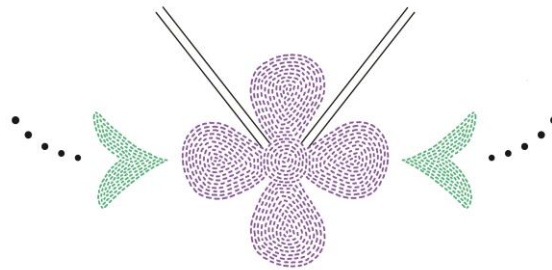


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Vancouver, British Columbia
The Saa-Ust Center**



PUBLIC

Monday April 23, 2018

Statement - Volume 410

“Woman A”

Statement gathered by Caitlin Hendrickson

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II

ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 7 of Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice, Chief Commissioner Marion Buller ordered that all names be made anonymous in this transcript and any related documents. The order for anonymity was made May 7, 2019. Redactions are set off in square brackets in the text. All names and place names have been removed. The events described by Woman A. took place in British Columbia.

III

NOTE

The use of round brackets () in this transcript indicates that amendments have been made to the certified transcript in order to replace information deemed inaudible or indecipherable by the original transcriptionist. Caitlin Hendrickson, Registry Clerk with the National Inquiry, completed the amendments on August 29, 2018 at Vancouver, British Columbia. Information incorrectly transcribed has been marked with a strikethrough. Ms. Hendrickson listened back to the source audio recording of the proceeding to make all amendments.

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

1 Vancouver, British Columbia
2 --- Upon commencing on Monday, April 23, 2018,
3 at 4:23 p.m.

4 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So here's the
5 consent that you can look at while we're talking. So my
6 name is Caitlin Hendrickson and I'm a statement gatherer
7 with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
8 Indigenous Women and Girls. It's 4:23 p.m. and we're here
9 on Monday April 23rd. We're here at the Saa-Ust Centre in
10 Vancouver, B.C.

11 *(Off-the-record conversation about informed consent)*

12 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So if you want
13 to start with what you think is important for the
14 commissioners to know, I'll just kind of leave it to you.
15 This is a very self-driven process, so it's what you'd like
16 to share, what you think is important. I might and you a
17 few questions here and there, but typically I will not
18 really interject very much. So whenever you'd like to
19 begin.

20 WOMAN A: So everything, like, even from
21 when I was just so little, even when it's from family.
22 Okay, I don't know, I'm born [in the 1970s]. I was born in
23 [Municipality 1]. We had a house there. I just remember,
24 like -- do I have to, like, try to give an address or any
25 kind of details?

1 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: No, don't worry.

2 WOMAN A: We had one of those, like, fold-
3 down campers, and it was, like, up and it was my next
4 oldest brother and nephew, both older than me, and my
5 brother is, like, [a number of] years older and my nephew
6 is something like [a few years] older. And I still remember
7 my pants down and the brother instructing the nephew to
8 touch my vaginal area. And I just remember that he bolted
9 and I don't (remember) ~~mean~~ all the details.

10 I skipped a couple (but) ~~of~~ when I was
11 looking at my memories, I skipped a couple of memories of
12 other children inappropriately touching me or instructing
13 me. I skipped that. But I'll just mention that. And then so
14 that was [when I was a child] because we moved away from
15 there when I was [a child]. And I finished [school grade A]
16 there in [Municipality 1] and then we moved to [Town 1].
17 And then sometime in the next couple of years -- there
18 should be records of this one -- I was sexually assaulted
19 by my uncle, [Uncle 1]. And I called the police, the RCMP
20 then. I was under -- it was somewhere between 5 and 10
21 years old, I think. And there should be records of it.
22 Because I called the police and they came. And if there's
23 records of it, can I even tell about it?

24 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Whatever you're
25 comfortable sharing. If I have specific questions after,

1 I'll kind of come back to that. But if you don't know, it's
2 totally fine.

3 WOMAN A: This is sexual trauma. And it
4 involved touching. His hand in my vaginal area. And then I
5 got away, though, and I called the police. I don't know.
6 There's charges, I think. It's -- I remember I had to sit
7 in the courtroom. This, like, tiny courtroom in [Town 1].
8 And he was, like, right in front of me. And I had to recall
9 what happened while he stood right there, or he sat right
10 in front of me. That was traumatizing.

