I'm a pretty good
23 shot and all this stuff.

24 And I got up and I went out and I said, Are
25 you threatening me with violence? Are you
26 threatening me with a weapon? And she just
27 looked and she goes, You can take it anyway you
28 want. She goes, But no one is fucking around
29 with my life here. So I ended up talking to the
30 police. I drove to the RCMP and spoke to them
31 about it. And they came out, same cop, I think
32 it was [Officer 4] at the time. Talked to
33 the grandfather. And when I talked to the
34 grandfather about it, he said, That's it. I've
35 had it with her and her attitude and all this
36 stuff. And he went out, the cop went out and
37 talked to the grandfather. The grandfather said
38 he had taken all the weapons that they had
39 registered in the house, and there was also a
40 crossbow and a bunch of other stuff. So he
41 already had all this information. And he talked
42 to [Landlord 2] about it and confronted her and said,
43 You can't be threatening people with violence or
44 whatever. And she completely denied it. And it
45 was, like, not even a few days later that I got
46 assaulted by the mother.

47 The mother didn't even live on the property.

1 She lived in the village. And I used to say that
2 to her. I said, You have no right to be here.
3 You don't live here. This is [Woman C]. I said, You
4 have no right to be here. You don't live here.
5 And you have no right to harass me. I live here.
6 I've paid rent. You know, all this stuff.

7 So I get assaulted. [Officer 4]
8 doesn't even come to see me at the hotel for
9 three days, shows up, takes photographs of my
10 face. By this point the bruise on my face is now
11 getting that yellowy-brown look. Which at trial
12 the judge saw it and he said, Clearly she's got a
13 bruise. Because he did, he asked him, he said,
14 Who took these photographs? And the corporal
15 testified and said, I did Your Honour. And he
16 said, What does that look like to you on her
17 face? He said -- not only that there was also
18 some abrasions. Like, there was some little cuts
19 and stuff.

20 So when we left, I hired a friend of mine
21 who had a -- like, sort of, like, a moving
22 business on the side, to go and move our stuff
23 out. And when they arrived, I gave them an
24 itemized list basically literally down to the
25 last spoon of what in that house was mine. I
26 never got back the majority of my stuff. It was
27 about \$25,000 worth of stuff that I never got
28 back. About 3,000 CDs, because my family used to
29 own a music store, about 1,000 DVDs, all of my
30 clothes, all of my daughter's clothes, my
31 antiques, two Persian rugs that I got on my
32 travels, paintings, small appliances, an
33 equestrian saddle that I bought actually off of
34 [Landlord 2] for my daughter, obviously my beloved pet.
35 And when they showed up, they put a padlock on
36 [Daughter]'s bedroom door, so nothing inside my
37 daughter's bedroom ever came out.

38 They took my flat-screen TV. And when I
39 talked to the superintendent who was
40 [Officer 6]. I remember him saying
41 to me, it's too bad you didn't have a receipt for
42 those. That and my red microfiber couch. And I
43 said to him, I can get one. I said, I bought
44 them -- those two stores in my hometown. I bet
45 you they have it because my brother worked at
46 one. Well, I did. They faxed them to the RCMP
47 in Penticton and it clearly says that I bought

1 them when I bought them, the description. And
2 the TV had serial number on it.

3 SHEILA MAZHARI: And what's [Officer 6]'s job title?

4 SHARNA SUGARMAN: He was the superintendent in
5 Penticton at the time.

6 SHEILA MAZHARI: Superintendent of ...?

7 SHARNA SUGARMAN: RCMP. So that happened. And so the
8 movers came, took what they could. And the girl
9 was talking to me on the phone and she's just,
10 like, Your couch is not in this living room. And
11 I'm, like, It has to be; it's been there since we
12 moved in. And she's, like, Well, it's not here.
13 They wouldn't allow - [Woman C] would not allow them
14 to go down into the basement. And I said, Well,
15 obviously she's put some stuff down there.

16 And I kept talking. And I did talk to
17 [Officer 4] that day and I said, You need to
18 tell [Woman C] to back off. She does not live
19 there. She has no say over this. She was never
20 my landlord, anything, not even a roommate.

21 So they took what they could. They came
22 back the next day because it was getting dark and
23 they also -- they only had, like, a truck and a
24 little trailer. [Officer 4] came back with them the
25 next day and outside the cattle gate were boxes
26 of mine with some stuff in it with water that
27 they had poured in. By this time it had frozen.

28 These are photographs, precious photographs
29 of my late beloved father, ruined. Photographs
30 of my daughter, ruined. They had a chain lock on
31 the gate, so the officer jumped the gate, went up
32 to the house because she said, I'm not leaving
33 without this flat-screen TV and this couch. She
34 said, They won't let me into the one bedroom.
35 I've got some of the stuff, but a lot of this
36 stuff that's on this list is not even here.

37 And so he went in and met [Woman C] who was
38 there again. And she said that she wasn't giving
39 the TV back. That she knew the TV was mine but
40 she wasn't giving it back. Pretty much that's
41 theft. So then when he asked about the couch,
42 the grandfather, [Man C] was his name even though
43 his real name was [Man C] He said, Oh,
44 I'll bring that down. I'll be right down with
45 it. So the cop went back down to the bottom of
46 the driveway. Grandfather apparently came down
47 on an ATV, dragging my couch behind it, and it

1 was covered in horse manure. Brand new couch.
2 I don't think the couch was even six months old.
3 SHEILA MAZHARI: And is this all detailed in the
4 police report?

5 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yep. So the mover, when I talked to
6 her, I said, What did the cop do at that point?
7 She goes, Oh my God -- she says, His face was
8 just red as an apple. And I said, Yeah, but he
9 didn't do anything, did he? And she said, No, he
10 didn't.

11 So I -- he kept telling me this was a
12 landlord and tenant matter. And I said, Excuse
13 me? I said, This is a criminal matter. That is
14 theft, and that is destruction of private
15 property. You damn well know they don't own any
16 of that stuff.

17 So I said to him, I said, Let me put it to
18 you this way, officer: If you had -- let's say
19 you had a fully furnished duplex, you lived in
20 one side, you had tenants in the other side and
21 it was fully furnished, and you go to get rent on
22 the 1st of the month. Can't find your tenants,
23 they're ignoring you, cell calls, all that stuff.
24 Hmm, a couple days go by, still no contact from
25 your tenants, and you go into that unit thinking
26 they have left, and you walk in and everything
27 that you own that was in this fully furnished
28 suite is gone. I said, Would you not consider
29 that theft? He said, Well, I think that's a
30 little different. I said, No, it's not. It's
31 the exact same thing. Those are my belongings
32 and they stole them. And you did nothing about
33 it. I said, Why? Because they're Caucasian and
34 I am Indigenous? I was furious.

35 I have spent the last part of the last few
36 years, because I have been on disability,
37 replacing everything that I owned that I could
38 own that -- you know, like, there's certain
39 things, like I say with people when there's
40 fires. I call it the three Ps, get people, pets,
41 and photos out. Everything else is replaceable.
42 You can replace a TV, you can replace a couch;
43 you can't replace those things.

44 And he did nothing about it because he was
45 so hell bent with wanting to charge me -- because
46 he hadn't charged me by this point. The charge
47 came a couple of months later. So that's why he

Sharna Sugarman

1 didn't want to do his job in my opinion. He was
2 more hell bent about coming after the Indigenous
3 person than he was the Caucasian family who had
4 stolen all this stuff, who had committed a crime
5 of throwing a rock in my face, who has done
6 whatever that gave me unbelievable depression
7 over what happened to my beloved cat. I don't
8 know even know if he's still alive. I don't know
9 if they have him. I don't know whatever happened
10 to him.

11 I had the SPCA go back because they were
12 already under investigation over their horses.
13 And the SPCA went right to the front door and
14 asked to come in the house to look for the cat,
15 and [Landlord 2] said, You're not coming in the house.

16 SHEILA MAZHARI: When you came and you saw the cat,
17 you said your cat was --

18 SHARNA SUGARMAN: He was outside.

19 SHEILA MAZHARI: And he was looking --

20 SHARNA SUGARMAN: He was looking at me terrified
21 going, Meow. Like, Siamese are vocal cats. And
22 I picked him up and he was shaking. And I
23 remember looking at [Woman C] and I put him back and
24 I am thinking, What the hell are you doing out of
25 the house? He's not even not the kind of cat
26 that if you open the door that he would run to go
27 outside. Because we wanted to test him, and any
28 time I put him out on the deck, he would run
29 right back into the house.

30 SHEILA MAZHARI: And then what happened when you had
31 him in your --

32 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Oh, he was shaking and she was
33 laughing.

34 SHEILA MAZHARI: But he was okay after that, or ...?

35 SHARNA SUGARMAN: He was. And I put him back in the
36 house because I was supposed to go and pick up
37 the guy that I was helping and possibly go over
38 the border again for a doctor's appointment. So
39 I said, You need to call, talk to them. If we
40 need to go, then I need to get [Daughter] out of
41 school and we'll all go and all of that stuff.

42 And I came back after dropping her off at
43 school, and I said, I will be at home, just call
44 me if you need me, then we'll go. If not, I'm
45 home for the day kind of thing. And when I --
46 when she saw the cat, she turned to her father,
47 and I will never forget what he said -- because

1 he's Siamese, so he's Asian. She turns to her
2 cat -- and I told you about the white dog that
3 they owned that had killed a cat previously. She
4 turns to her dad, she goes, Hey dad, she goes, I
5 wonder if Finnegan would like some fucking chink
6 food tonight for dinner; meaning my cat. And I
7 looked at her and I said, Don't you ever touch my
8 cat. I was so mad. And she's, like, Don't you
9 fucking tell me what to do, you bitch. Sort of
10 like this. And I was, like, bring it on woman.
11 If you touch my cat, it's, like, touching my kid.

12 So that's when she chucked the rock in my
13 face. It was literally a couple of minutes
14 later. And she turned to her dad after it hit me
15 in the face -- and it went right -- like, it
16 lobbed right over her granddaughter's head. It
17 could have easily have hit [Child E] in the in the
18 back of the head. And she laughed as soon as it
19 did. And she's, Oh dad, look at that; I still
20 got a pretty good fucking arm, eh? And they both
21 started laughing. And the child just looked at
22 me, and obviously I had this huge welt and this
23 red mark on my face. I was just dumbfounded.

24 All I wanted to do was scoop her up and go
25 because I have -- the way that she would talk to
26 this daughter -- I'm convinced this little
27 girl -- she would probably be -- probably about
28 12 now.

29 SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you want to say her full name?

30 SHARNA SUGARMAN: [Child E], so I think that's
31 [spells name], I think it is. And [last name]
32 is her last name [spells name],
33 [describes name].

34 I'm convinced this child is either going to
35 be pregnant, a teen pregnant mother, or she's
36 going to drop out of school. She's going to be a
37 statistic with having that woman in her life.
38 She's should have been sterilized. She never
39 should have had children. She is just a vile
40 human being.

41 SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you think [Child E] is in danger
42 and she needs --

43 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yep, I went to MCFD about when she
44 did that. She's been removed a couple of times
45 by MCFD, to my understanding.

46 SHEILA MAZHARI: And what does MCFD stand for?

47 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Ministry of Children and Family

1 Development. It's child protection services in
2 this province. No, I talked right to the actual
3 worker. And I said, You need to get that child
4 out of that family, out of that house. She's,
5 you know -- she's not going to make it. She's in
6 danger. Told them everything that she has said
7 that I have witnessed that has been said to the
8 child. You know, telling her your dad should
9 have worn a condom and I would have a better life
10 if you weren't around and, you know, screaming
11 and yelling at her and stuff. Just awful.

12 And I just -- it's unbelievable. And -- so
13 nothing was ever done. [Woman C] was never charged
14 with assaulting me and I pushed it and I pushed
15 it. By this time when I went to trial,
16 [Officer 4] was already down here in Richmond
17 and had left his post in [Village] and he was now
18 a sergeant. I remember the Crown saying, Oh, you
19 were promoted; they promoted you. And I am,
20 like, They don't promote you. You actually have
21 to write an exam in order to move up a rank. So
22 it's not like they tapped him on the shoulder and
23 said, Good job; here you go.

24 SHEILA MAZHARI: Can we spell [Village] for the record.

25 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yeah, it's [*spells name of village*].

26 SHEILA MAZHARI: That's in BC?

27 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yes. It's in the southern Okanagan.

28 Yeah, so that's what I went through with
29 that. They won't charge her. The RCMP came back
30 when I did demand them that they did charge her
31 for that, and they charged her with theft and all
32 of those things and the criminal harassment.
33 Same thing you always get. Because my family no
34 longer lived in [Village], they didn't think she
35 was a threat anymore at least to me.

36 SHEILA MAZHARI: So they did charge her with --

37 SHARNA SUGARMAN: No, they never charged her.

38 SHEILA MAZHARI: Not with theft, not with anything?

39 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Not with assault, nothing. No.

40 Nothing.

41 SHEILA MAZHARI: And have you tried to pursue that or
42 appeal or anything?

43 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Well, I went all the way through to
44 [Officer 6]. And I sort of got the run
45 around with him. Because he's the superintendent
46 for Penticton and Penticton is the overseer of
47 the [Village] because [Village] is just a village.

1 There is only, like, 1,000 people.

2 No, he just kept saying -- couple of times
3 he said, Leave it with me. And then nothing. He
4 just kept saying -- you know, he understood my
5 frustration. I always loved that when they say,
6 I understand your frustrated. And I am, like,
7 You're not doing your job. You shouldn't be able
8 to pick and choose. And the reason -- the
9 biggest reason why the video during my trial was
10 there was no -- there was no shop -- there was
11 nothing in it. So the cop assumed the assault
12 never happened. Well, there was no time stamp,
13 there was no nothing on it. So when everybody
14 was up on the stand including the grandfather who
15 was the one shooting it. I asked him, I said,
16 When did this happen? What's the date and time
17 of this? And he couldn't tell me.

18 Also in the scene -- there's no audio. It's
19 all just -- he didn't activate it or whatever.
20 It's all visual. Honestly, I was the only one
21 that could tell that that was me in the
22 foreground or the background. It's so far away.

23 When I said that to the officer who was in
24 the stands. I said, How the hell do you know
25 that's me? He goes, Well, I have talked to you
26 before; I had met you before. And I said, You
27 can tell that far away that that's me? I said,
28 That's amazing. That's quite the distance away
29 and most of it is the back of me coming in and
30 out of the house. And you can tell that that's
31 me. I said, That's amazing. Because you can't
32 zoom in. It's not, like, on a phone, You can't
33 zoom in, nothing.

34 And then in the scene at the end when [Woman C]
35 was on the witness stand and we had it and we
36 played it to her, she's doing this [clapping
37 hands] in the video. So I asked her, I said why
38 are you doing that? Why are you doing that
39 behaviour? And she's sitting there trying to be
40 all -- she's, like, That doesn't mean anything.
41 People just do that. It doesn't mean anything.
42 I said this doesn't mean -- I said, What does
43 this mean when somebody does that to you, as I
44 said to you. I said, Doesn't that mean fuck off,
45 flipping you bird? And she's, like, Yeah. And I
46 said, so this doesn't mean violence? This
47 doesn't indicate you're going to punch somebody?

1 And she tried to play it down. And the
2 judge said to her -- she said, Clearly -- he
3 said, Clearly you're indicating violence. And he
4 goes, And who is the one that got hit?
5 Ms. Sugarman. So the cop really got reamed out
6 by the judge and he apologized to me at the end
7 of it. He said, Clearly you're the victim of a
8 crime here. Possibly several. And I took the
9 stand on my own. I represented myself, that was
10 the other thing. That's the other problem.
11 That's another recommendation I'll have for here.

