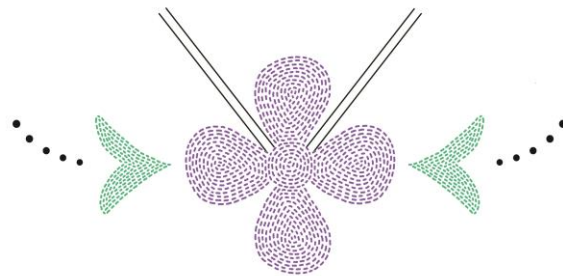


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls  
Truth-Gathering Process  
Part 1 Public Hearings  
Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel  
Elmbridge Room  
Metro Vancouver, British Columbia**



**PUBLIC**

**Wednesday April 4, 2018**

**Public Volume 85  
Roxana Wilson, Jacquita White & Samantha Pelkey,  
In relation to Adriane Wadhams**

**Heard by Commissioner Michèle Audette  
Commission Counsel: Shelby Thomas**

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## II

### APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations	No Appearance
Government of British Columbia	Leah Greathead (Legal Counsel)
Government of Canada	Anne McConville (Legal Counsel)
Heiltsuk First Nation	No Appearance
Northwest Indigenous Council Society	No Appearance
Our Place - Ray Cam Co-operative Centre	No Appearance
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada	No Appearance
Vancouver Sex Workers' Rights Collective	No Appearance
Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak/Women of the Métis Nation	No Appearance

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Commissioner: Michèle Audette

Commission Counsel: Shelby Thomas

Grandmothers, Elders and Knowledge-keepers: Gilda Morgan, Sharon Brass, Ruth Alfred

Clerks: Bryana Bouchir and Maryiam Khoury

egistrar: Bryan Zandberg

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1 Metro Vancouver, British Columbia

2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 4:33 p.m.

3 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Good afternoon,  
4 Commissioner Audette. I am Shelby Thomas and I am  
5 Commission counsel with the National Inquiry.

6 I wanted to take the time to show my  
7 gratitude for being welcomed on this territory.

8 This afternoon we'll be hearing from  
9 Jacquita Wadhams, Roxana Wilson, and Samantha Pelkey.

10 Mr. Registrar, Jacquita and Samantha would  
11 like to promise to tell the truth, and Roxana would like to  
12 affirm on the feather.

13 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Good afternoon. We'll  
14 start with -- is it Jacita?

15 **MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** Jacquita.

16 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Jacquita, okay.

17 Jacquita, do you promise to tell the truth  
18 in a good way this afternoon? Oh.

19 Just let's do it again. You needed a  
20 microphone.

21 Do you promise to tell your truth in a good  
22 way this afternoon?

23 **MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** I promise.

24 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Okay, thank you.

25 And over to Samantha. Hi Samantha.



1 comes (speaking in Kwak'wala), Jimmy Wadhams, and Beatrice  
2 Newell (phonetic) from Chief Lageose (phonetic).

3 (Speaking in Kwak'wala). It is an honour to  
4 introduce my family in our traditional way because they are  
5 my royal family of the (speaking in Kwak'wala).

6 And I want my family to know that you have  
7 all of us here behind you to support you and that we're  
8 here to speak our truth (speaking in Kwak'wala).

9 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** If we could just start  
10 by having you guys introduce yourself to Commissioner  
11 Audette, and where you're from?

12 **MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY:** (Speaking Native  
13 language) My name is Samantha, and I'm from Alert Bay.

14 **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** (Speaking in Kwak'wala),  
15 and also from Alert Bay. My name is Roxana Wilson.

16 **MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** (Speaking in Kwak'wala)  
17 Jacquita. I am from Alert Bay and (indiscernible)

18 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** I know it's important  
19 for you guys to celebrate Adriane's life so if you could  
20 just share a few stories and tell us a little bit about who  
21 she was.

22 **MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY:** I just wanted to share  
23 about Adriane, she was full of life. She was really,  
24 really happy. She loved to sing and she loved to dance and  
25 she was very bubbly, her personality was outgoing. She

1           wasn't shy or afraid. People -- she would draw people in.  
2           She would always draw in a crowd. As young as she was, she  
3           -- she just did everything from her heart. She was very  
4           beautiful.

5                           **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** My daughter, she was  
6           such a beautiful little girl. And a real miracle. She was  
7           a miracle baby.

8                           We almost lost her at an infant age of two  
9           weeks when she was diagnosed with hydrocephalus and she  
10          spent most of her infant life until she was almost one  
11          year's old in the hospital because of having numerous  
12          surgeries. And they kept getting infected so they kept her  
13          in and just monitored her through medication and  
14          antibiotics.

15                          But she was a real go-getter. She fought and  
16          she was very strong. What the doctors had said about her  
17          she proved them wrong. They said that she would never go  
18          into a public school. That she would go into a special  
19          school.

20                          And at that time she wasn't walking and she  
21          was almost two years old. And when we got back home from  
22          doing her follow-up medical trips, we got home and the next  
23          day she just got up. She didn't walk; she ran. And the  
24          doctors said that she would be in a wheelchair if she  
25          hadn't walked.



1                   But I just remember, you know, how much of a  
2 fighter she was because when they would inject needles into  
3 her head because of the infections and the open wound, they  
4 doctors would ask me to leave because they didn't want me  
5 to see that. But I would be in the waiting room and I  
6 could hear her screaming. And I would be in the waiting  
7 area and I'd be crying because all I wanted to do was be  
8 there and hold her but they wouldn't allow me to see that.

9                   But the thing was when they would come back  
10 out, the doctor and the nurses would tell me to go back in,  
11 they said it was okay to go in and see my daughter, my  
12 baby, and she immediately stopped crying, you know. And  
13 her little hands would be waving in the air and just  
14 motioning me to pick her up, and that's what I would do.  
15 And she just forgot all about the pain, you know, when she  
16 saw my face and just wanted me to hold her.

17                   That's what I remember of her. She was just  
18 a real fighter. She -- her eyes were so sparkling they  
19 just remind me of a sparkling diamond, you know? They just  
20 sparkled and she was happy. Like Samantha had said, just  
21 everything Samantha said that's what she -- who Adriane  
22 was.

23                   We called her Agy-Bear and the reason why  
24 she got that name, Agy-Bear, was every May sports in Alert  
25 Bay they would have a soccer tournament. And remember the

1 safety bear that they had there? There was like a Smokey  
2 the Bear safety bear and when it walked, it waddled. And  
3 my Dad pipes up and he says, "Oh, there you go. We got a  
4 nickname for Adriane. Because she was so tiny for a six-  
5 year-old, you know? And her pamper, it just like  
6 (indiscernible) right out, made it look like she had a big  
7 butt. And she waddled when she walked, so he said, "We'll  
8 call her Agy-Bear.

9 So that's how she got her name was from my  
10 late Dad. And she was a miracle baby. She was a blessing  
11 to all of us, you know?

12 Thank you.

13 **MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** Where to start? She --  
14 my sister, Adriane, was very -- I'll say it again she was  
15 beautiful, inside and out. She -- when she smiled, her  
16 eyes smiled. She'd walk into a room and she -- well, yeah,  
17 she wouldn't walk, she'd run, and she'd be smiling and  
18 she'd be laughing. And like my sister and my Mum said, she  
19 loved to sing, go to church and she would sing.

20 Her favourite band was Guns N' Roses. Sweet  
21 Child of Mine, as soon as that song would come on she would  
22 dance, she'd dress up like them, play the guitar. Put on  
23 her bandana.

24 She wouldn't take no for an answer. She was  
25 so sparkly. Everything about her, her clothes, her -- she

1 loved -- I remember my Mum telling me she had shoes that  
2 were sparkly, like they were just glitter. The only thing  
3 I can picture, the one thing -- like, the one thing that I  
4 really hold onto is her smile. And her unconditional love.  
5 That was -- she's just beautiful, very beautiful.