12 In the province of British Columbia, if it's
13 a summary offense, you don't qualify for Legal
14 Aid. And especially if the Crown is not seeking
15 any jail time, you don't qualify for Legal Aid.
16 So you have to represent yourself if you can't
17 afford to pay your own way to hire a lawyer. So
18 I had to represent myself. And I think I did a
19 pretty good job. And the judge commended me on
20 that as well. And I remember him telling, then,
21 [Officer 4] that he needed to speak to me and
22 make sure that, you know, justice is served. And
23 they never did.

24 So that's what happened with me, and that's
25 why I don't trust the police even though
26 ironically I've thought about joining the RCMP.
27 I was actually contacted by their recruiter a
28 couple years ago, which was really fluky how I
29 got contacted by her. It was because I'm
30 Aboriginal. And I don't have any wanting -- I
31 have never wanted in my life to be a cop. My
32 whole being, if I ever do it, and my daughter's
33 thinking about it as well, is only because of all
34 the wrongs that have happened to Indigenous
35 people, and I want to be part of the change.

36 I could never violate anybody's civil
37 liberties. I could never do half of the things
38 that these police officers have been accused of
39 or things that they have been found guilty of. I
40 believe that cops have to be held to a higher
41 standard than your average person. And until
42 that happens, nothing is going to change.

43 That is my, definitely, issue with this
44 inquiry is the fact that if the recommendation
45 comes back or there's enough testimony, as I'm
46 sure there are -- I said that to Briar Stewart
47 from CBC today when I was just chatting with her.

1 I said, Did you notice that there's no cops here
2 during the inquiry? And she said, Yeah, I
3 noticed that. And I said, Yeah, that would not
4 sit well with the families. I said, It's private
5 security here. Nobody wants to see an RCMP cop
6 here.

7 So that's one of the things that needs to
8 change. You know, we all know it's there. We
9 all know that systemic racism is there. We all
10 know that they have picked what cases they have
11 wanted to deal with. We know that many of these
12 women probably would have not have fallen victim
13 to Robert Pickton had they listened to people
14 that came forward to them. So there is this --
15 my people are considered not to be credible and
16 that we don't matter. And I have had police
17 officers say to me that I am affluent -- they'll
18 say to me, Wow, you're well spoken and you have a
19 really good lexicon.

20 And I don't know whether to take it as an
21 insult or a compliment and I have said that to
22 them. I said, How did you expect me to speak?
23 And I have said to most cops -- I said, I have a
24 higher education than you do. I've travelled the
25 world. I've seen things. I'm a forever learner.
26 Is it because I'm Indigenous that you're shocked
27 that I can form a sentence or that I have a good
28 vocabulary or whatever it is? And I do. I don't
29 always take it as a compliment.

30 I don't know how often they say that to a
31 Caucasian person. Do you say that -- I said that
32 to the one cop one day. I know he meant well,
33 but he was Caucasian, and I said, Can I ask you
34 something? And I [sic] said, Yeah. And I said,
35 How often have you caught yourself saying that to
36 a Caucasian person? And he kind of looked at me
37 and paused and he said -- he's, like, I'm not
38 sure what you mean. I said, Well, you have just
39 told me that I am well spoken and that I am
40 articulate and that I have a good lexicon and I
41 can form sentences and all of this stuff. And I
42 am asking you how often do you say that to a
43 Caucasian person that you interact with?

44 And he just looked at me and he couldn't
45 answer me. And I said to him -- I said, To me
46 it's an insult, you know. You're not saying to
47 me, oh, I like your dress, you look so nice

1 today. I don't take that as sexual harassment
2 either. I think that you can give somebody a
3 compliment. It's not, like, saying hey, nice
4 legs or whatever, right. But I just said that to
5 him, and he couldn't quantify it for me. And I
6 just sat there and I was, like, there you go, you
7 know.

8 So I know who I am. I know my story, I know
9 my truth, I know what happened to me. Do I think
10 that there's going to be any accountability on
11 the police's part from this? I don't think so.
12 You know, where the human rights complaint is,
13 there's only so much that they can do. I think
14 the cop that sexually assaulted me, one, should
15 be charged, and two, he should lose his job and
16 his pension.

17 You can't -- the police want respect from
18 the general public but you have to give it to get
19 it. When there's a crisis or somebody's missing
20 or a pedestrian got hit, they'll come on the
21 news. If you have any information please contact
22 us. We're reaching out to the public. We need
23 your help. Well, when I needed your help, what
24 did you do? When this cop violated me, what did
25 you do? You closed rank and to this day, I still
26 don't know this son of a bitch's name.

27 And my fear, which I told the SIU, and I
28 will give you permission for this -- like you
29 said, if you're allowed to subpoena anything, you
30 need to subpoena my records from the SIU.

31 SHEILA MAZHARI: The SIU is special investigation --

32 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Special investigations unit. And
33 they are the independent body that oversees the
34 police services in Ontario.

35 I just, you know, I can't get over how often
36 and how redundant the majority of the stories
37 that I have heard this week and the ones that I
38 have heard in the past where the police failed to
39 do their duty, failed to serve, failed to open an
40 investigation, failed to listen, failed to be
41 empathetic, failed to be compassionate, anything
42 like that. And the only thing I can compare it
43 to is what's happening in the united States with
44 African Americans. How often do we hear about a
45 black man that was shot because he was holding a
46 cellphone. Oh, I felt threatened with my life.
47 Really? Do you not learn any de-escalation, and

1 just because he's black, it's like they say, you
2 know, shoot because the colour of black.

3 I don't think -- I don't blame my people
4 whatsoever for not trusting the police. I think
5 they have earned it. They have earned the
6 distrust. And commissioner -- former
7 Commissioner Paulson, when he apologized to the
8 Aboriginal community and the AFN, he said, I know
9 there's systemic racism in my force. I know I
10 have racist cops in my force, and I don't want
11 them here.

12 Okay. And how long was he commissioner for?
13 And what did he do? They're not even unionized
14 and they want to form a union. How powerful do
15 you think they're going to be once they're
16 unionized. A union does everything it can to
17 protect the job no matter what the person did.
18 You literally -- I hate to say it, but you
19 literally have to kill somebody for a union to
20 say, sorry, you're on your own.

21 And, you know, the report that was out, the
22 story that was out from the Fifth Estate about
23 the police, of all these people that have been
24 shot and killed by the police in the last
25 20 years, only two officers have ever been
26 convicted. And because it states underneath the
27 criminal code, if they feel or the Police
28 Services Act, if they feel threatened, they can
29 use lethal force. And some of these stories that
30 you hear, and the guy is 30 feet away from you.
31 The majority of people that they deal with on a
32 daily basis have mental health issues, and if
33 they're in a zone, if they're in a state and
34 they're not rational and they're yelling at them,
35 Put your hands up, be compliant, lie on the
36 ground, they might not even hear you, especially
37 if they have something like schizophrenia. They
38 don't hear you. And your first instinct is to
39 shoot them?

40 You know, I don't like guns, I don't like
41 weapons at all, and I have talked to people about
42 that. I said, God forbid if I ever became a cop,
43 I really don't know if I could walk around with a
44 gun on my hip. I really don't like weapons at
45 all. But come hell or high water, I would do
46 everything in my power to never have to raise
47 that weapon. And they just don't have enough

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1 mental health training. That's another
2 recommendation. You're at the depot for five,
3 six months and I heard -- they get a weekend, a
4 weekend, of mental health training. To me,
5 that's, like, becoming a doctor and you get a
6 weekend of, you know, learning how to bandage and
7 do a cast and do all of that stuff. But all the
8 other stuff is -- like, it doesn't make any
9 sense. It doesn't fit the mold, it doesn't fit
10 the criteria for me to become a properly trained
11 police officer.

12 And if not, wait for backup. Contain -- if
13 there's people around, if there's civilians, then
14 you get them out of here. If it's in a
15 neighbourhood, you close your doors, lock the
16 doors, go back inside. Contain it the best you
17 can. It does not mean you kill somebody. And if
18 you feel you have to use your gun, can you not
19 shoot them in the leg? Tasers? Anything. You
20 don't take a life.

21 You know, to me it's just -- we're not the
22 United States. I never want to be like the
23 United States. You know, I always say the only
24 thing that makes us close to the United States is
25 we are geographically connected; that's it. But
26 we are nothing like them. And it just scares the
27 crap out of me.

28 But more often you're going to find in your
29 data that the police are -- they play a huge role
30 in this. And I think that's going to be -- I
31 don't know how the commissioners are going to --
32 they can't ignore it. But it saddens me as an
33 Indigenous person, as a Canadian, as a social
34 justice advocate, as a survivor of violence by
35 the hands of a police officer, that the inquiry
36 cannot recommend or lay charges. That is the one
37 thing I have heard from most of the victims and
38 survivors that I have heard from this past week
39 at the inquiry. That is definitely the one thing
40 that does not sit well with them. And I can't
41 blame them. They cannot have immunity. They
42 cannot be not held accountable for their conduct,
43 their actions, you know.

44 Their actions and their conduct, in my
45 opinion, cost many people their lives. And in my
46 situation -- and I remember saying that to the
47 SIU, my biggest fear about coming forward about

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1 this, certainly there was fear, physical fear,
2 physical reprisal, but I did tell them the one
3 reason why I came forward was in my gut, I
4 believe that this cop that violated me, there's
5 other women out there that he has done this to.
6 He's a predator with a badge and a gun.

7 SHEILA MAZHARI: Sharna, do you mind if we take a mini
8 break?

9 SHARNA SUGARMAN: No, I'm actually done.

10 SHEILA MAZHARI: Are you? I have a couple --

11 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Oh, you have questions?

12 SHEILA MAZHARI: Yeah.

13 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Oh, that's fine. Your hand must be
14 sore too.

15 SHEILA MAZHARI: No, no, it's fine. So first I just
16 wanted to clarify, do you know [Adoptive mother]'s
17 birthday? I don't know if you do.

18 SHARNA SUGARMAN: My mother's?

19 SHEILA MAZHARI: Yeah.

20 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yep, it's [date of birth].

21 SHEILA MAZHARI: And her date of death?

22 SHARNA SUGARMAN: I believe it was [date of death].

23 SHEILA MAZHARI: And what about the incident in
24 Kingston with the older officer? Did he see the
25 younger officer assault you?

26 SHARNA SUGARMAN: I don't know what the SIU got from
27 that. I don't believe he was ever in the
28 bedroom. The way that my bed was set up, if this
29 were my front door, my bedroom door would have
30 been here and my bed would have been against that
31 wall. So he most likely would have -- probably
32 his view point, even if he was standing in the
33 doorway, would have been the back of the officer,
34 the way that he had thrown me and stuff. So I
35 don't know what he could have seen. He probably
36 heard me, because I definitely said get off me
37 and get your hands off me and you're hurting me
38 and all those things. I know I remember I said
39 all that.

40 I was really in shock. Like, I was,
41 like ... because all I wanted to do was get him
42 off me and that meant hurting him physically.
43 But in my head, I kept going, He's a cop, he's a
44 cop, he's a cop, he's a cop. That's all that I
45 could hear and I was just, like -- anybody else,
46 any other man, I probably would have lost it.
47 And the only reason with the two Aboriginal men

1 when they sexually assaulted me in 2011 was they
2 overpowered me. I mean, the one guy was -- he
3 was easily 300 pounds. He was about 6'3"
4 probably. And they pulled my hoodie over my head
5 so my arms were locked in. And then we had some
6 saw horses in the garage, and that's what they
7 had me over. And then they had a knife against
8 my throat and stuff like that. So it's a lot
9 different when you're in that scenario.

10 But I don't know what the second cop saw. I
11 know he's retired now. The SIU couldn't give me
12 much information because they weren't charging
13 him. That was one thing they told me, which I
14 disagreed with. He knows who I am, so why can't
15 I know who he is? If they charge him, then
16 they're allowed to disclose to me who he is. And
17 I'm, like, He's a public servant, you know.
18 That's the other thing I've had with some
19 officers that I have interacted with in my life.
20 An officer underneath the Police Services Act
21 has -- you might not have to say your last name,
22 but you have to give your badge number. So if an
23 officer doesn't say I'm Officer Smith and you ask
24 for their name, he doesn't have to legally give
25 you his name.

26 A lot of them have their names stitched on
27 their vests or whatever. If they don't have
28 that, they have to give you their badge number.
29 They're mandated underneath their services act to
30 do that. And I've had some cops not do that to
31 me.

32 Speaking of, just back about racial
33 profiling and I was -- the only reason is the
34 CBC -- CBC Fifth Estate back in I think it was
35 2004, and one of their things -- and I remember
36 watching it and just my brain just lighting up
37 going, Oh my God. I'm part of this statistic. I
38 came home one day, I was walking home, my
39 daughter was at Montessori, she was there for
40 preschool. And I went to the store, got some
41 groceries, and I was walking home, and this
42 cruiser pulls up beside me. It's, like, 1:30 in
43 the afternoon, bright sunny day. And he gets out
44 of the car and he starts asking me questions.
45 And I am standing there with my groceries. And
46 within -- I don't know how long -- less than a
47 minute. Next thing I know he's asking me what

1 ethnicity I am. And I looked at him and I said
2 actually I'm First Nations.

3 And he's, like, oh he said, What tribe are
4 you from? And I looked at him, and I said, What
5 tribe am I from? And so by this point I'm
6 sitting there thinking and I am, like, Why are
7 you asking me these questions? And not only
8 that, where are you going with this? Like, you
9 haven't said to me why you have stopped me.

10 And the police are not allowed to stop you
11 for any reason on the street unless they have a
12 valid reason. Because there was an incident with
13 an African Canadian boy in Burlington, I think it
14 was. It went all the way to the Supreme Court.
15 And obviously he had been harassed by the police
16 in his lifetime. And I think he was 17 years old
17 or something, and these cops stopped him on a
18 bridge. And he challenged them and he said, You
19 have no right to stop me. Like, he wanted
20 them -- he wanted ID and who are you and all this
21 stuff. And he said, Why are you stopping me?
22 You have no right to stop me. I haven't done
23 anything wrong.

24 Well, they harassed him and they roughed him
25 up and they arrested him. And the cops ended up
26 getting charged. It went all the way to the
27 Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court ruled. The
28 police are not allowed to stop you without due
29 cause, and they have to have a valid reason.
30 Obviously other than if they have a warrant or
31 whatever.

32 So this cop has already stopped me in the
33 middle of the street, has not even given me a
34 reason why he stopped me. So after the comment
35 about what tribe do you belong to, I started
36 getting irritated. So I said to him, I said, Why
37 have you stopped me? And I said, What exactly is
38 your reason here? Well, he got a little terse
39 and he said, I'm the one asking the questions
40 here, ma'am. And I said, Not any longer. No
41 you're not. Not any longer.

42 So I said to him, I said, May have your name
43 please? And he's, like, What? And I said, Your
44 name? Officer, constable, whatever it is. And
45 he goes, I'm not giving you that. And I said,
46 Fine. I said, Then give me your badge number.
47 Wouldn't give that to me either. So I told him,

1 I said, You actually have to give that to me.
2 You're mandated under law to provide me with your
3 badge number. Wouldn't do it. Got in the
4 cruiser. I looked at the number on the cruiser
5 and the licence plate.

6 I was furious by this time. Was half a
7 block from my house, went home, went upstairs and
8 called the Kingston Police. Went right to the
9 chief's office and I said, I want to know why
10 this officer stopped me. Found out later, not
11 even a year later when the CBC's Fifth Estate
12 came out -- and I don't know what the title of
13 their show was, but you could Google it -- the
14 then chief of police of Kingston, which was Chief
15 Closs, and that's C-l-o-s-s, had given this data
16 company permission to collect data from his front
17 line officers. And he had given them permission
18 to collect racial data on the people that they
19 stopped and interacted with.

20 My city when school isn't in session -- so
21 if isn't between September and May and it's June
22 through the summer, generally the residents of my
23 home town, very Caucasian. There's not a lot
24 of -- probably a little bit more, but back then
25 there wasn't. This is 14 years ago. When school
26 is in session, because we have got RMC, Queen's
27 University, St. Lawrence college, we've got a
28 variety of different ethnicities. But when the
29 data came back through the CBC investigation that
30 they did, it turned out the front line officers
31 for the Kingston police were more apt to stop
32 somebody of a physical minority than anybody that
33 was Caucasian. And I am part of that data.

34 And I remember watching it and my brain just
35 lit up and I was, like, Oh, that's why he was
36 asking me these questions. Because I never got
37 an answer from the chief of police office. I got
38 a lot of apologies, and I said, He has no right
39 to stop me in the middle of the street for no
40 reason. He has no right to ask me my ethnicity
41 and all of that stuff. Because by this time, I
42 remember -- I think it was in June so I was
43 already tanned. And I said, And he has no right
44 to not give me his badge number. You have to
45 provide that to anybody that asks for it.

46 SHEILA MAZHARI: And this happened in what year?

47 SHARNA SUGARMAN: I think it was 2003, and then the

1 CBC report I think came out in 2004.

2 SHEILA MAZHARI: And it was the summer, you said?

3 SHARNA SUGARMAN: I remember it was warm. I think it
4 was June.

5 SHEILA MAZHARI: And what about -- so whatever

6 happened to those two Cree man? Nothing?

7 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Nothing.

8 SHEILA MAZHARI: Because you couldn't identify them?

9 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Not only that I couldn't identify
10 them, I never really saw their faces because they
11 pulled my hoodie over my head; right. And you
12 live in such fear. And there was a -- I think
13 the RCMP had -- I think I read in the paper or
14 somebody told me about it. They had had -- there
15 was several reports of break ins in the rural
16 areas around Meadow Lake, so they were asking
17 people to be vigilant and if they saw anything,
18 to report it.

19 And, of course, I couldn't shut the garage
20 door at my house because it was seized, the chain
21 had seized. And it had been like that since
22 before we moved in. And my ex had put --
23 obviously the snow blower was in there and it
24 wasn't even -- I don't even know if it was six,
25 seven months old. Brand new. And there was some
26 other large pricey pieces in there. And then I
27 moved some of the stuff out of the house in there
28 because I had it on Kijiji, and I had people
29 contacting me back. That's another reason that I
30 had to go to town every day because it was all on
31 email and I didn't have internet at home.

32 And that's why the stuff were in there.
33 They obviously were canvassing the areas. And I
34 think they just -- because when you drove by,
35 down my road, if you stopped in my driveway -- my
36 driveway was quite wide and you could see the
37 detached garage right there. So if you looked
38 well enough, you could see things.

39 And who knows, maybe they had -- they didn't
40 see any cars. That's the other thing, you don't
41 see any vehicles. And when they came, my jeep
42 was down with me in the lower part of the farm
43 down in this part because I was going down to
44 check the water for the horses. So they didn't
45 see my jeep and they just drove in, they backed
46 up, because they didn't have a back plate; they
47 just had a front plate and they started loading

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1 stuff in. And, of course, me being ballsy, I
2 walked up and said, What's up, boys? What do we
3 think we're doing? And I had no idea that that's
4 what they were going to do.

5 So needless to say, no, nothing ever came of
6 them. I put Saskatchewan behind me after we left
7 for BC. I did talk about it in therapy when I
8 was in the hospital. They kept imploring me to
9 report it and I said I can't. I said, I can't
10 even -- I don't know if I could describe them to
11 a sketch artist. I said, It happened all so
12 fast, and I said, my hoodie was over my head the
13 entire time. And I said, When they did punch me,
14 they either picked me up and my face was covered
15 and they punched me or they would -- and I was
16 over like this and just would come around this
17 way. I said, I didn't even see the fist coming;
18 I just would feel it.

19 I ended up getting -- when I moved to BC I
20 was eating something one day and I had this big,
21 hard crunch and I have never had any problems
22 with my teeth but I had to have oral surgery on
23 this tooth and I still don't know if I am going
24 to lose it or not. What they think happened was,
25 from the punches that I had, that I have got a
26 hairline fracture on my -- like, in my upper jaw.
27 So I just had another surgery about a month ago
28 and they redid -- I had the route canal removed,
29 had it filled in, and then they think that there
30 was an air pocket in there and there was some
31 infection in there.

32 So I went back in, they cleaned it all out
33 again. They have resealed it. If I get another
34 abscess, then the doctor -- I have seen two
35 specialist now and they have said you'll have to
36 remove it and I am going to have to get a bridge
37 and stuff like that. So that's probably what
38 that's from, is from the violence that I
39 sustained from the attack.

40 SHEILA MAZHARI: And all of this is documented in your
41 hospital records and the police reports?

42 SHARNA SUGARMAN: There was never any police records
43 for that.

44 SHEILA MAZHARI: Because you didn't -- but you didn't
45 even -- because you said the nurse in the
46 hospital was --

47 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Somebody in the hospital because --

1 there is always usually a police officer in our
2 hospital, like, for some -- whatever reason. And
3 I think that's what happened is either at the
4 time -- either somebody from the mental health
5 unit or somebody in the hospital trying to be
6 kind to me, and they went and there was already
7 two officers in the hospital. And next thing I
8 know they were coming into my room and I just
9 lost it. I just lost it. And that was nothing
10 more than the fact that I don't trust the police
11 and I didn't want to deal with it right then. I
12 thought, also, that they would be -- you know, I
13 knew at some point I would be discharged and I
14 would have to go home. And I thought I'm
15 isolated out there, you know, and we were nowhere
16 close to moving yet. Nothing was happening in
17 that way. So I didn't want to deal with it and I
18 was fearful.

19 Because they -- I mean, they threatened my
20 child's life and it's just when you're in that
21 moment ... But I just remember seeing the
22 officers and I just remember losing it and
23 saying, Get out, get out, get out, I don't want
24 to talk to you, get out, get out, get out. And I
25 was really mad.

26 I remember my -- the community mental health
27 nurse who was also a colleague of mine talking to
28 me about it and saying, You have to report this.
29 You have to. And I sat there and I said, I don't
30 have to anything. I said, I cannot describe
31 these guys, you know. I said, It happened --
32 even though it felt like forever, I said, I
33 didn't see anything for very long. They grabbed
34 me literally that fast and whipped my shirt off.
35 They were -- I think what they were trying to do
36 is not only were they trying to block my face,
37 but I think they were trying to get my hoodie off
38 me but I was struggling so much that by that
39 point they had what they wanted, is they just cut
40 my pants and sodomized me and raped me and did
41 all of that, that they didn't care. And also --
42 I don't know -- like I said, I couldn't
43 understand a word they were saying. They were
44 speaking Cree and I don't speak Cree.

45 So I don't know what they were saying. But,
46 you know, the only English that I heard from them
47 was just, You don't call the police, you don't do

1 anything. I don't know if the police would have
2 done anything. I don't know, you know, when --
3 it's so hard from my training and from my
4 education and my background as a rape crisis
5 counsellor and stuff like that, everything that I
6 tell victims to do, I understand when you're in
7 that mode, it's so hard. And when I already have
8 a distrust with the police -- like, I remember
9 when I gave my video testimony for -- or against
10 my mother at the Meadow Lake RCMP, it was a
11 female cop that videotaped it and sort of asked
12 me my questions. But before -- and I said this
13 to the SIU, and I said -- I have no idea if it's
14 on the videotape; I have no clue.

15 I remember talking to the female cop about
16 the cop that violated me back in Kingston and I
17 asked her for help and she was very standoff-ish
18 and she said, Yeah, no, we don't do that. We're
19 not here for that. You know, this is a courtesy
20 we're doing. We're just doing a videotape. And
21 I remember just sort of sitting there thinking,
22 we don't do what? Investigate a crime?

23 So when you're met with all of these
24 different kinds of things, it's very hard to
25 think that your case matters to them, you know.
26 And it's not just Indigenous people. I know
27 other people -- I know lots of visible
28 minorities, I know low-income people, uneducated
29 people, homeless people. They just don't think
30 that the police care so they don't bother. Or
31 they have tried to get some type of support or
32 justice or, you know, police services and it
33 falls on deaf ears. Literally, if you're not
34 rich and Caucasian and whatever, or a fellow
35 police officer --

36 Well, here's a prime example of what
37 happened in my hometown. This is another reason
38 I got involved with violence against woman and
39 sexual assault. I met this female Kingston
40 Police police officer through a mutual friend at
41 a gym that we were going to back in the 90s. And
42 I was back between me travelling through my 20s.
43 And she had -- she was a police officer and so
44 was her husband. And she had gone to her
45 supervisor, and in the brass, as they refer to
46 it, about her husband's behaviour and that she
47 felt that he was becoming undone and that she

1 didn't feel safe and that she was concerned, not
2 only about her safety and the safety of her two
3 young kids, but also maybe that he should be put
4 on sick leave; that he shouldn't be carrying a
5 weapon and stuff.

6 And I'll never forget listening to her
7 because that's how I met her. And the reason why
8 was our mutual friend said, This is what Sharna
9 does and you can talk to her in confidence and
10 she's there for you and all that stuff. Her
11 superiors had told her that the way to help her
12 husband with his stress and all that stuff is she
13 should give him more blow jobs and if you got on
14 your knees a bit more ... And all that stuff.

15 He went home on Christmas Eve and what cops
16 are supposed to do when they leave is they're
17 supposed to surrender your firearm and it's put
18 away -- like, there's somebody in a locked cage
19 that does this. And he didn't do that. He went
20 home and murder/suicide that night.

21 SHEILA MAZHARI: Do we have -- we can look that up?

22 SHARNA SUGARMAN: His name was Ian Nicholson,
23 Cst. Nicholson.

24 SHEILA MAZHARI: N-i-c-h-o-l-s-o-n?

25 SHARNA SUGARMAN: I believe so, yeah. And I think it
26 was about -- year 1999, for some reason, stands
27 out in my head.

28 SHEILA MAZHARI: And do you remember her name?

29 SHARNA SUGARMAN: I believe her name was Lisa.

30 SHEILA MAZHARI: And that's the same -- Kingston?

31 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yeah, they were both Kingston police
32 officers. And he killed her with his police
33 issued firearm that was not locked up. And she
34 had been going to them for a better part of a
35 year and she gets told just give him more blow
36 jobs; get on your knees more. Maybe we should
37 put you both in the cruiser and, you know, ha ha
38 ha.

39 SHEILA MAZHARI: Do we know the name of any superiors
40 or is it -- if you looked it up --

41 SHARNA SUGARMAN: It would all be there. All those --
42 I don't know if some of those officers, some of
43 those inspectors and stuff, whether they have
44 retired now. Some of the those supervisors I
45 think now, if they were corporals or staff
46 sergeants then, they would be higher ranking now;
47 they would be inspectors. And if they were

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1 higher ranking than that, they might already be
2 retired because I know the standard and conduct
3 officer [Officer 7] that I dealt with before
4 [Watch Commander], that's who I thought I was
5 calling and he had just retired and he was only,
6 like, 55, I think, when he retired.

7 Because you can retire after -- with full
8 pension after 30 years. And most cops become
9 cops, you know, by the age of, like, 25 sort of
10 thing. So if you put in your 30 years -- you
11 know, some of them work well into their 60s and
12 70s, if they want to, but after 30 years you have
13 full pension.

14 SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you think there's this inherent
15 corruption all across the --

16 SHARNA SUGARMAN: I don't think there's a police force
17 that doesn't -- I don't think there isn't one of
18 them without blood on their hands. And I think
19 they all know it. I think it's more prevalent,
20 obviously, in the larger municipalities and
21 definitely the RCMP and the OPP, but I don't
22 think there's one small detachment that doesn't
23 have it.

24 And [indiscernible] the RCMP, especially the
25 more west you go -- like, in Ontario we have the
26 OPP, which is the Ontario Provincial Police, and
27 we have the RCMP as well, but most
28 municipalities -- like, I have the Kingston
29 Police Force, we have the Toronto Police Force,
30 Ottawa Police Force. So most of them have their
31 own municipal police forces and then we have the
32 provincial and then we have the RCMP. But the
33 more western you go, a lot of it is RCMP. They
34 don't have -- other than the Vancouver Police --
35 really mostly it's all RCMP.

36 And they're hired by the municipality.
37 Like, Langley is a city but it's RCMP. So
38 there's this thing where the board of directors
39 and the CAO, which would be your chief
40 administration officer, they're all the ones that
41 higher the RCMP for their municipality and the
42 councils and all of that stuff. But the officer
43 is still paid on a federal payroll, on a level.
44 They're not paid on a municipal. And that's the
45 other thing that the municipalities have an issue
46 with is they have to pay the payroll and
47 sometimes they're, like -- you know, when they're

1 doing their budgets and police forces always --
2 like, I know with my hometown literally almost
3 annually the police -- the police are asking the
4 board for a 2.3 increase or whatever in payroll
5 or whatever.

6 They have to come up with their
7 justifications of why they're asking for that,
8 you know, whatever it is. You know, whether
9 they're buying new equipment or they want to hire
10 a couple more members or whatever it is. But
11 they're paid very well. I know that the RCMP,
12 the officers feel in comparison to some other
13 municipalities -- like, I have known some RCMP
14 officers that now work for the Vancouver Police
15 Department because they think they have -- they
16 get better pay and better rates or whatever it is
17 or better days off. Because the way the RCMP
18 usually works is they work four on, four off. So
19 they do four [sic] days and then two nights and
20 then they're off for four days. But if you look
21 at the grid -- and you can find the payroll on
22 the RCMP website -- you can see what you started
23 off with. I think in the first year that you're
24 a constable you start at about \$57,000. Well,
25 within a year you can be up to 100,000. There's
26 not that many occupations that you can jump that
27 fast.

28 I definitely believe that there are some
29 really good cops out there. I'm not bashing
30 every cop. I'm not. I've met many decent police
31 officers, but I have also had those same decent
32 officers tell me about the corruption inside of
33 their own force, especially the RCMP and what
34 happens if you speak up or you do this or you do
35 that. So it is, in my opinion, it's also
36 systemic disease inside its own force. And
37 corruption is not good for anything.

38 And the politicians know it. You can't tell
39 me that Mr. Goodale, Ralph Goodale -- you can't
40 tell me that Prime Minister Trudeau doesn't know
41 it. They know especially, you know, hard hitting
42 cases like the Colton Boushie case.
43 There's no doubt in my mind that Justin Trudeau
44 knows from the way that he reacted that justice
45 wasn't served. But until these officers and, you
46 know, people talk about better training. You
47 can't train racism out of somebody. It's

1 inherent in them. It's what's been taught to
2 them.

3 Underneath the human rights code, you can be
4 as xenophobic, Islamophobic, homophobic, racist
5 as you want in your head, but the minute you say
6 anything in your capacity as your job, you're
7 liable, you're accountable. You have now
8 contravened the code. But I believe -- and this
9 is another one -- recommendation. I don't care
10 what police force you're at, whether it's
11 national, provincial, or municipal. I think
12 every police officer should have to wear a vest
13 camera and should have to have a dash camera.
14 And they cannot manipulate it, they can't obtain
15 anything that has been recorded and all of that
16 information cannot be stored within the force.
17 It has to be an independent body. And if for any
18 reason -- it's, like, you know when you go
19 shopping and they have got those little tags on
20 clothing and either it beeps when you go out or
21 it's a dye pack. So if you steal something and
22 you go home and try to break it off, and you got
23 a white shirt and you pop it off, all this blue
24 dye comes out. There should be some type of
25 mechanism -- same thing with turning over their
26 police issued firearm, their gun. If they try to
27 tamper with the camera, there has to be something
28 that happens to the camera. Like, there's
29 something that allows somebody to know that it
30 was -- somebody tried to tamper with it. That's
31 one of the only ways anything -- because it
32 doesn't just protect the public that they're
33 dealing with, it also protects the officer.
34 Because I know officers have been accused of
35 things that they didn't do or whatever, but if
36 somebody is saying some cop assaulted them, well,
37 there it is.