6 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** The participants would  
7 like to submit to the Commission the Reasons for Sentence  
8 of Jason James Kennedy.

9 In whatever details you feel comfortable,  
10 can you share what happened to Adriane?

11 **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1998, my  
12 daughter, Adriane Cecile Wadhams, was brutally murdered.  
13 She was six years old.

14 (SHORT PAUSE)

15 **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** I won't go into detail  
16 but I remember I was just so tired because my ex-husband  
17 had broken his leg and he was three weeks into recovery.  
18 And by that time, I was, like, so tired of taking care of  
19 everyone, so my ex-father-in-law, or late father-in-law  
20 now, he stopped by to visit and he seen how tired I was.  
21 So he asked to take the kids for the weekend. And we  
22 dropped them off that Friday evening after school was over  
23 -- out.

24 And I was really just second-guessing  
25 everything because my kids, I had just gotten them back

1           because they were apprehended from me. I -- from the  
2           Ministry.

3                           I was dealing with -- every time I went back  
4           home it was just a reminder of everything I left, why I  
5           left, of dealing with my sexual abuse and other things.  
6           But this one time that I moved home, I just fell off the  
7           deep end and I started drinking lots, and just leaving my  
8           kids with this babysitter. And this time it just went too  
9           far where I just lost myself. And I was gone, I believe,  
10          for like, five, seven days, and my kids ended up getting  
11          apprehended. And when I got them back, we moved to Fort  
12          Rupert, and I felt I couldn't live in Alert Bay anymore.

13                          And the -- having the kids go to my father-  
14          in-law didn't matter -- like, I was so tired but I was  
15          just, like, second-guessing myself. And we brought them  
16          anyways and we all hugged and then my ex-husband and I went  
17          home.

18                          But I'll never forget the hug that Adriane  
19          gave me that day. Like, it was different. It was real  
20          different. Like, she just ran and leaped on me, like --  
21          and gave me -- put her arms around my neck and kissed me.

22                          And we went -- my ex-husband and I went home  
23          and the next day -- I believe it was the next day there was  
24          this knock on my door. I'm going ahead a little bit.

25                          I remember waking up that day three times, I

1 was so tired and my ex-husband kept telling me to go to  
2 sleep, and he said that the kids were fine. But I woke up  
3 crying and I said, "I really miss the kids. It's too quiet  
4 in here. But I'm really worried about Adriane." I said,  
5 "I'm really worried about Agy-Bear." And then he told me  
6 just to go back to sleep.

7 After the third time of telling me that,  
8 there was a knock on the door and there was this lady at  
9 the door with Jacquita. And Jacquita at the time was only  
10 four years old. And the lady said that she had found  
11 Jacquita on a branch where she couldn't get down.

12 And so we phoned my father-in-law and there  
13 was a miscommunication there. He thought that both Adriane  
14 and Jacquita were home with us. And he said, "All the kids  
15 are fine, they want to stay another night." So by him  
16 saying that, I thought that all three of the kids were  
17 together, Samantha, Jeremy, and Adriane. And I said,  
18 "Well, Jacquita doesn't want to go home. She wants to stay  
19 with us, and we'll just come and get the kids tomorrow."

20 And then only for me to go to town that next  
21 morning, the third day, after them being gone for three  
22 days -- because it was the second day that she was  
23 murdered. The third day I went to town to get a real nice  
24 meal and a dessert because I was going to cook them a real  
25 nice home-cooked meal because I felt rested.

1                   And then as soon as I got out of my  
2           girlfriend's car, the two older ones ran out of the trailer  
3           and they said, "Agy-Bear didn't come home last night." And  
4           I quickly ran into the trailer and I dropped the food --  
5           put the food on the table and went to phone the police.

6                   And there was a search party that was put  
7           together and all different resource teams from Port Hardy,  
8           Fort McNeill, and all the surrounding areas. And we were a  
9           few, like, blocks away from where they had found her. And  
10          when this young teenager came running towards us at the  
11          curling rink from where they found her, like it would have  
12          been, like, a five-minute walk, maybe 10 minutes. And he  
13          said, "They found her, they found her" and it made it sound  
14          like she just walked out of the bushes.

15                  So I started running. I run -- I run from  
16          the rink and I was half-ways to where this search party was  
17          and the police and my Dad pulled up towards me, and he told  
18          me to get in the van and he drove me there. And the police  
19          sergeant -- I believe that's who it was, the police  
20          sergeant walked towards me and all the other police and  
21          they had their heads down and I remember that -- I remember  
22          the pale -- he was so pale and he was holding back the  
23          tears, and my Dad was holding me.

24                  And they said they found my daughter and  
25          it's not good news. And my Dad asked, "Did an animal do

1           this, or what happened? Is it homicide?" And Samantha  
2           just reminded me today that the police said, "Yes, it  
3           definitely was an animal. He was an animal who did this."

4                        They wouldn't let us see her. They wouldn't  
5           let us identify her, and it was just as well because after  
6           being in court and watching the re-enactment, I couldn't  
7           believe that somebody would do such a horrific, horrendous  
8           thing to a six year old.

9                        And he was as tall as Robert. He was pretty  
10          big for a 15-year old. And after watching the re-  
11          enactment, I just couldn't imagine why -- why.

12                                (SHORT PAUSE)

13                        **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** She was that trusting.  
14          You know, she was that -- she drew people in and she  
15          trusted him enough to go and play hide and go seek, and  
16          that's the game that he said that they were playing.

17                        **MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY:** I just -- I remember  
18          all of us staying with my grandfather and we lived -- we  
19          were -- he had a house right on the oceanfront and so there  
20          was something going on down at Stories Beach and we really  
21          wanted to go. And so we decided to go on the beach and  
22          walk along the beach to this festival that used to happen  
23          in Fort Rupert, and it was like an annual thing that used  
24          to happen. I don't remember what it was but we ended up  
25          going down there and we were playing and we thought it was

1 really cool because we had just moved to Fort Rupert from  
2 Alert bay, and if you were playing on the beach in Alert  
3 Bay it's -- it drops off really quickly. But in Fort  
4 Rupert the beach is so long you can go out so far, and we  
5 thought it was, like, really cool so we just continued to  
6 go out and continued to go out, and by the time we went  
7 back, this guy comes along and he continued to ask us if we  
8 wanted to go and hike the bluff. And Jeremy and I were at  
9 an age where we were learning about not talking to  
10 strangers and Jacquita and Adriane were just babies and  
11 they were excited, like, they wanted to go and walk this  
12 thing and climb this bluff.

13 And that's how he separated us because  
14 Jeremy and I were really standing up to him and telling  
15 him, "No, we're not allowed to talk to strangers."

16 And we ended up playing hide and seek. And  
17 then there's a certain time while we were playing hide and  
18 seek down at Stories Beach that I, like, realized that  
19 nobody was coming. And so I got up and I started to walk  
20 around, and I started to feel alone because it was getting  
21 dark and I started to get scared.

22 And I started walking around these trails.  
23 I ended up down the beach and I found my brother and we  
24 were trying to find the other two but we couldn't find  
25 them. And we were afraid; we didn't know what we should



1 do. And so we decided to go back to my grandfather's to  
2 tell him, like, this is what happened and then he called my  
3 Mom right away.

4 And that's where the communication --  
5 miscommunication happened. We thought that Adriane was  
6 with Jacquita and my Mom and Jeremy and I were with my  
7 grandfather. And I just remember when we realized that she  
8 wasn't at my Mom's or with us, then the search party  
9 started that we ended up back at my grandfather's because  
10 people were out looking and it seemed like it was a day or  
11 two -- again, I was so young. And I just remember, like,  
12 seeing family from Alert Bay come to my grandfather's this  
13 late night and my Uncle Marshall walked in and I remember  
14 this because he had -- he had open wounds on his -- outside  
15 of his hand and -- because they had already found out the  
16 news and then the rest of the family comes in, my  
17 grandmother, my grandfather, my Mom.