38 SHEILA MAZHARI: What do you think it would take to
39 implement something like that?

40 SHARNA SUGARMAN: I don't think the cost -- if that's
41 what the problem is, you know, it has to be
42 absorbed somehow. Whether it's through funding
43 from the federal government and part maybe from
44 the municipalities that hire the RCMP because
45 they don't have their own police forces, but
46 it's -- we're passed that. There's just too
47 many -- there's just been too many violations and

1 too many crimes that have happened for it not to
2 be. I think it's vital. To me, it's just
3 another tool for them and it's maybe another tool
4 that's going to help people to maybe eventually
5 trust the police that don't trust the police.

6 I certainly know myself -- I had an incident
7 just at my house not even two weeks ago over a
8 very violent woman that lives in my basement that
9 has pled guilty to assaulting her former
10 roommate. She's getting evicted from my
11 landlord. It's going to take some time to get
12 her out. And the officers were there and I had
13 my phone out and I was videotaping it. And I can
14 even show it to you. And the officer is, like,
15 are you taping us? And I said, Yep. And he was,
16 like, Oh. And he also didn't like my big dogs at
17 first, which weren't doing anything. They were
18 just at the top of the stairs. He's, like, Oh,
19 you put the dogs away? And I am, like, What are
20 they doing? They're standing there wagging their
21 tails. They're not baring their teeth. They're
22 not growling at you. So I put them outside and
23 he's, like, I just don't like dogs. And you can
24 hear me saying, Well, I don't like cops.

25 So then I'm talking to them -- it wasn't me
26 that called the police; it was actually my former
27 roommate. So the cops are -- I think the cops in
28 the video are asking me for my ID and I said, I'm
29 not giving you my ID. And the guy is, like, Why
30 not? And I said, Because I'm not the one that
31 called you; she is.

32 And when I talked to the police, I always
33 give them -- if they ask for ID, I give them my
34 driver's licence and my status card because I
35 want to see how they treat me being an aboriginal
36 person.

37 SHEILA MAZHARI: You're not afraid?

38 SHARNA SUGARMAN: No. No. No. There isn't anymore
39 harm that they can do to me. And I will tell you
40 why in a second. So [Tenant 1] is talking to them and I
41 am filming it. And I can't remember what the one
42 officer said to me. He was East Indian and he
43 didn't have an accident. He was obviously first
44 generation born here or whatever. And I think --
45 I proceeded to say that I have thought about
46 becoming an RCMP officer. And his response to me
47 was, Oh, yeah, we don't need anymore of you on

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1 the force. And I said, Anymore of me, what?
2 Woman or First Nations people or both?

3 And I'm talking to his corporal because I
4 didn't like his demeanour and I also asked for
5 his name. He wouldn't give me his name. So I
6 said fine, give me your badge number. I always
7 ask them for their business cards.

8 SHEILA MAZHARI: While you're filming? This is while
9 you're filming?

10 SHARNA SUGARMAN: You know what, I haven't watched it
11 in a bit. And let me see. Where is it?

12 SHEILA MAZHARI: You know the laws surrounding that.
13 So is there anything illegal for filming a police
14 officer?

15 SHARNA SUGARMAN: No, there is nothing illegal about
16 filming a police officer. There's nothing
17 illegal about filming anything. And not only
18 that, I was inside my own house, but I did put my
19 phone up at one point on my ledge and they denied
20 it later, but they turned it off. And when I
21 spoke with [Officer 8], and he's actually from
22 Australia, he was very concerned about -- let me
23 see. I think this is it here. So just a second.

24 SHEILA MAZHARI: [Officer 8] is --

25 VIDEO PLAYING:

26

27 The RCMP are here and there are six officers
28 here and [indiscernible] unit because [Tenant 1]
29 called them and she was screaming and
30 yelling and I think she knows about the
31 eviction. It is Friday, March 16th, and I
32 tried to record it, but I think all you
33 could hear was the dogs, but she was also
34 yelling at the cops.

35 So they're all inside right now, so I
36 don't know what that means. I'm out on the
37 deck for evidence for the [J's] [phonetic]
38 because they have always asked us to video
39 record, so that's what I am doing. But [Tenant 1]
40 was the one that called tonight because it
41 was quite ugly. So I am not sure, but I do
42 know and the landlords know that [Woman D] has
43 a -- sorry, there's a truck going by --
44 [Woman D] has a peace bond against her as of
45 three weeks ago for pleading guilty for
46 assaulting her former roommate, [Roommate 1]
47 [phonetic] and it's quite strict.

1 So I'm not quite sure what the
2 conditions are, but [indiscernible].

3

4 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Okay. And then I think I have
5 another one. That's where they turned off the --

6 VIDEO PLAYING:

7

8 Well, she was screaming and yelling
9 [indiscernible]. You realize you're getting
10 evicted, hey, on the 1st? [Indiscernible]
11 it doesn't matter. She's threatening every
12 day. [People speaking over each other].
13 It's fine.

14 I'll meet you out front?

15 Yeah.

16

17 This woman lives downstairs. It's just -- piece
18 of work. Let me see if I can find -- maybe this
19 one.

20 VIDEO PLAYING:

21

22 [Indiscernible] did you live by
23 [indiscernible].

24 Obviously, yeah.

25 It's not obviously.

26 It should be.

27 Were you the person that -- is your dog
28 friendly?

29 Very friendly.

30 Oh.

31 That's Kingston and they're both
32 [indiscernible].

33 Okay. So you want to sit out there?

34 Yeah.

35 Can you -- [indiscernible].

36 Yes, I am reporting this
37 [indiscernible]. I said if you're asking me
38 if I'm recording this, I am.

39 Why?

40 For a lot of reasons. I'm First
41 Nations; two, my landlords have asked us.
42 [Tenant 1] is the one that called you guys.

43 Can we put the dogs away? Did you
44 call?

45 Why? What are they doing?

46 So what -- they're big dogs. I'm a
47 little nervous.

1 Do they look like they're scaring you?
2 It's a small request. Some people
3 aren't comfortable with it.
4 Really?
5 [People speaking over each other].
6 I don't like dogs.
7 Well, I don't like cops, so there you
8 go. Let's go boys, outside.
9 Because what we're responding to or
10 what the [indiscernible] are responding to,
11 there's a dispute between two people, male
12 and female, that's what our report says. We
13 get here and it's just this lady clueless as
14 to why police are here and [indiscernible].
15 So what's going on with that?
16 He's also closest when the cops are
17 here.
18 Go for it.
19 Say hi to [M.] [phonetic]. You
20 afraid of cats?
21 I don't mind cats.
22 Okay. Good.
23 I love dogs.
24 I like dogs too.
25 Well, what were my dogs doing?
26 Nothing.

27
28 So he turned it off.
29 SHEILA MAZHARI: He turned it off?
30 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yeah. So the African-Canadian
31 officer was the one that didn't like my dogs but
32 he says at the end he only likes his own dog.
33 The other officer's voice is [Officer 9]
34 is his name and he wouldn't give me his badge
35 number or his name. I got it from his corporal,
36 who called me later that night but I had my phone
37 on "do not disturb" so I didn't talk to him until
38 the next day. He was very apologetic. He said
39 that he would -- that he was there supervising of
40 this unit.
41 When I told him that he turned off my camera
42 or my phone, he said I have to go right now. He
43 goes, I have to address this right now. He
44 seemed very angry about that. Called me back, I
45 think, the next day or the next time that he was
46 in because they would have been four on, four
47 off. And he said that they were adamant that

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1 they never touched my phone. And I said, Well,
2 they did. And I said, He also wouldn't give me
3 his name or his badge number. And he said,
4 Well -- and he gave me his name. I also told him
5 he would be facing a human rights complaint
6 because of the disparaging remark that he made
7 that, We don't need anymore of you on here.
8 Sadly that's right after that happened was when
9 he made that remark.

10 SHEILA MAZHARI: Did you ever -- so how do you go
11 about filing a human rights complaint against --

12 SHARNA SUGARMAN: The RCMP, it's underneath the --
13 each province has their own -- it's usually --
14 like, this one is the BC Human Rights Tribunal,
15 but because the RCMP are federal, it's underneath
16 federal jurisdiction and it's called the Canadian
17 Human Rights Commission and you can find them
18 online and you can file the complaint out online.

19 So I have already heard back from the
20 commission. Generally when you file it, it will
21 show you, you fill it all out and you submit it
22 and they'll give you a confirmation number.
23 Generally it says -- I think the timeline is
24 usually 30 days from the time you should hear.
25 I'm getting the feeling that they're backlogged
26 because I didn't hear from the commission for
27 almost four months. I have a contact now
28 Heather Thompson is her name. We have talked now
29 twice and she's aware of what happened.

30 So how the commission works is you file your
31 complaint, and same thing with a tribunal. If
32 this were a provincial -- like, if it was the
33 Vancouver Police, then it would be underneath the
34 BC Human Rights Code because they're provincial,
35 but when it's federal, it has to be the
36 commission. And they will overlook your
37 complaint and then on the merits of it, whether
38 or not it falls underneath their mandate,
39 meaning, you get to check off all of the
40 protected rights underneath the code, so it could
41 be mental health, it could be your gender, your
42 sex, your marital status, family status, like I
43 said, a conviction where a pardon has been
44 granted. It could be disabilities, meaning
45 mental health, it can be harassment, it can be
46 sexual harassment in regards to commission.

47 Not every province covers all of them,

1 usually it's religious beliefs as well or
2 nonreligious beliefs. And then you give your
3 statement, what happened to you. It has to be
4 with the -- the commission has to be within a
5 year of when you believe that the violation
6 occurred. In the province of BC, sadly, it's
7 only six months. Most of the provinces -- I know
8 in Ontario it's a year for the Ontario Human
9 Rights Tribunal.

10 They'll look it over and they'll decide
11 whether or not they're going to accept your
12 complaint. If it is accepted, then they send it
13 to the respondents. The respondents don't know
14 anything about this until it's accepted. Then
15 it's sent to the respondents, they have a certain
16 timeframe to respond. I think it's usually 30
17 days from the time that it's -- they're served.
18 And then there's a process. It could be
19 dismissed. The respondents have the ability to
20 apply for dismissal based on whatever they feel
21 is the reason. If they don't think it would be
22 successful or whatever, generally you don't
23 submit any evidence to the tribunal or the
24 commission until it's requested. So there are
25 all these proper forms that you fill out online
26 and that's what's submitted. That's the only
27 thing that they really see. Most of the time it
28 generally doesn't go to a hearing. A lot of time
29 you can also tick off whether you agree to
30 mediation, which is a very good tool to use.

31 A lot of these things are settled before
32 they go to a hearing. But the human rights code
33 is law in Canada. And I have advocated for many
34 people, especially immigrants that come to Canada
35 that are from countries that do have -- if they
36 don't even have human rights or they have
37 deplorable human rights existences in their
38 countries. So I've been doing this for probably
39 almost 30 years.

40 I tend to, in regards to filing this one
41 with the RCMP, it's not a knee-jerk reaction. I
42 try to go through a process that I am happy with
43 while they're talking with their superiors or
44 whatever before I would go to that. But making
45 remarks about my Indigenous heritage or sexism, I
46 don't tolerate any of that.

47 SHEILA MAZHARI: Did you want to spell those officer's

1 names?

2 SHARNA SUGARMAN: I only have the one officer's name.
3 The one that's actually on the complaint and his
4 name is [Officer 9] so [spells first name]
5 I believe is [spells last name], or it might be
6 [spells last name]. And he looked very young.
7 [Officer 8] told me that some of these guys
8 are, like, rookies. They have only been cops for
9 a year, if that.

10 SHEILA MAZHARI: And this is with the Vancouver Police
11 Department?

12 SHARNA SUGARMAN: No, this is RCMP.

13 SHEILA MAZHARI: They were RCMP?

14 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yeah, this is in [City 1] where I
15 live, yeah.

16 SHEILA MAZHARI: And let's talk about the SIU. Yeah,
17 do you want to go into a little bit of how --

18 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yeah, I contacted them through their
19 website. I had actually spoken with [R.W.]
20 who was the business card that you saw.

21 SHEILA MAZHARI: [R.W.]?

22 SHARNA SUGARMAN: [R.W.].

24 He's not a former police officer. There are
25 some investigators even in some other provinces
26 where they are former police officers. I don't
27 generally agree with that because I think that
28 there's some biases that come with that -- that
29 can come with that. Like, I don't ever think
30 that the police should be investigating the
31 police. That just -- it never works. There's
32 never -- you know, there's no objectivity there.
33 I contacted the SIU, you know -- the other thing
34 people need to keep in mind too, which is another
35 part of the way life is. I was trying to get on
36 with my life and trying to get back on the path
37 that I was on. I was on a very healthy path. I
38 was in post-grad school and raising my daughter
39 and next thing I know, my whole life went down
40 the toilet, literally.

41 And I was healing from, you know, the
42 assault. I was -- I'm still healing from the
43 post traumatic. I definitely wouldn't wish that
44 on anybody. You know, I'm pushing now nine years
45 with it. I'm a lot better than I used to be, but
46 I certainly -- there's lots of aspects in my life
47 that are not back to normal by any stretch of the

1 imagination. I don't -- I have never been
2 somebody that suffers from agoraphobia, which is
3 a fear of crowds. And there's times I've been in
4 supermarkets too busy and I have turned to my
5 daughter -- she's old enough now -- and I'll say,
6 here's the card, you pay for it, I got to go.
7 I'll be in the car because I can't hack it. I've
8 never been like that. I've never had a problem
9 with crowds.

10 The anxiety is brutal. Because I don't want
11 to use medication every time and that's one thing
12 that I do find that some doctors are, like, here
13 is some Ativan, pop a pill. And I'm, like, I
14 don't want to live like that. That doesn't solve
15 anything. I didn't go to the SIU back in the
16 day, I think, because I was trying to get on with
17 my life and I was dealing -- fighting my mother
18 in family court was my paramount situation,
19 getting better, all of those things. And what
20 prompted me to contact the SIU was actually a
21 high profile rape case Manitoba, I think it was.
22 And it was Justice Robin Camp. And I was
23 watching the news and the sexual assault victim
24 was on the stand, I believe, giving her testimony
25 and he turned to her and said something to the
26 effect of, Why wouldn't you just keep your legs
27 together.

28 And I was so eviscerated by that. I just
29 felt like he cut every woman that has ever had
30 the courage to come forward in half. And I was
31 disgusted. I was -- I wanted his head. I wanted
32 him removed from the bench so badly. And I was
33 so incensed. And I remember talking to friends
34 of mine about it and some of my advocate
35 colleagues and we were all just, like, oh, hell
36 no. No man -- you don't -- and you don't ever
37 say that to a victim, especially in your capacity
38 as a judge.

39 And then there was another sexual assault
40 judge residing over a case and I think it was in
41 Newfoundland. And same sort of thing. Was, you
42 know -- made some disgusting remark to her. And
43 I just thought, who are you people? Like, this
44 sense of entitlement that you think that you have
45 and this thought that there's no reprisal for
46 your comments. That's not how society should be
47 and that's not how you should conduct yourself in

1 your role.

2 So then obviously the media got all over it.
3 And the one female attorney, God love her, filed
4 a complaint with the judicial council. And
5 sadly, you know, it went through the whole thing
6 and he was humiliated and all this stuff, but
7 instead of being disbarred or being removed from
8 the bench, he resigned, but he still got his
9 pension. So that's another recommendation. I
10 don't believe any police officer or any judge,
11 anybody that's paid by the public -- by the
12 taxpayer, if you're found guilty of a criminal
13 offense or some type violation of somebody's
14 civil liberties or something like that, one, you
15 should loose your job, and two, no pension,
16 nothing. Nothing. I don't care how long you
17 have been on the force. You don't do that.

18 And I don't think until things like that
19 become fruition that anything is going to change.
20 Like, you know, if a doctor violates -- if a
21 gynecologist violates a patient, and we know
22 there's a few of them out there, not only do they
23 lose their license, they go to jail. So why
24 wouldn't that happen with a police officer? Why
25 wouldn't this judge that made that disparaging
26 remark -- and he doesn't say he didn't. It was
27 on the record. And he admits he said it. He
28 apologized, but still, you don't say that.

29 He should have been removed from the bench
30 and he should have lost his pension, period.
31 What's wrong with that? Why should the taxpayers
32 have to pay for somebody who should know better
33 and they come back with this thing that -- well,
34 they're going to have this sensitivity training.
35 I'm sitting there going, oh my God. We're not
36 talking about -- like, in regards to my human
37 rights thing, my advocacy and my activism, we're
38 not talking some mom and pop, you know, hot dog
39 stand where maybe they're not from this country
40 and they don't know better. He's a judge. How
41 long was he an attorney? How long has he been on
42 the bench?

43 There was another female judge in -- was it
44 Calgary? This was only a few months ago. She
45 was coming in to give addressing, like, a
46 tutorial, something to do with the Law Society
47 with the law students. And she walked into the

1 forum and it was dark and she had got on the
2 microphone and she proceeded to say, I have never
3 seen so many dark-faced people in my life. I'm
4 actually a bit afraid. She said, Normally I have
5 police officers around me. Addressing -- because
6 they were African-American students in the
7 audience. And it was actually recorded. The CBC
8 actually played what she said.

9 And I was driving my car and I -- honestly I
10 was -- I just sat there and I was, like, who are
11 you people? Like, who talks like that? She came
12 back and apologized and said that it was very
13 wrong, which she said, and she realized -- and I
14 am just sitting there going, oh my God. Like I
15 said, you can think that all you want in your
16 head and it's bad enough that you do, but the
17 minute you open your mouth, your accountable.
18 And you should be held liable.

19 And these people -- like, you know, we don't
20 live inside of a courtroom. That's not real
21 society. And they say that justice is blind and
22 justice doesn't, you know, seek colour and gender
23 and all of those things; bullshit. When they
24 makes comments like that, you can't tell me they
25 don't bring that on the job.

26 SHEILA MAZHARI: So how do you think we can change
27 that besides the value [indiscernible] you've
28 already given, but ...

29 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Well, you know, judges are appointed
30 in this country. In the United States they're
31 elected in most capacities. I have had this
32 argument with some people that I think that
33 judges should be elected in Canada. But some
34 people think that they shouldn't because they may
35 want to be -- you know, if they're more of a
36 conservative, you know, if they were -- if
37 they're conservative in their natures or their
38 values, that they might be more apt to rule in
39 that -- I don't know. There's just not enough
40 accountability when -- like, when the general
41 public breaks the law, whether it's jay-walking
42 or a parking ticket or whatever it is, they
43 assume -- that's the other thing. You're
44 innocent until proven guilty in Canada. Well,
45 there's a court of public opinion; we're all
46 guilty of it.

47 There's a part of me, as an advocate, that

1 believes that whether you're charged with
2 stealing a pack of gum or murdering somebody, I
3 don't think the victim or maybe even the -- the
4 victim or the person should not be made public
5 until the verdict is read. If the verdict is
6 guilty, then, yes, they should say John Dear has
7 been found guilty of first-degree murder in the
8 death of so-and-so. Because when you're not
9 found guilty, you still have a stigma and still
10 the court of opinion is still there.

11 And we live in a world of social media where
12 everything is instantaneous and instant
13 gratification and news on 24/7 kind of thing. So
14 I don't know if -- I don't know that if somebody
15 is charged with a crime, if their name should be
16 made public until it's completely gone through.
17 Because we don't know, there's certain cases and
18 they're usually high profile cases where there's
19 a gag order. Where the media is not allowed to
20 report anything. Well, why does that person get
21 that privilege over somebody else, you know?

22 In my hometown, once a week you can read in
23 the courts and it will show all alphabeticalized
24 [sic] who has been charged, full name, age, and
25 what they have been charged with. Could be a
26 breach, could be theft, could be whatever. Not
27 everybody that's charged is guilty. Not
28 everybody that is found guilty is guilty either.
29 We all know there's lots of innocent people out
30 there. But with saying that, and probably being
31 a hypocrite, I also believe in the death penalty,
32 you know.

33 I grew up in Kingston which is considered
34 Pen City. We have, like, eight penitentiaries.
35 It costs a lot of money to keep some of these
36 murderers and these, you know, prolific rapists
37 and stuff behind bars. On average somebody like
38 Paul Bernardo who has been in solitary -- like,
39 in protective custody for, you know, 20 years
40 now, about 180 grand. Do you know how well I
41 could live on 180 grand, you know?

42 So I also believe that I would like to see
43 more inmates out helping cleaning up the
44 environment instead of sitting around and
45 watching TV all day or working out in the gym. I
46 believe in hard labour, especially for some of
47 these -- like, you know, the Harper Government

1 got rid of our prison farms, the dairies and stuff
2 like that. And my grandfather was a prison guard
3 at the Collins Bay Penitentiary in my hometown
4 because he was a World War 1 vet. And what they
5 did was they offered the jobs to the veterans
6 first before they hired any billets. And when he
7 lost their dairy farm in Smith Falls during The
8 Great Depression, he became a prison guard.

9 So a lot of countries like in Australia, if
10 you're convicted of murder, life is life. And I
11 mean life. You're never getting out again and
12 they have hard labour. I'm not talking about,
13 you know, breaking rocks with your hands or
14 something like that. But, you know, our homeless
15 don't even get three squares a day and a roof
16 over their head. I don't want to see anybody's
17 civil liberties or human rights being violated
18 either, but I will tell you one thing: One thing
19 why child molesters are not kept in the penal
20 system has nothing to do with the fact that,
21 like -- I can tell you, there's no cure for it.
22 It's a compulsion. And unless they find the part
23 in the brain that they can lobotomize -- you can
24 chemically castrate them all you want. It
25 doesn't do anything. That's, like, saying to
26 somebody that's heterosexual and saying, By the
27 way, when you wake up tomorrow, you're only ever
28 allowed to be with men. You can never touch a
29 woman again. They would look at you like you're
30 nuts.

31 It's all about power and it's all about
32 violence and all of that to them. It's the way
33 they're brain is wired. You can't change that
34 with therapy. It doesn't work. And the only
35 reason why pedophiles are put back out in the
36 community is because when they're in the prison
37 systems, it causes so much upheaval with the
38 other inmates because there is a subculture.
39 There's a hierarchy there. There is a level that
40 they will not put up with. You harm a child, you
41 harm an animal, you're fucked in the penal system
42 if the general population gets -- they're done.

43 So I am kind of, like, well, you want to go
44 on general pop, you go in. You come out alive,
45 that's up to you. That's up to the rest of them.
46 I don't want to put a child molester in
47 protective custody at \$180,000 a year, you know.

1 So unless the federal government wants to build
2 some type of super jail or super prison out in
3 the middle of nowhere where these kind of
4 predators are put in and they're never seen
5 again, fine. But the only reason why they're
6 rotated back out into the society is because it's
7 too much for the guards to take on. When they
8 are in there, it's like anarchy.

9 And I don't blame the other prisoners, you
10 know, but that's one of the only reasons. Why in
11 the hell would you release somebody out into
12 society that has intentionally raped children? I
13 heard some of the testimony this week. Some
14 people were molested by people at six months of
15 age. They had never been able to have children
16 because their insides are destroyed, yet these
17 people are still walking on the streets.

18 There is absolutely nothing in that that
19 makes sense. The calamity that these people do
20 to other people. To me, when you harm a child,
21 that's it. You are not a human being to me. You
22 know, you are the scum of the earth. You don't
23 deserve to breathe. You don't deserve to walk
24 the streets. You don't deserve any liberty in
25 that capacity. So if you're not going to lock
26 them up for life, something has to be done. And
27 maybe we need a prison where that's just where
28 these predators go. If you're convicted of
29 sexually molesting a child, raping a child, and
30 in that due process, the child dies, that's where
31 you go.

32 You know, because they do have these super
33 jails, these super prisons in the States that are
34 underground. They don't come into contact with
35 the guards. Everything is electronic. They'll
36 go to this door, this door opens, they walk down
37 3 feet, this one closes. It's all like that.
38 They don't touch anybody. It is a -- what's it
39 called? Pelican Bay? Is that what it's called?
40 Something like that in the States. It's a super
41 prison and it is so effective. They don't -- the
42 inmates don't touch each other. They never come
43 in contact with each other. They can maybe see
44 each other through Plexiglass, but there's no
45 contact. They eat in their cell, you know, if
46 they get out one hour it's literally, you know,
47 they're nowhere near anybody else.

1 Some people -- some human rights people
2 might think that that is -- Amnesty
3 International, who knows, might think that that's
4 inhumane. I'm sorry, what they did to those
5 children and what they did to those people, you
6 can't forget that, you know. And some people
7 think that some criminals are created. Yes,
8 that's very possible. Violence when you live in
9 such a horrific environment and whatever, but not
10 everybody comes out that way, you know.

11 But at what point do -- at what point do you
12 take into consideration the decent people that
13 are living in our communities that hadn't done
14 anything? Like, I certainly, as an advocate,
15 I -- my family store -- we have hired former
16 prison inmates before. They weren't child
17 molesters. We knew that they were petty theft or
18 drugs or something like that. But nothing
19 violent, nothing like that.

20 But I certainly don't want a child molester
21 living on the same street as me. And in the
22 States, you have the Sex Offenders Registry and
23 you can actually find that stuff out. We don't
24 really have that here in Canada because it would
25 be a violation of their privacy. They have lost
26 their privacy rights, in my opinion. At some
27 point, enough is enough. And I just think there
28 are some crimes that are committed in this
29 country that there's no -- there's no going back
30 on. There's no, like, first-degree murder,
31 parole after 25 years. Well, the person you died
32 [sic] -- that you murdered -- first-degree means
33 that you had intent. Why should they get to walk
34 the streets again? Why? If it's a matter of
35 money, well, then that's something that the
36 federal government and Corrections Canada has to
37 look into. But I don't fully believe in all
38 rehabilitation programs. You know, 9 out of 10
39 inmates that you come across, all of a sudden
40 they've found God when they're inside, and I roll
41 my eyes half the time going, okay, whatever.

42 There has to be -- our criminal justice
43 system and our criminal code has to be completely
44 revamped. Another thing, our animal cruelty laws
45 in Canada have not been updated or amended since
46 1987, yet studies and statistics and data have
47 shown that most sociopaths that have harmed a

1 human being have harmed animals in their life,
2 whether they have tortured them, dissected them,
3 whatever it is that they have done. And you
4 can't -- that's fact.

5 So at what point are our laws going to
6 actually really protect people on a daily basis
7 when you hear about these people and when it
8 comes out once they've graduated to harming a
9 human being or a child. You know, it's amazing
10 all of the information that comes out, like,
11 Robert Pickton. People knew about him for years.
12 Nothing was done. And look how many woman died
13 on his farm, and I can't imagine what they went
14 through before they died.

15 So what should happen to those police
16 officers, if they're still employed, that didn't
17 do their jobs? And it's not just the frontline
18 workers. It's not the frontline cops. A lot of
19 time it's the higher-ups. They're going to their
20 supervisor, they're going to their inspector,
21 they're going to their superintendent and saying,
22 look it, this is like the fifth call that I have
23 had from this family or this woman or this man
24 who's telling me that this stuff is going on
25 here. And you guys keep telling me to ignore it,
26 you know.

27 And that's what I have heard from some
28 police officers in my life. I have heard them
29 say, I know what happened; I know this stuff was
30 going on. I tried. My superiors said, Knock it
31 off. They always come back and say lack of
32 resources or whatever. Lack of resources, my
33 ass. I don't recall the last time that a police
34 officer's paycheque wasn't cashed, you know.
35 This isn't overtime at DQ where all of a sudden
36 you're supposed to be making, you know -- having
37 30 hours a week and all of a sudden you're doing
38 130 hours a week. Police work, like hospitals,
39 it's 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

40 So here we go with the legislation of pot
41 coming in and it being, you know, hopefully
42 legalized before the end of the summer, I'm
43 hoping the revenue that comes from that will be
44 put back into mental health and addictions, could
45 be put into social and affordable housing, could
46 be put into women's programs, antiviolence
47 programs, lots of different things. But it

1 certainly -- it better not be lining the pockets
2 of any politicians or anything like that.

3 My recommendations here are -- well, number
4 one, hold police accountable; number two, more
5 mental health and addiction funding, and that
6 could come from profits of pot; three, increase
7 shelter costs for people on social
8 assistance/disability to reflect inflation and
9 actual rent costs.

10 In British Columbia, for me on my disability
11 right now, my shelter costs \$570 a month for my
12 daughter and myself. What do you think I could
13 rent for that? An average room, just to rent a
14 room in somebody's house, is \$500 to \$600.

15 So they have never taken inflation into
16 consideration with this. Had minimum wage been
17 kept up with inflation since The Great
18 Depression, so we're going back a good 70-plus
19 years, minimum wage right now would sit at about
20 \$24 an hour. Most people could live fairly
21 comfortably on that. The rents in this province,
22 like in other places, are ridiculous. There has
23 to be -- I would like to see a rent freeze or
24 something like that. And I also, as an advocate,
25 because some of these places that I have seen,
26 not just in Vancouver, but in Saskatchewan and in
27 Ontario when I was an advocate, I would like to
28 see landlords have to register their buildings,
29 whether it's, you know, huge apartment building,
30 to a triplex, to a room in your house. And it
31 has to pass an inspection; meaning, it's up to
32 code, not just smoke alarms and things like that,
33 but if there's any mold, cracked windows,
34 whatever it is.

35 This is a business and there's lots of
36 people out there that don't -- there's lots of
37 people out there too that are not -- they're not
38 declaring this income. So if they're licenced
39 through their local municipality and if they
40 don't have a municipality, then they should be
41 licenced through the province. And it should
42 pass inspection. If it doesn't pass inspection,
43 that municipality, whether it's through their
44 building department or the health unit, whatever
45 you want to do, should be able to put a padlock
46 on that house. Almost the same -- some type
47 of -- you know what they do with evidence, they

1 have those one-sided sticker things. Can't rent
2 here. Didn't pass inspection. I'm not talking
3 about it having being white-gloved, but there are
4 some slumlords out there. There are some
5 deplorable places that are covered in rats feces
6 and things like that. And they're charging an
7 arm and a leg for people. No. Sorry. This is
8 not a third-world country; this is Canada. So
9 that's what I would like to see.

10 In regards to children being apprehended, I
11 think social workers must be held accountable for
12 when children are harmed or die in care. We all
13 know that if the child dies with the parents and
14 it looks like a suspicious death or it is a
15 homicide, they're going to be charged. And if
16 there's any other children in the house, they're
17 removed.

18 So if a social worker removes an Indigenous
19 child or a child for any matter, but we all know
20 the high rates with Indigenous children in care,
21 if something happens to that child, look at
22 Phoenix Sinclair. Why wasn't the social worker
23 and possibly her manager, whoever it was that
24 signed off on that child to be removed, they
25 should have been charged criminally. They should
26 not have immunity because of their job.

27 They made a decision that for whatever
28 reason the child was not protected or doing well
29 in the home that they were in, their family's
30 home or their parent's home or whatever.
31 Obviously I think that Indigenous children, if
32 there's an aunty or a nohkom, which is a
33 grandmother, or another -- even a friend that is
34 willing to take the child in. For whatever
35 reason, if the parent becomes ill, is
36 incarcerated, has addiction problems, whatever.
37 Whatever you think that's harming a child -- and
38 I am sorry, I have counselled so many people with
39 addictions, from judges to police officers to
40 doctors to nurses to janitors to the homeless to
41 stay-at-home moms to students. So don't
42 stereotype people. No one is immune -- this is
43 my saying: No one is immune to mental health or
44 addictions, period.