18 And people, they were trying to -- all we  
19 were doing was sitting there anxiously waiting for my  
20 sister to come home and we were excited when we saw  
21 everyone, we were like, "Oh". Like, we were really happy  
22 we were going to get to see my sister -- our sister. And  
23 then they delivered the bad news that she wasn't coming  
24 back. And I just remember crying because I wanted to know  
25 why. Why isn't she coming back? And I asked them, and I

1           pleaded and I begged them to take her to the hospital so  
2           they can bring her back home.

3                         And that was how I found out that that was  
4           what happened to my baby sister. I didn't really know  
5           until later on that that's -- that's my story of what  
6           happened to her.

7                         **MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** What happened to my  
8           sister was horrible. I remember playing hide and seek and  
9           I remember being separated with my sister, Adriane. We  
10          were together at one point.

11                        He made us do things. And how he separated  
12          us was me and my sister, Adriane -- our sister, Adriane, he  
13          told me that he was going to take her to go to see his  
14          rabbits. Go take her to see the rabbits and then he was  
15          going to take me next. And I remember sitting on this high  
16          tree. And I could hear her calling but I also remember  
17          being too scared to jump down off this big tree. And I  
18          remember being taken down. I remember getting  
19          (indiscernible), I mean, they took me down. And I could  
20          hear her.

21   (SHORT PAUSE)

22                        **MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** That is one image I'll  
23          never, ever get out of my head. I remember standing there  
24          and I seen -- I froze. And I just remember being able to  
25          turn around and run, and I seen this lady and she asked me

1 where my parents was and she drove me home. After that I  
2 don't remember anything.

3 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Roxana, you briefly  
4 mentioned going through the court process and watching the  
5 re-enactment. Can you tell us a little bit more about your  
6 experience with the trial?

7 **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** I was -- I was at the  
8 trial three weeks before my kids were to come down. And I  
9 was brought in a room with Crown counsel and they said that  
10 there was going to be a re-enactment that they were  
11 presenting. And they said that -- they said that, "Roxana,  
12 we want -- as hard as it's going to be, we want the  
13 punishment to fit the crime and we want to show the judge  
14 and jury that. We want you to be strong and we want you to  
15 watch -- stay and watch the whole thing."

16 That was one of the hardest times -- one of  
17 the hardest times. I can never get that image out of my  
18 head. It was like -- I don't even know, even three minutes  
19 was like a lifetime to watch something like that. All I  
20 remember is getting up and running out of -- running out of  
21 the courtroom. And I could hear -- I don't even know who  
22 all those women were that were sitting in the courtroom,  
23 were running behind me. And I made it to the bathroom and  
24 the whole room was spinning. I couldn't even hold myself  
25 up. I had to grab the counter, and I just felt like I was

1 going to die right there. I couldn't breathe and I was  
2 throwing up.

3 After I got my compos -- after I settled  
4 down, they were giving me water and washing my face down,  
5 patting me down with wet cloths.

6 And I finally gathered myself and I went  
7 back in the courtroom and continued watching. And all --  
8 like I said, I can't even go into detail of what he had did  
9 to my girl. And I keep -- I kept that inside me. I can't  
10 even, like, begin to talk to anybody about it other than  
11 the support that I have, that have supported me all my life  
12 since we lost her. And no mother should ever have to go  
13 through that. No child should ever have to have gone  
14 through what she went through.

15 And watching him on that video it was just  
16 like a cartoon to him. Like, he showed no remorse  
17 whatsoever and he was like skipping through the woods,  
18 like, he was just acting like la-de-da or whatever and just  
19 like it was a joke to him, like, what he had did to  
20 Adriane.

21 And what keeps playing in my head is that  
22 she kept crying, "I want my mummy. I want my mummy." And  
23 the things that he did to her and even telling her to  
24 "Shut-up, your mummy's not here."

25 My life was never the same again. I

1           couldn't even be a mother anymore. I couldn't even be a  
2           daughter. I couldn't be a sister. I couldn't even be me.  
3           I don't even know I functioned. I don't even know how I  
4           got out of bed the next day. And to have -- wake up with  
5           the screams because I'd be nightmaring about the re-  
6           enactment, and any little noise I heard, if the house was  
7           shifting or whatever, any little noise I'd make my ex-  
8           husband get up and go and check because I thought he was  
9           coming back and he was going to do us all in.

10                        I became very paranoid. I wouldn't even let  
11           my kids go out on the -- not even on the porch. I think it  
12           was like six months until my late father-in-law finally  
13           talked to me and said, "It's not healthy, Rox. Let them  
14           out. Let them be kids."

15                                        (SHORT PAUSE)

16                        **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** Sorry. I thought I shut  
17           it off. Sorry.

18                        It was a huge step. I mean, I told them,  
19           "Just on the porch." I wouldn't let them out of my sight.  
20           And I still live like that. I mean, it's gotten better,  
21           you know, in time but if I don't hear from my adult  
22           children or my grandchildren, I literally freak out. And  
23           they have to keep reminding me that I need to live my life,  
24           and so do they.

25                        **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Samantha, can you share

1           your experience in court in testifying?

2                           **MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY:** I just remember  
3           feeling really, really numb. I had to read a book just to  
4           prep me to go on stand. And when I look back on it I feel  
5           like that type of shock and that type of pressure; that was  
6           really numbing for a child to go through. I had to sit on  
7           the stand, and I had to talk about the day, that day, and I  
8           had to go and speak about how it happened. And then I also  
9           had to point him out, so I had to look at him again. As a  
10          young child that was really frightening.

11                           I just think it was really numbing. I had  
12          to be brave at a really young age to be able to face  
13          somebody that did something like that to my sister. I  
14          think I nightmared about him afterwards, too.

15                           Like, I -- as a young child I experienced  
16          trauma. Like, I was afraid. I didn't know it at the time  
17          but I do look back and see how difficult that was for all  
18          of us to go through. And I just remember everything being  
19          really confusing. Everything from finding out that she's  
20          gone to now having to testify about why she's gone. And  
21          then going back to trying to go back to our lives after  
22          that; it was really difficult and it's probably something  
23          I'll never forget.

24                           And as old as I am now, I'm a mother now,  
25          and I know how difficult it was for me to lose a sister but

1 I just -- I don't know how -- like, how you can get through  
2 this as a mother because I have four -- I have two  
3 daughters and two sons and I just think all of it was just  
4 a big blur. I was numb and shocked for a lot of years, and  
5 I think most of my life growing up I was just confused.

6 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** During the court process  
7 and afterwards, did you guys receive any type of support of  
8 support resources?

9 **MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY:** Living in Fort Rupert,  
10 it's such a small community and I never received any  
11 support. I think at that -- like, at that time of my life  
12 growing up there I was really alone. There was a lot of  
13 feelings and a lot of -- like, I couldn't even articulate  
14 it into words how I felt back then, but I know that it was  
15 very dark and I felt so alone. And I didn't understand  
16 why. Why we were under a cloud and why did everyone else  
17 look so happy. Why do people look different from us?

18 As a young girl I was really observant and I  
19 never -- I don't -- I never received any type of support.  
20 I just remember feeling lost and none of us knew how to be  
21 siblings to each other. We didn't have any type of --  
22 there was just a lot of brokenness, and that was like our  
23 day to day was all brokenness and emptiness. And it was  
24 just dark.

25 I wish that I did have support. After all

1 of these years of going through life, I ran away. I didn't  
2 stay in Fort Rupert. I moved to Alert Bay. Moved back to  
3 Port Hardy, met my partner -- ex-partner. We created a  
4 family, we moved to Nanaimo. I stayed there for years, and  
5 then we separated.

6 Like, there's a lot of things that I wasn't  
7 aware of until just the last few years. Every time one of  
8 my kids would turn six I would be really overprotective,  
9 and I was too overprotective that my partner couldn't even  
10 understand. There was this one time that I really realized  
11 that I was affected by it. When -- it was when I went to  
12 check on them at the park. There's this little park in our  
13 complex. And it was dinnertime, so I went to check on them  
14 and I heard all of the kids playing and they're having fun.  
15 And one of the kids asked, "Let's play hide and seek," and  
16 immediately I started yelling and I started acting, like,  
17 in a panic. Like, "No, you guys." I was telling them,  
18 "No, you're not allowed to play hide and seek at the park."  
19 And my partner at that time was like, "No, wait. Like, do  
20 you listen to yourself? Can you listen? Like, they're  
21 kids, they're in a park. That's what they do, they play  
22 hide and seek." But I think that's when I started to  
23 realize how impacted I was and how, like, impacted I was  
24 through -- like, through all those years. It's really a --  
25 just heartbreaking.



1                   **MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** Through my years of  
2 growing up, as my sister said, being in such a small  
3 community of Fort Rupert and Port Hardy, there wasn't  
4 really any help there. And I remember trying to seek  
5 counselling as I got a little bit older, in my childhood,  
6 the help then was ridiculous. I was like -- I felt like I  
7 was a bothersome to them. They're constantly looking at  
8 their watches; they're tapping their fingers on the desk.  
9 You know, they just weren't there. And I remember a few  
10 times, a couple of times that I've gone to different  
11 counsellors to seek help, they looked at me and they said,  
12 "Wow. I'm surprised you survived that because if I was in  
13 your shoes, I'd be dead. I would have killed myself by  
14 now."

15                   So after hearing stuff like that and trying  
16 to seek help, it really turned me off. I didn't want to  
17 seek help anymore.

18                   And I really wish there was better help back  
19 then because my kids live in my fear. I also am a mother  
20 of two beautiful little girls and I can't go anywhere  
21 without them. I'm too scared to leave them. Even my  
22 family members, if my family members, like my Mom, has my  
23 kids, I'm texting her 10, 20 times every 10 minutes.

24                   Growing up I felt so empty, so lost, so  
25 confused, and I still feel that way at times. I feel like

1 -- there is, there's a huge part of my life missing because  
2 I don't remember a lot of it. Yeah.

3 **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** Through Victim Services,  
4 they sought counsel for me and at that time I just wasn't  
5 ready. I had somebody from the Crisis Centre in Port Hardy  
6 that would, like, do the home visits with me, and even then  
7 everything's a blur, I don't remember. Five years was a  
8 total blur to me of the shock and the numbness.

9 And they had somebody come through Mental  
10 Health as well, and none of that worked for me. I just  
11 wasn't ready. And I found myself getting more angry and  
12 more bitter and angry with God. I have a Dad who was a  
13 pastor of the church in Alert Bay and is a residential  
14 school survivor. And I believe through his prayers and my  
15 Mum's prayers that I'm sane today. They really stood in  
16 the gap for my children and I. They were also a really  
17 great support for me.

18 But I remember Victim Services sending a  
19 psychologist to come and see me in Port Hardy once a week,  
20 I believe, in Port Hardy and that didn't work. And he  
21 tried coming a couple of times and I just didn't go and  
22 meet with him.

23 But I remember after moving into our new  
24 home, there was just no support, even within our community.  
25 It was just really awkward. People didn't know how to

1 address us or be -- you know, carry on a conversation. Or  
2 ask us how we were doing, you know? And like the girls, I  
3 just felt really, really alone, alone and empty. And I  
4 remember we moved into our new home that the Band office  
5 had built for us and it was the beginning of the school  
6 year and the numbness and the shock wore off and reality  
7 really set in.

8 I remember walking from my kitchen and I  
9 just remember I just dropped my cup of coffee and I  
10 couldn't bear the pain in my body. I just dropped. I just  
11 dropped like a ton of bricks and I couldn't -- I couldn't  
12 gasp for air and I could hear myself screaming. My mouth  
13 was open but nothing would come out.

14 And then when I finally let out a huge  
15 scream, the kids had gotten off the bus and all I could  
16 hear was these footsteps running up the stairs. And they  
17 ran in and I was on the floor and I couldn't get up because  
18 the pain was so excruciating. And my daughter, Samantha,  
19 and her best friend Samantha Hill, were just hovered over  
20 me and they were holding me and they were trying to get me  
21 up, and we were just embracing one another and just crying.

22 (SHORT PAUSE)

23 **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** I just remember that  
24 pain so well. It just felt like somebody took a knife and  
25 just shred my heart to pieces. It just ached that much

1           that I couldn't breathe. And just visualizing just so much  
2           -- I don't even remember the day of the funeral. I don't  
3           remember anything. I don't even remember how she looked.

4                       Her favourite colour was pink and she really  
5           loved to dress up, so my Auntie Mac Wilson bought her a  
6           really pretty, frilly pink dress. And like Jacquita was  
7           sharing, there were these silver shoes, they were glittery.  
8           And she wore them all the time. It didn't matter what she  
9           was wearing, like, joggers or whatever, they were really  
10          sparkly and it didn't matter the colours didn't match, she  
11          loved those glittery shoes. And somebody else at the  
12          school had the same set of shoes and she came home with two  
13          left feet -- two left-sided and obviously the other little  
14          girl didn't -- the other little girl, you know, it didn't  
15          bother her, maybe. She didn't bring it back to school or  
16          anything because Adriana -- or Adriane kept those shoes and  
17          we tried to throw them out but she would go and dig them  
18          back out of the garbage can because she just loved those  
19          glittery shoes.

20                      And these past few years I've -- I may not  
21          remember what has happened to her, remember the years of  
22          what -- how I led my life or remember too much about the  
23          three other beautiful children that I have. But we're  
24          rebuilding on that. We have rebuilt on that. And we have  
25          made amends.

1                   But I do remember the bright, strong,  
2           beautiful girl Agy-Bear was. And that's who I want to  
3           celebrate now, is what I remember. I don't want to go  
4           back. And I'll have my moments. I'll always have my  
5           moments of the anniversary of her death or the anniversary  
6           of her birthday or the trial dates and the sentencing.  
7           I'll always have those moments. But I've learned to work  
8           through it now and heal. Because, like I said, I want to  
9           celebrate who I remember; a beautiful, bright girl who was  
10          a fighter and lived her life to the fullest. She was the  
11          greatest example.

12                   I remember when they would get into mischief  
13          and I would sent them to their rooms because nobody would  
14          -- nobody would own up to, you know, who did their little  
15          mischief. So I'd send them to their room and ground them  
16          and they'd be in the room crying but here's Adriane  
17          stomping out of the room, going to the kitchen and getting  
18          a bowl of Jell-O. And she said -- she'd look at me and  
19          she'd say, "I'm bringing this to my brother and my sisters.  
20          I'm going to make them feel better." You know? And then  
21          she would snap her eyes and then just stomp on down to the  
22          bedroom. And that's who she was, you know? And she'd  
23          always just wanted to comfort anybody who was hurting and  
24          in pain.

25                   And there's this other time that she had a

1 birthday party, this is just -- I just want to share these  
2 cute little stories with you because that's who she was,  
3 right? And it was her birthday and there was a whole bunch  
4 of kids there and we were celebrating her birthday and my  
5 Dad walks in with this four-pack of toilet paper and he  
6 said, "Agy-Bear, this is yours. This is your birthday  
7 present." And he said, "Other than whatever else I got  
8 you, this is yours. Don't let anybody touch it." And you  
9 should have seen her, she was just beaming, like, ear-to-  
10 ear smile, and she goes, "That's for me, Papa? That's all  
11 mine?" She was so grateful that she got her own toilet  
12 paper. No, it was toilet paper. It was, yeah, a package  
13 of toilet paper. And then anybody that went into the  
14 bathroom she'd say, "And don't touch my toilet paper."  
15 But, yeah.