45 And that's where a lot of the systemic
46 racism is, is that they feel that my people can't
47 care for their children. Well, in some

1 generations, they couldn't because when you're
2 removed to go onto a residential school at the
3 age of five and you're ripped from this loving
4 home that you have known, and you're beaten and
5 you're sodomized and you're sexually abused and
6 you're harmed for the next 13, 15 years of your
7 life and you end up trying to seek any type of
8 love or comfort that you have, and as a female
9 you become pregnant and have a child, I'm sure
10 they're wondering whether or not they're being a
11 decent parent.

12 It doesn't mean that every Indigenous family
13 that lived through the residential system doesn't
14 have the ability to raise their children, but if
15 they need help and support, that doesn't mean
16 removing the child. In my opinion, unless you
17 can see that the child is malnourished, sexually
18 abused, covered in bruises, maybe, or
19 [indiscernible] and broken, something like that,
20 something that there's no way to argue and nobody
21 can explain to you why that child is in that
22 condition, yes, removal is probably the best
23 thing to do.

24 But I had a situation where my child was
25 removed after I was assaulted by my landlord. We
26 were put in, by the RCMP, into a transition
27 house. And I told them right from the get-go
28 that if -- because it wasn't a partner, it wasn't
29 anything like that -- he was charged, he was
30 found guilty. I told them that if there was
31 somebody in their community that needed a bed --
32 we were at the Kamloops Transitional House --
33 that I would do my best to stay at a motel or a
34 hotel or something. I said because, yes, I was
35 fleeing abuse, but it wasn't perpetual. It
36 wasn't a partner, it wasn't anything like that
37 and he wasn't anywhere near the area because this
38 happened in [Town 1] [phonetic] in the
39 Okanagan.

40 But when I was there and I was sitting in
41 the office to use the phone to call about
42 housing, the workers came in and started talking
43 in a very disgusting manner about the women and
44 most of the women that were in the house were
45 aboriginal. And they were breaching
46 confidentiality and talking out loud about
47 medication they were on or court hearings that

1 were coming up or something like that. And I am
2 sitting there and I finally put the phone down
3 and I said, What do you think you're doing? And
4 they looked at me and they said, What? I said,
5 You can't discuss the women like that with me in
6 here; I don't work here. And they're, like, But
7 we know you and we know that you'll keep the
8 confidence and we're just -- you know, we're just
9 venting right now. And I said, Uh-huh uh-huh
10 uh-huh, you're breaching their confidentiality.
11 And yes, I'm not going to tell anybody about it,
12 but you don't get to count on that. You don't
13 have a right to do what you're doing.

14 So I went to management about it. But
15 within that time, the ladies did everything they
16 could to make our stay there very uncomfortable.
17 So you're supposed to be able to stay in a
18 transition house and it's supposed to be a safe
19 zone. Well, they made it a war zone. One of
20 them called MCFD on me because my daughter wasn't
21 in school. Well, my daughter wasn't in school
22 because I had already called the school district,
23 left messages, I had driven to -- after talking
24 to the women which, was the closest elementary
25 school in the area, went by. Talked to the
26 secretary, gave her my name, told her where I was
27 staying. I said, I would like to get my daughter
28 enrolled, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.

29 No phone calls, nothing back. Emailed them,
30 everything. Next thing I know, I get this phone
31 call from MCFD and it was a Caucasian woman
32 working out of the Secwepemc Aboriginal Services
33 in Kamloops.

34 SHEILA MAZHARI: How do we spell that?

35 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Oh, Secwepemc? Oh, hang on.

36 SHEILA MAZHARI: When they transcribe things, they ...

37 SHARNA SUGARMAN: That one I'm definitely going to
38 have to look up because I know it's S-e-c -- I'm
39 not even going to attempt. So it's spelled
40 S-e-c-w-e-p-e-m-c.

41 SHEILA MAZHARI: And that's Secwepemc?

42 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yeah, child and family services
43 agency.

44 SHEILA MAZHARI: In Kamloops?

45 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yeah, they're on reserve in
46 Kamloops.

47 So she calls me and says that she's had a

Sharna Sugarman

1 call from staff that they're concerned about my
2 daughter not being in school. And I said, Well,
3 I'm concerned about that too but it's not
4 something that I am ignoring. But I also
5 challenged her and I said, Last time I checked,
6 being in school is not a child protection
7 concern. It's not underneath the mandate or
8 underneath the provincial Child Protection Act.
9 And she said, Well, I just want to talk with you
10 to see if there's anything that I can help you
11 with.

12 Well, we were leaving that day. I decided
13 to take my family out because of the conduct of
14 the staff. I wasn't comfortable. And I also
15 didn't want the staff to bully any of the other
16 women that were in the shelter. So I decided to
17 leave and I put us in a small motel in Kamloops.

18 So her name was [Staff member 1].
19 [spells name].

20 SHEILA MAZHARI: And [Staff member 1]?

21 SHARNA SUGARMAN: [Clarifies spelling].

22 And she called me and she said, Okay, can we
23 meet? And I said, Well, I need to get out of
24 here first. I'm just going to -- because I have
25 a file on her. Yeah, [Staff member 1] is how
26 she spells it.

27 So this was back in February 2013. And she
28 met me at the motel under the guise that she was
29 going to help us get her into school, help with
30 possibly getting housing, if I needed any food
31 cards, anything like that. Well, she showed up
32 with an RCMP officer and removed my child and my
33 child lost it and I lost it. And she tried to
34 physically -- you're not taking me, you're not
35 taking me. And I looked at her and said, You
36 lied to me. And she said, Well, I didn't want
37 you running off again. And I said, What are you
38 talking about running off again? You're here,
39 aren't you? I said, I'm not running from
40 anything.

41 But we had been -- because the two things
42 that we had experienced since the assault was I
43 had a hard time finding housing that was pet
44 friendly. That's one problem in this province.
45 That's another recommendation is especially when
46 it comes to abused women, especially in the rural
47 areas, there needs to be transitional houses in

1 rural areas and there needs to be -- whether
2 they're volunteers or whether it's part of their
3 funding, even if it's a taxi, for these women to
4 be able to get out. The problem with women when
5 they live on farms is they won't leave their
6 livestock.

7 I helped a woman get out two years ago from
8 a very abusive relationship. She literally lost
9 all of her teeth, her nose had been broken I
10 don't know how many times. Her husband had
11 picked up a shift. We managed to get her two
12 horses out. We had friends come in with a horse
13 trailer, got a couple of her chickens out, and a
14 friend of mine owns a horse rescue, even though
15 it wasn't any close nearby [sic], she took the
16 horses in and we got her into a transition house.
17 We got her dog to stay with a friend of mine that
18 took the dog in.

19 These are reasons why women won't leave.
20 It's just as much as if they can't get their
21 children out. So that's an issue. That's a very
22 huge issue. And I have noticed that with some of
23 the recommendations I have heard from some of the
24 women in regards to urban centres, domestic
25 violence and violence isn't just in the urban
26 centres; it's everywhere. It's in the north,
27 it's in the rural areas, it's on the reserves.
28 So it touches all corners of this country, sadly.
29 So that's an issue. There has to be transitional
30 housing in the rural areas.

31 So she took my daughter. And she was white.
32 And they put my daughter in an aboriginal foster
33 home. And I am sorry, not every foster parent is
34 in the system for the betterment of the children.
35 They get paid very well. Really well. And not
36 every foster parent is on the up-and-up. My
37 daughter was abused while she was in this foster
38 home. She had never seen violence in her life.
39 She was forced to finish her meals even though
40 these meals were huge and she was full. Not only
41 that, at first her appetite was suppressed
42 because she was stressed out. She had objects
43 thrown at her by the biological grandson of the
44 foster parents. She came back to me with a
45 bruise on her forehead from a little Hot Wheel
46 car that the kid whipped at my daughter.

47 SHEILA MAZHARI: How old was she at the time?

Sharna Sugarman

1 SHARNA SUGARMAN: 12. This little kid got away with
2 murder in the house, but all the other foster
3 kids would get yelled at by the foster parents.
4 She was forced to attend church when we're not
5 religious and she told them that. So they denied
6 her dinner that night. She wasn't allowed to
7 eat.

8 SHEILA MAZHARI: And were you trying to get her --
9 were you -- who could you go to during that time
10 to try to get her back?

11 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Oh, I went to the office. I went up
12 the food chain. I went all the way to the
13 executive director. I raised Cain.

14 SHEILA MAZHARI: Executive director of ...?

15 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Of Secwepemc, who was also white.

16 SHEILA MAZHARI: So it was them who made the decision?
17 It had nothing to do with child and family
18 services of the province?

19 SHARNA SUGARMAN: It is their -- aboriginal services,
20 it still is underneath MCFD, but it is a
21 separate -- all MCFD has aboriginal services and
22 they can be on reserve. This one is on reserve
23 in Kamloops. So I get an email saying:

24
25 Morning Sharna, can you please call [Social worker]
26 or myself --

27
28 And [Social worker] was her supervisor who was also
29 white.

30
31 -- as soon as possible. We want to talk to
32 you about returning [Daughter].

33
34 And she -- they had her for -- I think it was
35 around -- around two weeks. But within those two
36 weeks, they apprehended my daughter on -- I think
37 it was a Thursday. For some reason it's standing
38 out with me on a Thursday. But they -- I yeah, I
39 stayed at the Acadian Inn. Sorry, I just lost my
40 train of thought.

41 Yeah, they removed her but she didn't go to
42 school for about another week. Yeah, that was
43 their whole reason of why they took her from me,
44 which is not a child protection concern.

45 So we went to court. And I also talked to
46 her supervisor, who was also Caucasian and the
47 executive director. And I was hell bent. When

1 also I talked with [Daughter] -- this is when she
2 started telling me about the abuse in the house,
3 and I brought that to their attention. Oh, I
4 know this family; that can't be possible. Oh,
5 no. I said, Are you calling my daughter a liar?
6 I said, I have never even spanked my daughter
7 ever. She's never seen violence, you know, other
8 than maybe on the school grounds, a kid pushing a
9 kid over or whatever.

10 And when she showed up with the bruise on
11 her forehead, I said, How did you get that? And
12 she told me right in front of the social worker,
13 and you should have seen the look on her face.
14 Her face went ghostly white. And I looked at her
15 and I said, You're going to return my child right
16 now. You have put my child in a violent home.
17 You think just because the home is aboriginal
18 that it's safe?

19 And when we went to court, I said to the
20 judge the whole reason why they removed my child.
21 And he scratched his head and he said, I'm sorry,
22 how is that a child protection concern? And she
23 went on to say that she was concerned for me for
24 my mental health because we had lived in the
25 transition houses. We went from the Kamloops one
26 to the Vernon one to the Kelowna one to the
27 Penticton one to the Salmon Arm one all in the
28 span of four months. And not for any other
29 reason than trying to secure housing. And I
30 worked every day. The workers all supported it.
31 They knew that. I wasn't sitting on their
32 laurels. I wanted the hell out of there. But I
33 wasn't willing to surrender my pets, my beloved
34 pets, to have a roof over my head. And that's a
35 very big huge problem, at least in this province.

36 There are people that surrender their pets
37 not because they don't love them and can't care
38 for them; they have to make a choice between a
39 roof over their heads or their pets, and that's
40 wrong. Landlords come back, oh, they mess up --
41 well, it's a business, then get out of it or
42 whatever.

43 Thankfully my landlords, I adore them.
44 They're pet lovers and I love them for it. But I
45 have always told people, I want you to meet my
46 pets first. Please don't put me in the same
47 category as other people. I'd have my dogs here

1 all week if I could. So that was the problem.
2 And also that the rent costs were egregious.
3 They're just obnoxious. And some of the places
4 that I saw I wouldn't let a dead dog lie in it.
5 And I would even say that to some of the
6 landlords. I had a landlord say to me once -- I
7 got to the point I wouldn't even tell them I had
8 two cats because they're, like, four animals?
9 They would make it sound like you're bringing in
10 a heard of buffalo. And it's like you tell the
11 truth and you get shot down.

12 But I had this one landlord say to me once,
13 who liked me and liked my references and all that
14 stuff, and then he comes back and he goes, Just
15 wondering, would you be willing -- he said, I'm
16 just a little uncomfortable with -- at that time
17 I had three pets. And he said, Would you be
18 willing to get rid of one of your pets? And I
19 said, Can I ask you a question? And he said,
20 Sure. And I said, Do you have any children? And
21 he said, Yeah, I have three, and he goes, And two
22 grand kids. I said, Would you be willing to get
23 rid of one of those? And he goes, Oh, I really
24 don't think that's the same. I said, It is in my
25 books. I said, Thank you very much. I said, No,
26 I would not like to rent from somebody like you.
27 I said, My pets are not disposable objects. And
28 I hung up on him.

29 So she was trying to backtrack I think by
30 this point, somebody within Secwepemc or
31 somewhere had told her you apprehended a child
32 based on something that we don't have
33 jurisdiction over. And not only that, while she
34 was in care, they didn't even put her in school.

35 SHEILA MAZHARI: So was any complaint filed against
36 the injury that your daughter sustained, or ...?

37 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yeah, I filed it with them. She was
38 returned pretty fast after that.

39 SHEILA MAZHARI: Anything beyond them? Like, did it
40 go to --

41 SHARNA SUGARMAN: No, it never went anywhere. The
42 majority of the time anybody files these informal
43 complaints and all of that stuff it never does
44 anything. Like, with the RCMP when you do a
45 formal or an informal complaint, actually I just
46 got a call this week from the centre of conduct
47 officer in Langley. I was at home from the

1 inquiry -- oh, no, it was just before the
2 inquiry, excuse me. Because she called me here
3 when I was at the inquiry. And I was just online
4 going through Facebook to sort of, you know,
5 destressing or whatever, and I came across this
6 article for -- I think it was for the Langley
7 Times and I took screenshots of it. And this
8 woman -- and she just says, I'm RCMP. So I
9 didn't know whether or not she was a cop or
10 whether or not she was civilian. And she
11 wrote -- her name is [Officer 10] [phonetic] and
12 this was on the Langley Times post March 29th:

13
14 I'm RCMP. I've bought many a lunch at
15 McDonalds or Tim Horton's hats, mitts,
16 socks, even jackets. I can truly say the
17 act of panhandlers use money for drugs. I'm
18 not speaking to all of our homeless; I
19 mention just the panhandlers. One died a
20 couple of weeks ago that I have known for
21 eight years to an overdose. I know these
22 people well. I have driven my share to
23 Creek Side in hopes for a bed to detox.

24
25 Another thing she wrote -- she wrote:

26
27 Please do not give the homeless money. Why
28 do you think they stay there? They are fed
29 well, have all the services they could
30 possibly need, and now the public helps fund
31 their addiction. In Langley, we only have
32 about ten who actively panhandle. What do
33 you think they do with that money? They buy
34 drugs with it. And before I get yelled at,
35 yes, I am in a position to know this as a
36 fact.

37
38 And I was absolutely incensed about this because,
39 one, I know for a fact that she -- because I
40 wrote:

41
42 Who I decide to give my money --

43
44 The whole article is that the City of Vancouver
45 and the City of Langley apparently are now
46 possibly going to pass a bylaw making it illegal
47 to give money to panhandlers or to the homeless.

1 Like, they're going to fine you. So I said:

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Who I decide to give my money to is my business. How about the board of directors for the City of Vancouver giving themselves a \$15,000 retirement gift?

That's what they have done. So when you leave the board -- within six months of leaving the board of directors for the City of Van, you get \$15,000.