16 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Jacquita, could you  
17 share a little bit your experiences at school after the  
18 incident?

19 **MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** School wasn't fun after  
20 we lost our sister. Kids are really mean. They -- well,  
21 they weren't only -- like, there was some mean kids and  
22 then there were some of the kids that just didn't know how  
23 to -- know how to confront us or be around us anymore,  
24 couldn't, you know -- it was fairly lonely.

25 We used to go to Fort Rupert Elementary

1 School and I remember being taken out of that school. We  
2 were taken out of school and we were sent to Gwa'sala?  
3 Gwa'sala School. I don't fully remember if it was because  
4 it was so close to where it had happened, the school, but  
5 being sent to town was -- it was different. As people got  
6 to know us in town and they got to hear stuff, it got  
7 thrown in my face a few times. And they just -- it's  
8 really hard to explain, it's just how cruel some kids are.

9 At some point a few of my classmates told  
10 me, because we were not getting along that what happened to  
11 my sister, she deserved it. I think after losing my sister  
12 I didn't really know how to communicate with anybody  
13 either. Yeah.

14 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Roxana, can you share  
15 your experience with the Parole Board process?

16 **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** I'm registered through  
17 Victim Services to get updates on the parole hearings and  
18 Parole Board. And they just give me an update of, you  
19 know, his process while being incarcerated. And it's nil.  
20 He doesn't -- he doesn't follow through with any of the  
21 programs and he's shown -- he stills shows no remorse and  
22 he's in denial. And each time that a parole hearing comes  
23 -- parole hearing date comes up, a couple of months before  
24 I contact all our surrounding areas for -- to do impact  
25 statements so that I could present them when I was

1           scheduled to go to a parole hearing. And once that was all  
2           done, like it was just a month and a half, two months of  
3           all the legwork and stuff, it's nothing like the technology  
4           that you have today where you can send emails and stuff  
5           like that. It was like phone calls and letters and going,  
6           you know, to see people, you know, and having them write  
7           impact statements. And I would be so exhausted and only  
8           for a week -- only to hear a week before the parole --  
9           scheduled parole hearing that he waived his rights; and to  
10          me, I was relieved but I was angry at the same time because  
11          it really triggered us again. And it's like he's holding  
12          the trump card as to when -- you know, whether we have a  
13          parole hearing or not.

14                           And I am registered from VOMP, Victim  
15          Offenders Mediation Program, and one day I would like to go  
16          and meet him and bring my impact statement and let him know  
17          what he has done to my family and how -- what he did to  
18          Adriane, how it impacted us and how it tore us apart. And  
19          we were kind of looking at the dates, me being in the area  
20          that I was going to try to work out that I would go while I  
21          was down here, but that just didn't happen yet. I haven't  
22          heard from VOMP yet.

23                           And it was every two years that we've had to  
24          do impact statements for a parole hearing and it's been  
25          moved now to five years so the next one will be 2020 of



1 March, sometime in March. And I feel why should we have to  
2 do that? I don't feel that it's right. I feel a life for  
3 a life.

4 In order for me to move on, I know I have to  
5 forgive. As hard as it may seem to others, they don't  
6 understand, or they won't understand how I feel but I need  
7 to continue moving on now and also allow Adriane to move on  
8 in her journey and not hold her like that anymore.

9 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Can you guys share about  
10 the lateral violence the three of you and your son and  
11 brother experienced in the community?

12 **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** It's like Jacquita was  
13 saying; we just felt really alone and we all said the same  
14 thing, we felt really, really alone. And friends that I  
15 thought were closest to me were the ones that chewed me up  
16 and spit me out like I was a piece of crap. And when I was  
17 down, they kicked me when I was down. And it would be  
18 right from the ones that were speaking ill of me, of  
19 malice, and just being gossipy and very toxic. They were  
20 the ones -- the ones that they spoke to came right to me  
21 and they said, "I thought you were close with" so-and-so or  
22 so-and-so. And I said, "Yeah, she's like a sister to me."  
23 Or, "She's a really good friend," or, "He's a really good  
24 friend." And they'd say, "Well, this is what they said  
25 about you." And although we lived with a lot of blame

1           within ourselves and it was really hard to hear because all  
2           I had for these certain people was the highest respect for  
3           them and I thought they had my back but they didn't. I  
4           thought that they were there to support me. In the public  
5           eye, they made like we were really close, like a front to  
6           everybody and yet behind -- behind my back they were  
7           throwing daggers.

8                           And it was really hard and painful. I  
9           couldn't believe that some of the things that were being  
10          said. I love -- I still love them and I've forgiven them  
11          but I set my boundaries, too, and I know now that it's not  
12          my stuff because I'm continuing to move forward in my life.  
13          And being a part of MMIWG -- 2015 I went to a provincial  
14          gathering and that was the most amazing thing that has ever  
15          happened to me because of all the support. There was no  
16          judgment and they just showed and just love on you and it's  
17          real and it's genuine. And also to have them phone me and  
18          do a check or private message me, and I know and hearing  
19          other people's stories when I went and hearing where they  
20          came from, you know, leading a hard life like my story, and  
21          given another chance in life and re-educating themselves  
22          and going to a program like addictions program for drugs or  
23          alcohol, and they walked tall. They spoke confident and  
24          they walked with confidence and I said, "That was me  
25          before. That's who I was and I'm going to be that person

1           again." And I'm working -- I've worked really hard to get  
2           where I'm at today, and I won't allow people to do that to  
3           me anymore. And even till this day people are still doing  
4           that. They make my life -- things that happened 20 years  
5           ago, they make it like it happened yesterday. And people  
6           just feed off of it.

7                           And I feel it. You don't have to say  
8           anything. They don't have to say anything, you know? It's  
9           their body language, their tone, or how they look at me,  
10          you know? And I'm really -- I feel really honoured to have  
11          the support that I do have through MMIWG and my support, my  
12          friend, Christine Hunt and Tina Henderson, and there's many  
13          like that have always stood by me and never pushed me away  
14          because of my actions or my addictions.

15                          And I remember just letting that live in my  
16          head and live in me of how I was treated with the lateral  
17          violence where I would recluse myself. It was really hard.  
18          I didn't know who to say hi to or if they were going to say  
19          hi back.

20                          **MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY:** I just remember being  
21          really -- I guess still alone. And, for me, a lot of the  
22          lateral violence didn't happen -- like, I didn't know of it  
23          until I was older and understood about what gossip is  
24          about. Being a child I wanted to do things like play and,  
25          you know, hang out with friends, and I know that -- I know

1           that my brother Jeremy, who isn't here today, is somebody  
2           that really experienced it a lot from people because he was  
3           the only boy. There was four of us, myself, Jacquita,  
4           Adriane, and Jeremy that were at the park, and he carried  
5           guilt because he believed that it was fault because people  
6           had questioned him as a young boy when my late sister,  
7           Adriane, was found, they found out that he was -- he just  
8           carried a lot of guilt. So he was angry for a lot of  
9           years. He believes that it's his fault. Even today he's  
10          not in a right place. He's struggled with anger, alcohol,  
11          addiction, and that's as much as I know.

12                        He lives in the same town as Jacquita and my  
13          mother. I left. I ran away because I just didn't want to  
14          stay in a place that reminded me of all of the darkness and  
15          emptiness. So I always ran away and I left, like, family  
16          behind, friends, and I lost my relationship with my mother.  
17          I lost my relationship with my sister. For years and years  
18          we never had a relationship. I left and didn't turn back.  
19          I didn't communicate with anyone. I left my ties with my  
20          friends.

21                        There's maybe a couple of people that came  
22          back into my life because I moved to Vancouver in 2009 and  
23          I was still running because I left a relationship with my  
24          kids' dad. And so I just -- it was always one thing after  
25          the other. And that's my story of, I guess, lateral

1 violence. I didn't stick around too long to experience it  
2 because I just wanted out of that life. I wanted out of  
3 that dark cloud, the shadow.

4 And it was probably in 2015 that I was able  
5 to reconnect with my mother. She asked myself and my  
6 twins, my twin son, Isiah, and my twin daughter, Latisha,  
7 to go with her to Prince George and that's where I actually  
8 felt like there was support. Like I was -- there were a  
9 lot of people that had the same story, a lot of people that  
10 understood me. There's -- you know, understand us. And I  
11 think that's the first time we actually came to a place  
12 where we just saw each other for the first time and not the  
13 tragedy, because none of us could look at each other. I  
14 couldn't really look at my Mum or my sister or my brother  
15 because we were in it together. And this healing journey,  
16 it feels like this darkness is coming to an end. There's  
17 -- we're in a place of celebrating her life and not  
18 grieving the loss of her. And the gathering in Prince  
19 George it really did help because we were able to  
20 understand what was going on with us all of those years  
21 because of the workshops and all of the crafts that we did  
22 together. Like, it really brought understanding.

23 And even right now, like when we were  
24 talking to the lawyer, I looked at my mother and my sister  
25 and I've heard their stories over the years but I didn't

1 really fully understand. But to hear them talk today  
2 really helped me to feel like this hard shell that I was  
3 covering my heart for protection was just opened and it was  
4 like flush, I could feel, and I could look at them and I  
5 could see the love and the healing.

6 As we sit here and tell our stories, I'm  
7 able to see that there's continuous growth and healing.  
8 This is something that took our lives. We didn't live.  
9 When she was taken from us, our life was taken.

10 We weren't children. We couldn't grow up as  
11 children; we couldn't play like we wanted to because my Mum  
12 was so paranoid. And I didn't understand why I had to just  
13 stay inside all the time, and I didn't understand why I  
14 couldn't play on the porch anymore or go to school, even.

15 And just being able to talk about our  
16 journeys, it really brings warmth. Like, it feels like the  
17 sun, the way the sun beams on your skin and it's just warm.  
18 And that's just how I feel.

19 **MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** You know, growing up  
20 with my brother and my sister and my Mum, while -- you  
21 know, I left at a young age too. I didn't leave Port Hardy  
22 but I left my Mum's; I got into a serious relationship at  
23 the age of 16.

24 But, you know, it still happens today  
25 because, you know, I have my moments and I cry because I'm

1           so broken about my sister -- our sister. And, you know,  
2           before when I was younger I did it in an unhealthy way. I  
3           drank so I wouldn't have to feel but not knowing that when,  
4           you know, I would black out or whatever that I did, I  
5           reacted. On anniversary dates nobody could tell me  
6           nothing. I was really angry.

7                        You know, like -- and then to hear from  
8           people, "Oh, get over it," you know? "It happened in 1989  
9           [sic], why are you still crying over it?" You know, it  
10          hits; it hits hard. And the hardest part is that people  
11          don't understand. No matter how much I tell my story to  
12          certain people, they'll never fully grasp the pain that we  
13          truly feel, or felt because it's -- you know, at times I do  
14          still feel empty but, you know, we are -- I am moving  
15          forward now and I do want to celebrate my sister and let go  
16          of that excruciating pain.

17                       I do want to celebrate her and I do want to  
18          hold on to those beautiful memories that I have -- had with  
19          her, and listen to the awesome stories that my Mum has or  
20          my sister or my brother has because not any one of our  
21          stories are the same.

22                       And it took a lot through -- I had excuses  
23          not to come. It was hard. It was really hard for me to  
24          make this decision to come but I'm here and we're doing  
25          this together. And, you know, stuff like this, we've never

1           been able to do anything like this. You know, to be  
2           together for more than three days, you know, we all just  
3           wanted to live our own lives. And I think my feeling is  
4           that with us being together for too long it'll start  
5           bringing things up. And I was one for building walls.

6                            You know, my brother -- sorry; I went off  
7           track. But my brother he is -- he's trying. He tells us  
8           that, you know, he's gotten over it but when he, you know,  
9           hits that point of alcoholism, it all comes out. And he  
10          got it pretty bad hearing from neighbours and from cops and  
11          whatnot that, you know, "You're supposed to be the man of  
12          the house. Why didn't you protect her?"

13                           We carried that guilt because, you know, I  
14          heard that, even at my age. How was I supposed to save my  
15          sister? Often I did wish that it was me instead of her.

16                           **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Can you guys share about  
17          the different ways you've celebrated Adriane?

18                           **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** I had this best friend,  
19          but she passed away from cancer at a very young age. And  
20          she was elected Chief at the time in Fort Rupert, and her  
21          name is Marion Rhodes. And she approached me, she came to  
22          my home and she said, "Roxy" she goes, "What do you say  
23          that we build a memorial park on our Reserve?" It's called  
24          the Adriane Wadhams Memorial Park, and that was to honour  
25          her. And because there was no -- like, the park that was



1 closest was the school, I think it's like a 10-, 15-minute  
2 walk from the Reserve and they wanted to keep the kids  
3 within the community to keep them safe.

4 So she wanted to raise money on top of the  
5 grant that she had gotten, and sent letters out to all the  
6 businesses to top up the grant. So we walked -- our very  
7 first walk was from the Fort Rupert Reserve to Port Hardy  
8 and it was an eight miles' walk. And so we did this  
9 annually every June 3<sup>rd</sup>, because that's when she was  
10 murdered, so -- and Samantha was pregnant with Aramis, her  
11 third child, and she was huge and she was determined to do  
12 it. We were all worried about her. My Dad was worried  
13 about her; my Mum was worried about her. And he drove  
14 alongside her and -- in case, you know, she needed to get  
15 into the van and got tired or whatever, or deliver the baby  
16 on the highway. But she made it. She walked the eight  
17 miles pregnant. I believe she was, like, eight months.  
18 Was it eight months? Oh, okay.

19 I've had other -- in the past, just recently  
20 people asked me if we can do it again annually because the  
21 park needs to be upgraded and they want more new equipment  
22 in there. So I thought I'd let you know that as well. And  
23 we maybe we can get some help with that.

24 But on the anniversaries of her death or her  
25 birthday, now with my Mum -- my Dad passed away in 2013,

1           It'll be April 8<sup>th</sup> that he's been gone. But they'd always  
2           made sure to come over on the anniversaries of her birthday  
3           or the anniversary of her death, and we'd be together with  
4           all my kids and my grandkids and we'd do a balloon release,  
5           you know, and then go and visit her grave, put flowers on  
6           her grave and stuff, and sing songs and stuff.

7                           And then we'd go to my place and have a nice  
8           big dinner. And we all sit around and just share stories  
9           about her and our experiences with her because she was so  
10          funny. She had quite the sense of humour. And we'd laugh  
11          around and, you know, just reminisce about Agy-Bear.

12                           **MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** I think you said it  
13          all.

14                           But personally, myself if I'm alone and I  
15          miss her I will blare Guns N' Roses and I'll sing at the  
16          top of my lungs or I will -- she loved ketchup. I'll,  
17          like, just have an overdose of ketchup on my food or  
18          something. Do we do burnings too? Like, we'll burn her  
19          favourite foods, or write letters. Yeah, that's -- that's  
20          what we do.

21                           **MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY:** Well, I live here in  
22          Vancouver so I'm always -- I guess I'm not -- I'm  
23          disconnected a little bit from my Mom and my sister and my  
24          brother. But I do -- whenever I miss her or whenever  
25          there's something -- something will remind me of her, I'll

1 sit and talk about her to my children, my twins. My  
2 youngest daughter reminds me of her a lot and Jacquita's  
3 youngest daughter, their personalities are similar to her  
4 so we -- I just really acknowledge that in them. And then  
5 I'll share that as well with my kids. So I guess I do a  
6 lot of sharing and talking and sometimes they'll ask me  
7 questions because, you know, their auntie -- their late  
8 auntie, they were never able to meet. And I think that's  
9 when I first realized how much, like -- I feel like that  
10 was a lot taken from us because of -- you know, we don't  
11 have nieces and nephews from her but we do share, you know,  
12 memories. I share with them stories about all of us.