And I was really, really angry at this comment that she wrote. And I wrote back to her on it saying that I would be contacting her superiors, which I did. And the standard of conduct officer contacted me back. Actually called me the other day when I was here. And she spoke with [Officer 11] who is the top cop at Langley. And she said, That's egregious and we're not allowed -- she's not allowed in her capacity as a police officer -- she's now told me she is an officer because I said, She just says "I'm RCMP," which could be civilian as well. I said, Or maybe she's not. Because it just says [Officer 10]; it doesn't have her last name. But she is a police officer because I sent her all of the -- through an email and by the photographs of her, she said, yeah, I know who she is.

So I asked to be able to address this officer and she said, Yeah, you can't do that. I said, Why? She said, That's not our policy. And I said, I don't care about your policy. I said, She needs to hear that she's out of line. She needs to also know that not every homeless person is an addict. She also needs to know that what somebody wants to do with their own personal money -- and I have told people this. I said, If you're not comfortable giving somebody money, then go buy them a sandwich, bring a sweater, go to Timmy's, give them a gift card. If you're not happy with giving them cash or comfortable -- that's fine. There's lots of other ways that you can help the homeless. But to make disparaging remarks like that, unacceptable. And she agreed.

So I still don't know this officer's name yet. And she said, Leave it with me. And I said, That's fine. I realize, you know -- give

1 you some time. So hopefully I might hear from
2 her maybe later this week or next week. But
3 that's what I mean. I cannot stand -- and I said
4 that to her, I said, Wow you're really
5 misinformed. I said, I don't know where you get
6 your evidence or your data from or whatever, but
7 not every panhandler, not everybody that lives on
8 the street is an addict. The chances of them
9 having an undiagnosed and untreated mental
10 illness, very high. But who are you to speak
11 like that? And she can't do that in her capacity
12 as a police officer. So I'm holding her
13 accountable.

14 But then for [Officer 11] to come
15 back and say that I can't address her -- and
16 also, it also states that it has to be handled
17 internally so I won't know what happens with this
18 officer, whether she's reprimanded, or if she is,
19 what that is. And I said that to -- her name is
20 [Officer 12]. And I said, so how do
21 I know if anything even happened? And I said,
22 With all due respect, you're asking me to keep
23 your word [sic]. I said, I don't think that
24 she's earned that right or that privacy or
25 whatever. I said, I don't want her to be in
26 tears. I'm not going to scream at her or
27 anything, but she needs to realize that you don't
28 make comments like that. And when you're a
29 police officer or when you're working in the
30 public sector, you don't get to treat Canadians
31 like that. These are human beings, you know.

32 So you buy them Tim's or you buy them
33 McDonalds or whatever, good for you. But what
34 somebody wants to do with their money, that's up
35 to them. There's lots of people that would like
36 to just give change or whatever to the homeless,
37 great. My big thing when I come across homeless,
38 definitely the guys that I zone in on is if they
39 have a dog. And I'll go right up to them and
40 say, Do you have dog food for that dog? And I
41 want to see it. Do you have water for that dog?
42 You've made somewhat of a choice to a certain
43 degree to live on the streets; that dog didn't.
44 So that's one thing I am on.

45 But I do it in a very respectful manner.
46 But I can't stand people marginalizing people.
47 And the corporal agreed with me. She said, No,

1 that is unacceptable. So we'll see where that
2 goes. But like Bernie Williams said, I don't
3 care if you like me or not; I know who I am. And
4 I only like people that are genuine and, you
5 know, want better for somebody else or whatever.

6 This world has been ruined by capitalism and
7 we're no better for it. The 1 percent are or
8 whatever. But at the end of the day we only have
9 one planet and it doesn't matter if you're Oprah
10 Winfrey, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, once --
11 what's the old Cherokee proverb is [sic]? Once
12 all the plants die and the water is turned black,
13 you can't eat your money, you know.

14 My people, the Indigenous people in this
15 planet, are really going to be the ones that are
16 going to save this planet in the end. But after
17 all of the systemic racism and hatred and bigotry
18 and discrimination, we are still there and we
19 still have hope for humanity at the end of the
20 day. That's the way I see it. We will rise.

21 I love Mother Earth. You know, I don't --
22 they talk about going to Mars and stuff like
23 that. I'm sorry, I don't want to live in a
24 biosphere. I want to live here. This is home.
25 And she's damaged and she's reeling and she's
26 hurt and we have to fix her. I don't know if
27 there's time anymore to fix her, but we all have
28 to play our part. And these things that are
29 going on and I am not making light of them, but
30 this is not helping anybody heal.

31 You know, humans -- we're a species that
32 evolve and yet we're the only species on this
33 planet that have ruined this planet. We have
34 other species, beautiful creatures that share
35 this planet and these oceans, they never asked
36 for any of this and we're polluting their homes
37 and their environments and we're encroaching all
38 the time because we think that we're superior.
39 Well, we're not.

40 When it came down to it, at the end of the
41 day, there are so many species on this planet
42 that could kick our asses, and rightly so, you
43 know. If it came down to, you know -- like,
44 these trophy hunters, I'm like, you want to kill
45 that lion? Kill it with your bare hands. If you
46 do, well, there you go.

47 Anybody can shoot something if you wanted

1 to, but why should you shoot something? You
2 should only hunt in order to feed something. And
3 when my people bag a moose or whatever, they
4 share it with the elders. Every part is eaten.
5 Same thing with the Inuit. My God, they eat seal
6 eyeballs for God sakes. You know, every piece is
7 used and they also give a blessing and a prayer
8 to the animal when it's killed for giving its
9 life for their family to be able to live.

10 You know, I have the ability with my status
11 card to -- I can hunt and trap and fish 365 days
12 a year. There's my status card. But I don't.
13 One, I'm a hypocrite. I could never -- I
14 couldn't hunt anything, but I certainly could
15 never trap. I don't believe in trapping. I
16 think it's an unbelievably cruel and obnoxious
17 device to use on an animal. I just -- it's
18 inhumane and every part of it is just wrong.

19 But, you know, this inquiry had to happen
20 and I thank Prime Minister Trudeau for keeping
21 his promise. I would like to see an extension.
22 I'd like to see the inquiry go to all the
23 territories and all the provinces and -- but I
24 would like to see the inquiry have some teeth.
25 And that's where I have concerns, is if you
26 cannot hold some of the these agencies
27 accountable and if it comes down to,
28 recommendations of firings or terminations of
29 jobs or criminal charges, then it's just written
30 on paper. It doesn't -- you know, like --

31 Marion Buller is a retired judge as, you
32 know, Murray Sinclair was with the Truth and
33 Reconciliation Commission. They should have been
34 able to have the authority, if it comes through
35 the investigations, if people have to be
36 criminally charged -- you know, with the SIU, the
37 way it works, it's the director that decides in
38 the end whether a criminal charge -- he has the
39 same authority as a Crown prosecutor. Why can't
40 Marion Buller have that authority? We have now
41 got a new female RCMP commissioner Brenda Lucki,
42 I believe her name is. We're 2018. The RCMP is
43 shattered, literally, internally, externally from
44 the viewpoint of a lot of people. What power
45 does she have to eradicate a lot of these heinous
46 and law violating officers under her. Paulson
47 did nothing. So what's the point of having a

1 commissioner? Like, nobody should have immunity.

2 If you break the law -- the law is there for
3 everybody. The law does not see in colour or
4 affluence or disability, anything like that. The
5 law is the law, and without the law, humans
6 cannot function. There's nothing but anarchy.
7 We're the only species on this planet that needs
8 laws. Everything else there's fight or flight or
9 you're predator or you're pray. Nature is raw
10 and cruel but it's just. It is precise. It is
11 what it is. We're the only species that has to
12 have laws or all hell breaks loose.

13 So what can the inquiry provide to my people
14 as some type of reassurance that any type of real
15 justice, especially for some of these people that
16 lost family members -- Robert Pickton -- or their
17 loved ones, their remains were found. But these
18 were people and they could tell by the DNA sort
19 of roughly how long they were -- they died -- how
20 long ago they died. And some of the these women
21 were reported missing and last seen at the
22 Pickton farm and yet the police did nothing. How
23 can you not hold that person accountable? You
24 could be held accountable -- if you committed a
25 crime and showed up at my house and said, oh my
26 God, I got to get out of here and I give you 100
27 bucks, I can be charged with aiding and abetting,
28 whether or not I think you're innocent or not,
29 yet in their capacity as police officers, they
30 did nothing.

31 So who told them not to -- which officer --
32 was it a high ranking official? Was it a
33 frontline worker that said, I don't feel like
34 going there today? These are sex trade workers;
35 what do I care? You know, that's how this is all
36 perceived. And I think there's a hell of a lot
37 of merit to that. You didn't treat them like
38 human beings, like somebody's child, somebody's
39 loved one. They were disposable people.

40 These aren't pedophiles that, in my opinion,
41 are disposable objects. They're people that
42 should not even be able to breathe anymore.
43 Prostitution is not illegal in Canada. The
44 Supreme Court ruled on it. It doesn't matter
45 what you think. If I called and said, my
46 daughter is missing, you better get on it right
47 now. But it's amazing how often if you have

Sharna Sugarman

1 money or you have affluence and you're Caucasian,
2 they're all over it.

3 SHEILA MAZHARI: You didn't finish reading the --

4 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Oh, that's right. I'm sorry.

5 SHEILA MAZHARI: That's okay.

6 SHARNA SUGARMAN: So yeah.

7

8 More affordable housing and rural
9 transitional housing, including pet care and
10 livestock care. Six, using public schools
11 in the summer, maybe even over weekends,
12 Christmas breaks, March breaks for shelters.

13

14 You'd use them in an emergency, you know, if we
15 had an earthquake or anything like that. So why
16 can't it say -- 6:00 o'clock on a Friday night
17 until 7:00 o'clock on a Sunday night, why can't
18 the gymnasiums be open with cots for the
19 homeless? Why? You know, if they want -- they
20 can have some police officers there, they could
21 hire security, whatever, you know. And my last
22 one:

23

24 Addiction is a health care issue, not a
25 criminal matter.

26

27 So it's clogging up our criminal justice system
28 when it has nothing to do with that, you know.
29 Like I said, no one is immune to mental health or
30 addictions.

31 SHEILA MAZHARI: Did you want to talk a little bit
32 about your work at WAVAW?

33 SHARNA SUGARMAN: I just started my job at WAVAW. But
34 I would have been coming here anyway in my own
35 capacity as an advocate and to support the women
36 without question. WAVAW has been very paramount
37 in the community for over 30 years.

38 SHEILA MAZHARI: Can you spell it?

39 SHARNA SUGARMAN: WAVAW is spelled W-A-V-A-W. And it
40 stands for women against violence against women.
41 And they have a 24-hour crisis line, which is
42 generally run by volunteers 365 days a year. I
43 also do crisis counselling strictly for First
44 Nations usually on the weekends and I have been
45 very busy obviously because of the fentanyl
46 crisis.

47 And with the inquiry coming up, I had a lot

1 of calls from people that were dealing with, you
2 know, their anxiety about all of that and --
3 yeah, I do that usually on Friday and Saturday
4 nights. I usually start at midnight until about
5 8:00 in the morning. St. Patty's day night I
6 started at 9:00 o'clock in the morning and I
7 didn't finish until 1:00 o'clock the next day.

8 Mental health funding in this country is not
9 funded enough. Mental health surpassed --
10 underneath the World Health Organization about
11 five years ago, it surpassed heart disease as the
12 number one health concern or problem, issue on
13 the planet. And when -- and I am finding a lot
14 of police officers that I have spoken to are in
15 agreeance that addictions and mental health
16 should not be a criminal matter, especially
17 addictions, drugs, and stuff like that.

18 Portugal has now decriminalized all drugs in
19 their country and they're actually seeing their
20 crime rates have dropped immensely. Their
21 costs -- in-court costs and police costs have
22 dropped immensely. You need to leave it up to
23 the experts and the people that are in these
24 fields. I think that mental health needs to
25 start at an early age in the public systems as
26 part of the education. What parents decide to do
27 at home in their house as long as they're not
28 harming a child is their own choice, but I
29 certainly would encourage people to talk openly
30 about mental illness in their own homes, because
31 one in five people suffer from mental illness.
32 And I know in my home -- I know my father never
33 would have been like that. He never
34 discriminated against anybody in his entire life.

35 He was Jewish and he was one of the first
36 Jews ever accepted into the private golf club in
37 my hometown. And he was -- he brought in a man
38 that he had befriended who was African-Canadian.
39 And some of his buddies sat on the board of
40 directors and they pulled him aside -- and my
41 father's name was [Father], but everybody called
42 him [Nickname]. And somebody that he
43 was really shocked at pulled him aside and said,
44 What are you doing? Can't be bringing a black
45 guy in here. And this was, like, in the 60s. My
46 father turned and said, I beg your pardon? And
47 he said, Well, you know, people are going to

Sharna Sugarman

1 look, and ... He said, Well, if he goes, I go.
2 Because my father wanted to sponsor him for
3 membership.

4 And at first the board was against it. And
5 my father went into the board of directors,
6 chewed them all out and he said, You either let
7 him in, he said, Or I'm out and I will go to the
8 media and you know exactly how many people in the
9 city will listen to me. The guy had membership
10 by the end of the day. He was the first -- he
11 went to -- apparently he went to my father and
12 was, like, I don't want to cause any problems. I
13 don't want to cause any problems. And he said,
14 You're not causing any problems; they're the
15 problem.

16 But the other members of my family, they
17 need an up and comings when it comes to mental
18 illness. But that's their problem, you know.
19 But yeah, mental illness is definitely an
20 addictions -- and it's not an easy fix. I have
21 an issue with -- and I have worked at some of
22 these addiction centres where they have, you
23 know, zero tolerance policy. Well, it's very
24 hard to be realistic and think that somebody
25 isn't going to slip up and then your first
26 instinct and policy is to throw them out? Well,
27 some of these addiction centres cost \$30,000 a
28 month. Most people can't afford that. And if
29 you do slip up, you don't get your money back.
30 You sign all of that when you register and when
31 you sign in.

32 I'm sorry, would you say that to a
33 chemotherapy person? Oh, your first treatment
34 didn't work or you got sick during it; we'll cut
35 you off. Never. But the body is addicted to
36 something. The person may want to be clean and
37 wants to get off it; the body is craving whatever
38 it is it's addicted to. And come hell or high
39 water, if you have watched somebody go through
40 withdrawal, it's horrendous. You can't -- that's
41 just not a realistic way of dealing with
42 healthcare, you know. I don't know. I've never
43 agreed with that. I understand the -- I
44 understand the implications and the issues if
45 somebody's caught bringing in cocaine or
46 something like that into treatment centres; I get
47 that. But give me a break, you know. Like ...

1 I always look at it like they don't really
2 understand addiction then because it's not a
3 one-cure-all for everybody. Everybody is
4 different and the biggest thing is -- the only
5 thing they really have in common is at the end of
6 it, they will always be addicts. They will have
7 to work at this for the rest of their lives.
8 Sure, there are people out there that have been
9 clean a year, 30 years, 20 years, whatever it is
10 and they have had a wonderful way of kicking
11 their addiction or their habit, but for some
12 people it will be a life. And sometimes it's
13 because of the trauma they went through.

14 The majority of people, in my opinion, that
15 suffer from addiction are trying to escape and
16 have it because they are trying to deal with some
17 type of trauma they went through. Could have
18 been something from their childhood, their youth,
19 could have been a car accident they were in,
20 could have been a surgery that went bad and the
21 doctors are, like, here you go, Sheila, here's
22 some morphine. Next thing you know you're an
23 addict by no fault of your own. Same thing with
24 somebody that was molested as a child and they
25 abuse a substance. You know, it's a numbing
26 thing.

27 Is it the right thing to do? No, probably
28 it isn't, but it's all, like, a domino effect.
29 When you're not mentally well and your
30 self-esteem is battered and bruised, you don't
31 have a roof over your head, you've lost your job,
32 you have lost your kids, whatever it is that you
33 have gone through, what the hell is it just to
34 get loaded or get yourself high? It's like going
35 on vacation for a week. We've all gone away and
36 been hammered for -- solidly for a week and made
37 jokes going, thank God I had a camera because I
38 don't remember being on that catamaran or
39 whatever. But that's not what you do normally
40 when you come back. Well, that's not normal
41 behaviour either, but that's how people manage to
42 get through their day. And those are the people
43 that we need to pick up, not to push down.