13 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Can one of you share a  
14 little bit about the song that will be played at the end of  
15 the hearing today?

16 **MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY:** There was a song  
17 composed -- we had a meeting with one of -- a cultural  
18 leader from back home, and we just talked about her  
19 personality. And he took notes and went back to his -- you  
20 know, he went and composed a song and came to sit with my  
21 Mom and my sister and my grandmother, and she speaks  
22 fluently in our language so there's a song that was  
23 composed called "Remember". And the first verse talks  
24 about always remember to sing for our hamumu, and hamumu  
25 means butterfly. Butterfly is our family crest, the

1 (indiscernible). And the second verse says "Always  
2 remember to sing for our hamumu." And the third verse is,  
3 "Always remember to spread love for our hamumu." And the  
4 fourth verse is, "Always remember to love and spread  
5 affection for our hamumu."

6 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Do you guys have any  
7 recommendations for the Commission?

8 **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** In the near future,  
9 we're going to have a celebration of life. We want to get  
10 a headstone and put it -- do a laying of a headstone and  
11 have a community dinner and then invite both sides of the  
12 family, and the community. And we want to celebrate her  
13 now. And it was really hard before. Like I said, even  
14 before, like, dealing with the parole -- you know, the  
15 parole hearing and the upcoming dates and stuff like that.

16 At one point, the mother was going around --  
17 his mother, Jason Kennedy's mother was going around saying  
18 that he was out of jail. And this one lady had said it  
19 right in front of my Mum. We were out having lunch and we  
20 just got up. We couldn't even eat. We ordered our food  
21 but we couldn't eat. We just got up and we left. And the  
22 look -- I can never forget the look on my mother's face.  
23 Like, she just went right inside herself.

24 So I phoned Victim Services in Port Hardy  
25 and I told -- I inquired about it and asked if it was true

1           because I know, first off, that we would be contacted, you  
2           know, if he was released. And she called me back after  
3           speaking with the police and Parole Board and they said,  
4           no, he was still incarcerated. But the police went to see  
5           the mother and warned her, you know, not to spread lies  
6           like that around.

7                                So we just want to share our stories so that  
8           it would give other people courage and strength to share  
9           their story. And to have our small, remote communities  
10          begin to understand that we are human and we do make  
11          mistakes and when we do grieve, we just want that support  
12          and that unconditional love. And I speak, you know, not  
13          only for myself but for those that are enduring such a loss  
14          and enduring such pain. We just ask that the communities,  
15          even family members, would begin to understand that this  
16          lateral violence, you know, it needs to stop.

17                            Because it's one of the hardest things to  
18          deal with in small, remote areas is for someone to spread  
19          such toxic behaviour. It's venomous, and it's poisonous,  
20          and it can make you sick, and it made me sick. I've been  
21          diagnosed -- I've been diagnosed with fibromyalgia and  
22          other health issues because I just became very, very sick.  
23          And I don't work because of it. It was doctor's orders.

24                            And when I was diagnosed in 2014, Jacquita  
25          was living with me at the time with her eldest daughter.

1 She was just a baby at the time, Adriana, and I'd be  
2 screaming because I didn't know what was going on with me.  
3 I just knew my body was in so much pain where I couldn't  
4 get out of bed. And she'd run in to my room and she would  
5 literally have to yank me out of bed because the pain was  
6 so great I couldn't get out of bed.

7 And when we allow other people to live in  
8 our heads like that, it's -- it does so much damage and I  
9 really believe that bringing, you know, resource teams to  
10 our remote areas through Victim Services and MMIWG would  
11 help others to understand and raise awareness. And this is  
12 why I'm here, also, to speak.

13 We've had our third annual walk now that I  
14 rallied up in Port Hardy and a few families have come  
15 forward and shared their story. I did not even know that  
16 they lost a daughter or a sister. And each year it's  
17 growing. And they are very grateful and thankful for that.

18 But where does it go after that? We need  
19 resource teams to come in and help us in that area. And  
20 show them that it's okay. No matter which way you deliver  
21 your story, even if we're still angry, even if we're still  
22 hurt or bitter, it's okay. And to know that I'm okay and  
23 that they're going to be okay to share their story. And  
24 it'll only make -- it only makes me stronger, and I have  
25 gotten stronger since 2015, since going to the provincial

1 gathering. And I went to the Manitoba Round Table as well,  
2 and I went to the Advisory meeting, and the Woman in Power  
3 -- Indigenous Women in Toronto. And I felt like I could  
4 float, you know. And I came to the Advisory meeting here  
5 in Vancouver and it just like (indiscernible) -- is that  
6 the name of it, (indiscernible), yeah? And it has given me  
7 so much strength.

8 And that's where I'm gearing towards. I'm  
9 re-educating myself. I'm going back to school and getting  
10 my Grade 12 so that I can go -- I want to become a  
11 counsellor for women against violence and be an advocate as  
12 well.

13 **MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY:** I know that one thing  
14 that I realized going to Prince George with my Mom in 2015,  
15 that really helped, like, to take -- like, we had a lot of  
16 family that we saw there and there was, like, a whole  
17 tableful of us and just even coming out of the community  
18 and being together, like, because I'm not living with them  
19 but I know that when we were together and doing workshops  
20 or, you know, crafts and whatever they offered there, we  
21 were able to do it together even though we live in  
22 different cities and towns.

23 Like, that seemed like -- for me, that  
24 helped. Like, I feel like that had a lot to do with our  
25 healing journey and like it helped us understand each

1 other. It also brought awareness because it's something  
2 that we all went through together. It was something tragic  
3 and it's something we suffered together. And with us  
4 healing together, that was one thing that really helped us  
5 to talk about our own stories because it is true we do have  
6 -- even though we went through the same thing, we have our  
7 own individual stories and for us to be able to understand  
8 each other -- because for a lot of years we protected  
9 ourselves from each other, even though we didn't need to  
10 protect ourselves from each other, we just -- that's just  
11 something you do when you go through something like that.  
12 And, yeah, I think that brought a lot of healing.

13 I don't even know if I'm making sense but  
14 I'm just making a point of how that brought us -- that was  
15 a major step for our healing journey, and this is just the  
16 beginning of our healing journey together. So I thought I  
17 would share that.

18 **MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** I found that after  
19 going to treatment and trying to seek counselling and stuff  
20 like that, where do you go afterwards? Being in a small  
21 community the hardest part is having a counsellor that  
22 sticks. We're constantly -- it's constantly changing. You  
23 know, you just get comfortable with somebody and you tell  
24 your story only to be found out that they're leaving and  
25 then you have to re -- start all over with somebody else.



1 That's kind of a really big turnoff for a lot of --  
2 speaking for myself, that was a huge turnoff for me and a  
3 lot of the reason why I haven't really gone to seek  
4 anymore.

5 We need people there all the time. We --  
6 this is, like -- this is huge for us to be here to do this  
7 together and stuff like this is...

8 I'm kind of lost in my head right now.  
9 Like, my words are there but they're fumbling.

10 Yeah, I didn't go with my Mum and my sister  
11 to Prince George. I had that opportunity but I didn't.  
12 And I'm really glad that I'm here. Yeah.

13 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Commissioner Audette,  
14 before we hear the song that they described earlier, do you  
15 have any questions or comments?

16 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Merci  
17 beaucoup, Maître Thomas.