44 And if you can't do this work -- this job
45 isn't for everybody. Believe me it's not. It's
46 horrible sometimes to watch people suffer the way
47 they have. But I have dedicated my life to be an

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1 advocate. I'm raising a child to see this world
2 for all of its beauty, all of its atrocities,
3 everything. And if she can do anything to help
4 somebody, then I'm proud of her, you know. Maybe
5 she'll never make a million dollars, but if she
6 can save a life in that timeframe, that's
7 everything, you know, and that's how I've raised
8 her. She used to come around with her little
9 plastic little wagon and we would have blankets
10 in there and toques and sweaters and everything
11 and she'd meet the guys -- I had three guys in my
12 hometown called Dave and they could never call me
13 Sharna; they could never remember my name, so
14 they used to call me Sugar because my last name
15 is Sugarman, so that always stuck. And they used
16 to call her Little Sugar.

17 And she would come around and, you know, we
18 would go -- we would rally and we would collect
19 stuff and whatever and we would go around and she
20 still does it to this day. When I went to Cuba
21 in 2010, she saved up all her clothes for the
22 year and I bought a -- I borrowed a buddy's
23 hockey bag, rolled all the clothes in it and we
24 took them down and divvied them all out to
25 whoever we could and whatever. And, you know,
26 it's just little things like that, but the smile
27 that it puts on people's faces because you -- she
28 was telling me about a gentleman that she met
29 down in Gastown, because her friend lives on
30 Abbot Street, and I think his name was Rod. I
31 think that's his name. It's either Ron or Rod.
32 And he's an elderly homeless guy and he's a
33 veteran, which is very sad. And she just stopped
34 to talk to him one day and apparently his face
35 lit up that somebody wanted to talk to him and
36 that he was so thankful that somebody just wanted
37 to say hi and how is your day and all this stuff.
38 And she took him into a cafe and got him
39 something to eat and a hot drink and stuff like
40 that. And she came home to me and she was almost
41 in tears about it. And she said, Mom, you know
42 how much it hurts me to see the homeless people.
43 She goes, But the elderly people really,
44 really -- it hurts me.

45 And I said, I know. It's really hard. When
46 we come in to Vancouver, I generally come down
47 Hastings Street from the highway and when I get

1 down to around Main Street or whatever, it's just
2 so hard watching these people day in, day out be
3 on the sides and I see these tents. I'll go to
4 Oppenheimer Park in Vancouver and advocate and
5 try to help people to get off the streets or try
6 to get them in a shelter or try to get them on
7 social assistance.

8 And up until -- I remember in Ontario -- I
9 think it was just before my daughter was born,
10 you couldn't even get on social assistance unless
11 you had a permanent address. Well, how can you
12 have a permanent address if you're homeless? So
13 we pushed and we advocated and we lobbied the
14 provincial government and they allowed people to
15 be able to use shelters as a temporary address so
16 they could at least get a cheque. And that's
17 what I mean by politicians -- they don't get it.
18 And I would love to -- honestly I'm going to
19 challenge you guys if it ever gets to this -- and
20 I apologize to whoever is transcribing this that
21 I have gone on, oh my God. My apologies.

22 I would like to see every municipal,
23 provincial, and federal politician try to go a
24 year on what they would be eligible for if they
25 were on social assistance or disability. And I
26 bet you you would see things change really fast.

27 I know there was an MLA, I think down in
28 Surrey just a couple of years ago that tried to
29 do that. And within -- I think it was -- he was
30 trying to do it for a month and I think it was --
31 I don't even know if he was on his ninth day and
32 he was already on the streets. And he told his
33 family -- he had a wife and two young kids -- and
34 he said, No, you're not packing me any food.
35 You're not coming and bringing me anything to
36 eat. He lost a bunch of weight.

37 SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you know his name?

38 SHARNA SUGARMAN: No. I believe he was East Indian.
39 You would have to Google it.

40 SHEILA MAZHARI: In Surrey?

41 SHARNA SUGARMAN: I think it was in Surrey. For some
42 reason it stands out. This was about -- well,
43 it's been since I have been in BC, so somewhere
44 in the last six years.

45 And he was on the news as well. But yeah,
46 he ended up living on the street. And it was
47 cold. And he didn't even do it in the middle of

1 winter. I think he did it in, like, June or
2 something. It was, like, May or June or
3 September or something like that. And it was
4 very humbling for him. But I would love to see
5 all the politicians try to do that. They
6 couldn't do it, you know.

7 This is not what bothers me -- and, like,
8 that comment that the officer said in the Langley
9 Times saying that they're fed well and they have
10 got all these services, people on social
11 assistance and disability are not thriving;
12 they're surviving, and barely sometimes, you
13 know. Unless you're on disability, you can't get
14 a bus pass. Transit should be covered. In my
15 home province, we have what's called Ontario
16 Works, and if you're on social assistance or what
17 people call welfare, the province will pay -- you
18 can apply for what's called -- what do they call
19 it again -- Community Startup Fund, I think, or
20 Program. And they will pay your, like, last
21 month's rent because we don't do damage deposit
22 in Ontario. You pay first and last month's rent.
23 And then there's also -- the landlord has to
24 apply whatever the -- whatever the provincial --
25 what is it called again -- the provincial rate
26 for the money because they're supposed to hold
27 the money in the bank. It's supposed to skew
28 money over time and you have to apply that no
29 matter how long you have lived there.

30 But you can apply, a family can apply for --
31 I think it's every two years up to -- I think
32 it's up to \$2,000. And if you want to use part
33 of that towards your last month's rent or
34 whatever it is. But the rest of the money can go
35 towards -- like, let's say it's somebody -- a
36 mother fleeing an abusive home, well, you can use
37 that money to buy what you need. If you need
38 more clothes, if you need small appliances, you
39 just have to bring in the receipts. But you can
40 buy stuff off Kijiji and, you know, somebody just
41 writes you a little receipt or whatever or you
42 can go to the Sally Anne and get a voucher. And
43 there's all these things that you can do.

44 But in Ontario, transit is covered. You get
45 a bus pass. All your prescriptions are covered.
46 Dental is covered, obviously to a certain degree,
47 eye exams, stuff like that. But in BC, not

1 everything is covered. For children it is but
2 not always for the recipients. I think transit
3 is huge. You know, not everybody can live in an
4 urban environment or is right downtown or
5 whatever. And, you know, people say if you can't
6 afford to live in Vancouver, you shouldn't live
7 there. Well, who the hell do they think these
8 people are that are working at Starbucks and
9 local restaurants and your bars and your hair
10 salons and stuff; they're not millionaires. I
11 actually know somebody that lives in Abbotsford
12 that is a hairdresser but she works in Downtown
13 Vancouver. That's her commute five days a week.
14 And I am, like, why do you do that? She says,
15 Well, I can't afford to live there. That's
16 crazy. But when people say that, well, if you
17 can't afford to live in Vancouver -- I see that
18 online all the time. And I sit there and laugh
19 and I go, Are you an idiot? Are you a moron? I
20 said, Where do you think -- like, how much do you
21 think these people are getting paid to work at
22 McDonalds and Walmart and everything? I said, Do
23 you not think they have these businesses in
24 Vancouver? Who do you think is pumping your gas?
25 You know, and then they talk about minimum
26 wage, about \$15 an hour. Well, sadly that's what
27 capitalism does. As soon as somebody makes 15
28 bucks an hour, your rent is going to go up, this
29 is going to go up. It's never ending, you know.
30 The governments need to really freeze some of
31 these things. Same thing with foreign investment
32 in regards to buying properties here. I'm sorry,
33 I'm not saying this as being racist, but if
34 you're not a Canadian citizen, you shouldn't be
35 able to own anything here if you're not occupying
36 it. If you're not occupying your 5 million
37 dollar house in West Vancouver because you live
38 overseas, well, then you're property tax should
39 go through the roof for vacancy tax.
40 And I also think that if there's houses that
41 are vacant by the owners, whether they're for
42 sale or not, they should have to rent them out.
43 Why should they stay vacant? You know,
44 affordable housing, you know, there's some
45 municipalities -- like, in Maple Ridge, you can
46 have a basement suite in your house, but the
47 owner has to live in the building, so whether

1 they live in the basement or upstairs. So in
2 order for you to get that and to get the building
3 permits, you have to prove to them that you're
4 living in the house. Well, there are some people
5 that don't and so then they're building these
6 basement suites illegally and that's why I'm
7 saying I think things need to be -- you should
8 have to pay for a license to be a landlord. It
9 doesn't have to be huge. It can be \$100 or
10 whatever it is. And maybe when you're units pass
11 inspection, you get that money back. But you
12 also get -- like, when you have to get a building
13 permit, you have to post it somewhere. It has to
14 be public so somebody can -- and go, oh,
15 so-and-so is doing this and it's a building
16 permit.

17 Same thing with that. Or, like, a liquor
18 licence; it has to be visible. So if you own a
19 triplex, it should be somewhere visible for your
20 tenants or, you know, somebody comes in from
21 Fortis or BC Hydro and it's there with a date.
22 I'm from the municipality. Yes, this complex or
23 these units passed inspection on such-and-such a
24 date. And maybe it has to be re-inspected
25 depending on the severity or whatever it was.
26 Maybe every couple or years or three years or
27 maybe there's -- like ICBC, maybe you can build
28 something up if your places are passing
29 inspection and they're great. But there's so
30 many pits out there and slumlords that are taking
31 advantage of people.

32 Same thing with the Residential Tenancy Act.
33 You can't have any protection underneath the
34 Residential Tenancy Act if you share a kitchen
35 and bathroom with your landlord, which is the
36 most bizarre thing I have ever heard. But the
37 reason they have that is they implemented it
38 years ago when a family rented a room to their
39 son or something. And when he became -- you
40 know, his behaviour went wrong or something, they
41 got him out of the house and somehow it went
42 through the courts or whatever. And back in the
43 day, the BC government came back and said, okay,
44 well, we'll change it where if you share a
45 kitchen and bath with the landlord, then you
46 can't file against anybody. And the same thing
47 with the landlord; the landlord can't file

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1 against you either.

2 But then there's no protection because
3 there's lots of people that are low income and
4 they have to rent a room or international
5 students or students that have to rent a room
6 from somebody because that's all they can afford
7 but they have no protection; meaning, you could
8 come home and find your stuff out on the front
9 lawn and there isn't any -- if you need to --
10 there isn't anything -- you don't have any
11 recourse. Yes, my God. I could go on for hours.
12 I feel like I'm venting.

13 SHEILA MAZHARI: You have such amazing and valuable
14 insight. I really appreciate ...

15 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Well, I just want to see my country
16 better. We're too rich of a nation to have one
17 homeless person on our streets. To me, it's a
18 stain on all of us. It's unacceptable. There is
19 no reason for it, you know. And Bernie hit a
20 couple -- Bernie Williams hit a couple of really
21 good points today. And some people don't realize
22 this when I educate them, there are a lot of
23 agencies out there where their CEOs are getting
24 paid a few million dollars a year, yet they're
25 supposed to be nonprofit or not for profit. Give
26 me a break. If you can pay your CEO that kind of
27 money, like, that's not -- that makes no sense to
28 me whatsoever. You know, like, how can you
29 justify that? How can you -- well, look at the
30 United Way, their CEO, I think, makes 2 and 4
31 million dollars a year. Really? You know?
32 People need to do their research on certain
33 things.

34 And I would like to see, too, with some
35 non-profits as well, if you're looking to, you
36 know, put your agency somewhere and a building is
37 willing to bring in the nonprofit, I think their
38 rent should be much lower so that they can
39 utilize whatever funding or donations they have
40 more towards -- for, you know, their frontline
41 workers helping the homeless or women or children
42 or whatever they're doing. And maybe that owner
43 of the building can get some type of serious tax
44 benefit or something or reduction from the
45 provincial and federal government for -- instead
46 of renting out their space for \$15,000 a month,
47 they're renting it out for half of that or less

1 than half of that because it's going to a
2 nonprofit because it's going to an agency that's
3 trying to help the homeless or women against
4 violence or whatever. I know where I am at,
5 WAVAW -- I don't even want to know how much they
6 pay for rent there. It's a beautiful office, but
7 I don't even want to know how much they pay. And
8 that's what I would like to see.

9 You know, it can't always be capitalism and
10 what's best for me or, you know, dog-eat-dog
11 world. I just -- I don't -- I just don't
12 acclimate to that whatsoever. We're all one
13 people trying to -- we should really -- all we
14 should be doing is we should be trying to save
15 this planet, not fighting each other, all those
16 things. I always tell anybody whether it's
17 online or I meet them, any immigrant that comes
18 to my country, I welcome with open arms. If
19 you're coming here fleeing oppression or hate or
20 war, you know, all these immigrants that are
21 fleeing the United States, I don't blame them. I
22 welcome them here. But when people sit there and
23 say oh, they're terrorists, they're illegals,
24 blah, blah, blah, I'm, like, you know what, if
25 you're not Indigenous at one point, you're an
26 immigrant too or you hale from an immigrant. But
27 I'm not fearful of the people that are crossing
28 into Canada from the United States or Syrians
29 that are coming from Syria; I fear you and all
30 this racism that you are spewing right now. Who
31 are you? Who do you think you are to do that?
32 How dare you.

33 These people -- don't tell me that Syrians,
34 if they could, would want to go back to their
35 home country. That's where -- that's what they
36 know, that's what they love. But their country
37 has been decimated by war. Maybe in 20 or 30
38 years, maybe some of their generations, if
39 they're still alive, some of their ancestors will
40 be able to go back if they want to. But in the
41 meantime, I welcome them here.

42 And people say, we don't have enough housing
43 for our people. Yeah, we don't but we can do
44 both. It doesn't need to be a competition. But
45 affordable housing needs to be built. There's
46 enough condominiums and there's enough million
47 dollar houses and stuff like that. When are

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1 municipalities and the provinces and the federal
2 government really going to take a look at this.

3 The average rent cost in Vancouver is, like,
4 \$3,100. Who the hell can afford that? You know.
5 There are low income people in every town,
6 village, and city. And certainly there's tons of
7 them in Vancouver. And people say, Oh, well, if
8 you can't afford to live in Vancouver, you
9 shouldn't live there. Okay. So then you're
10 going to see a lot of these small businesses go
11 out of business. You're going to see all these
12 places close and then they're going to complain
13 and go, oh, I can't get my favourite coffee
14 anymore at Starbucks. Well, who the hell do you
15 think works there, you know? People are just --
16 blinders, you know. And they love to sit behind
17 their computers and bitch and complain. And I
18 say either be part of the solution or shut up.

19 I'm going to let you go because I got to --
20 SHEILA MAZHARI: Okay. Sharna, can we spell your name
21 for the record?

22 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Yeah, it's S-h-a-r-n-a
23 S-u-g-a-r-m-a-n, Sugarman, just like it sounds.

24 SHEILA MAZHARI: Thank you so much for sharing.

25 SHARNA SUGARMAN: Oh my God. I can't believe what
26 time it is. I feel so bad.

27 SHEILA MAZHARI: No, don't feel bad.

28 SHARNA SUGARMAN: I should feel bad. I'm, like, oh
29 I'm probably not even going to use up my two
30 hours. Oh My Lord.

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Reporter's certification

(PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 5:00 P.M.)

REPORTER CERTIFICATION

I, Alyssa Fontaine, Official Reporter in the Province of British Columbia, Canada, do hereby certify:

That the proceedings were transcribed by me from audiotapes provided of taped proceedings, and the same is a true and correct and complete transcript of said recording to the best of my skill and ability.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 16th day of May, 2018.

Alyssa Fontaine
Official Reporter