18 I had some question about what do we do  
19 about the lateral violence. How can we hear everywhere we  
20 go across Canada, families saying, "People don't come to us  
21 after we lost our mum or daughter or something tragic  
22 happened to our loved one." I hear that all the time. And  
23 what do we say to the community, as a family member? What  
24 do we need and what do we say? Because I hear this  
25 everywhere. What would you say for your community?

1                   **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** Basically what I said  
2                   earlier is to bring awareness, more awareness. And there's  
3                   lack of funding, that's what I hear from First Nations  
4                   Health all the time within our areas. And to bring up a  
5                   facilitator to do the lateral violence workshop and other  
6                   things; that's what we need is more facilitators to do  
7                   workshops.

8                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Merci. Same  
9                   thing about the -- we -- in remote places or communities  
10                  where fly-in/fly-out, the support it's always to start it  
11                  all over again. So I understand it's the same in your  
12                  region? It's very important that -- how do we say --  
13                  sustainable, that they stay there. So like for you to be a  
14                  counsellor, you would stay all the time in your community.

15                  And believe me, what I witness here, you  
16                  would be an amazing counsellor. Whoa. You don't see  
17                  people reacting in the back, I do. They agree. It's  
18                  beautiful.

19                  Well, I know now from Quebec I'll be able to  
20                  send you love by messenger.

21                  And you made us go through the anger,  
22                  injustice, forgiveness, all kind of emotion, and I don't  
23                  know where you get that strength. And to have your  
24                  daughters with you, we witness something very, very  
25                  beautiful. I don't know how many times the three of you

1 are talking like this but I was able to witness that  
2 forgiveness, learning and stay together. It was beautiful.

3 **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** Is this on?

4 This is the first time that we've spoke and  
5 I know just by listening to them that they've been doing  
6 the work. And I know I've been doing the work on myself  
7 because I want to be a better person and I want to be able  
8 to give that strength and share that strength because those  
9 are gifts that were handed down from our ancestors and  
10 maya'xala in our language it's the highest honour of  
11 respect and we were taught that and we don't have that  
12 anymore in today's day and age, where we were able to sit  
13 down and have our grandparents dlixs'ala. And dlixs'ala us  
14 means to teach us at a young age where we're raised up with  
15 that to love, honour and respect, and just listen, you  
16 know, without having to answer back or having the last word  
17 or to be an argumentive way. And I miss that.

18 And I remember we used to have -- when  
19 Adriana was with us we'd have kind of like a circle, just  
20 like a check-in to see how we were doing. And just  
21 realizing that now we stopped and -- but today to be here  
22 with my daughters, it's just remarkable. I see the  
23 strength in them and the power in them. And that gives me  
24 strength and it gives me hope because we give that to our  
25 -- my grandchildren, you know?

1                   And I just want to share a little bit about  
2           this -- this was gifted to me today from a friend of mine  
3           in Bella Coola. And she painted it. She messaged me and  
4           she said that, "Roxy, I want to do a banner for you." She  
5           calls me Mama Bear. And her name is Patrika McEvoy. And  
6           she came right to the hotel to give this to me. She said,  
7           "I've never painted before. I draw but I've never painted  
8           before but I went to some of the big artists there and I  
9           said, 'I need help. I've never painted before.' And they  
10          said, 'Oh, you can do it.' And they just told her how to  
11          do it and she did it. Yeah. And that's her -- like I  
12          said, her nickname, Agy-Bear, and maya'xala is respect.  
13          And Robert will -- my brother will, you know, elaborate  
14          more on what maya'xala is in our language.

15                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Spiritual  
16          brother or brother brother?

17                   **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** Well, yeah.

18                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** I see.

19                   **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** Culturally we're not  
20          cousins, yeah, we're brother and sister. Yeah. So that's  
21          their uncle.

22                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Bob's your uncle.

23                                   (LAUGHTER)

24                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Wow.

25                   **MS. ROXANA WILSON:** Yeah. But I'm just -- I

1 just want to let the girls know how proud I am of them, you  
2 know. They've come a long ways and they've made a  
3 difference, you know, in their lives for themselves and to  
4 be a better parent than what they had. I did the best that  
5 I could but I'm still here and I'm still their mother and I  
6 love them with all my heart.

7 And I just want to honour my son. I really  
8 am hurting for him but once he sees the strength in all of  
9 us, I know he'll come around, but in his own time and we'll  
10 be there for him always.

11 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Beautiful  
12 daughter. I know you said a couple of times we say in  
13 French your name, Jacquita -- oh, my words. Something like  
14 you were mixed up or losing your thoughts? You were  
15 amazing. The two of you, wisdom.

16 I have twins, girls, I wish they had the  
17 same wisdom but they're tough cookie right now. They're so  
18 cute. Well, because of Facetime I'm able to stay connected  
19 with them. You witnessed that. So I'm sure you can have  
20 that circle with Skype or whatever, video, once every week.  
21 You should. It works. It's not perfect but it does work.  
22 So merci.

23 I think we have something, a song?

24 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Yes.

25 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Your son?

1                   **MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY:** My son.

2                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Wow.

3                   **MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY:** He's my ---

4                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Oh, the twin.

5                   **MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY:** Yeah, my twin son.

6                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay.

7   (SHORT PAUSE)

8                   **MR. ROBERT WILLIAMS:** (Speaking in

9 Kwak'wala)

10   (DRUMMING)

11   (SONG)

12                   **MR. ROBERT WILLIAMS:** (Speaking in

13 Kwak'wala)

14                   I just want to say thank you for listening  
15 to our family. It is very important for you to hear their  
16 words.

17                   It is such an honour to hear my nephew sing.  
18 He is our up and coming singer for our family. He is a  
19 strong leader and he takes care of his Mum, his sisters,  
20 his brother. He teaches me. And it's my pride and  
21 privilege to let you know that my family here holds the  
22 highest respect in our big house, the highest respect from  
23 our first ancestor, Numasakoles (phonetic). And when the  
24 butterfly came from the sun and it circled the sun, Numas  
25 (phonetic) was able to reach up and he felt that

1 sacredness. He could feel that holiness and that respect  
2 and that way of living and that way of being. And my  
3 family here today remembers who they are, remembers where  
4 they come from. (Speaking in Kwak'wala)

5 Who do I give the mic to?

6 (LAUGHTER)

7 (SHORT PAUSE)

8 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Roxana, would  
9 you accept a gift from us, from the National Inquiry? You  
10 too, Samantha and Jacquita; would you accept a gift from  
11 us? It's a small, beautiful gift but very, very symbolic  
12 for many of us. And it started here in the Haida Gwaii  
13 territory where the women, I'll say -- sorry; my brain is  
14 burned. But my heart is still there. And they harvest  
15 eagle feathers and gave it to the families the first  
16 hearing we had. And then it became a tradition.

17 We had some young men who took their  
18 feathers from their regalia, or in Montreal from a  
19 traditional hat, or in Thompson a few weeks ago a man went  
20 to -- near the river because we didn't have any more. But  
21 now we're having again eagle feathers. So we would like to  
22 give you this. Merci. I choose the most beautiful  
23 grandmother to do it.

24 (LAUGHTER)

25 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** They're all cute.

1                   **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Commissioner Audette,  
2           can we adjourn the session?

3                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** No.

4   (LAUGHTER)

5                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Of course.

6                   **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** We'll adjourn till  
7           tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.

8

9           **--- Exhibits (code: P01P15P0108)**

10           **Exhibit 1:** Folder containing 29 digital images displayed  
11   during the public testimony of Roxana Wilson,  
12   Jacquita White, and Samantha Pelkey.

13           **Exhibit 2:** Reasons for Sentence in the matter of HMTQ v.  
14   Jason James Kennedy, released May 29, 1992  
15   Court file No. 61144 Victoria Registry/No.  
16   0324 Campbell River Registry. Citation: 1992  
17   CanLII 1974 (BCSC).

--- Upon adjourning at 16:42



LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

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



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Patricia Cantle

April 17, 2018