11 And during this -- this is when another
12 incident came out that happened in between [Municipality 1]
13 and this current time that I'm talking about. So I was
14 younger. Sometime in between there. Maybe the year previous
15 to this happening with [Uncle 1]. His name was -- I believe
16 there was charges that came out of that, too. His name was
17 -- I can't remember right now, but there should be records
18 of it, too. He was from (~~inaudible~~) ([First Nation 1]). He
19 was a teenager and he sexually assaulted me, too. He
20 touched me. I don't know what else to say about that. There
21 was charges that came out of it because I remember hearing
22 that -- but at the same time I don't know which one had the
23 charges -- if it was from -- because they paid me [a sum of
24 money] just, like, [at a point in time] I got [a sum of
25 money]. They were trying to track me down. So it makes me

1 think that it was at that meeting, that there was just one,
2 then, that got charged. My uncle, maybe.

3 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Maybe what we
4 could do is we could kind of go back to the beginning. One
5 thing I forgot to ask is to have you introduce yourself. So
6 maybe you could state your name for us and then maybe tell
7 me a little bit about your family and growing up.

8 WOMAN A: Okay. My name is [Woman A] my
9 dad was a [occupation]. I guess I'm told by other siblings
10 that he was physically abusive to my mom and my other
11 siblings, but I don't remember. He never hurt me, that I
12 ever recall. So my mom, she wasn't violent, she was an
13 alcoholic. I only saw my dad get violent, that I recall,
14 just once he got mad at me, raised his fist at me one once,
15 that was it. But other than that, *[one line removed -*
16 *identifying information]*. But my dad had [a number of] kids
17 and my mom had three with him, including myself. All my
18 other siblings are *[five words removed - identifying*
19 *information]*. So it's kind of like being on *[one line*
20 *removed - identifying information]*, practically.

21 The toll I think it took on my mom,
22 looking after my dad, because after [Municipality 1] and
23 she was really -- she used to cook and everything used to
24 be so much different, and then we moved to [Village 1] and
25 it just got worse. Eventually she just started practicing

1 her full-blown alcoholism. And that's when those things
2 happened.

3 That one teenager that I was saying, it
4 was during while she was partying at a friend's house. The
5 other one was right at our house.

6 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: How old were you
7 when that happened with your uncle?

8 WOMAN A: That was somewhere between 5 and
9 10. I'm going to guess, like, 7 and 10. Because I was older
10 when that happened with the uncle because that story with
11 that teenage boy, that happened before the uncle. So --

12 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Could you tell
13 me a little bit more about your mom? Did she attend
14 residential school?

15 WOMAN A: Yeah, they both did.

16 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you know what
17 school.

18 WOMAN A: [Residential School in City 1]. I
19 know my dad got [an illness], he didn't even attend for
20 very long. He went till grade two and then he got [an
21 illness] and got [injured]. So he was in the hospital.

22 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: How long was he
23 in the hospital for?

24 WOMAN A: I don't even remember all those
25 details.

1 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: He'd have
2 probably spent a fair amount of time there for [an
3 illness].

4 WOMAN A: Yeah.

5 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So your mom
6 drank but your dad didn't?

7 WOMAN A: Well, I think he was, like,
8 social because I saw pictures but I didn't -- I don't have
9 memories of him being intoxicated. But I remember her. But
10 he passed away in [the 1980s]. I just turned [an older
11 child]. And there was a big age difference between the two
12 of them. He was born [in the 1920s] and she was born [in
13 the 1940s].

14 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: What was that
15 like when your mom was intoxicated? Do you remember?

16 WOMAN A: I got left a lot. Or sometimes I
17 remember being in the car while she drove. There was always
18 people around. (Parties).

19 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Were your
20 siblings grown at that point?

21 WOMAN A: Just my next two oldest ones
22 were still in the house. But they were, like, older
23 teenagers. My brother, [Brother 1], was [a number of] years
24 older than me. And my sister was [a number of] years older.
25 And then the rest of them were from his first wife and much

1 older than me. We used to hang out with my other brother,
2 [Brother 2]'s kids down the block. So is that it for those
3 ones?

4 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Maybe you could
5 talk a little bit about -- so you said you went to court
6 with them about your uncle?

7 WOMAN A: Yeah.

8 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: How were you
9 supported through that process of going through the police
10 reports and court?

11 WOMAN A: I don't remember. And just
12 remember they came to the house and interviewed me. I
13 remember getting a phone call when they were ending, it was
14 from my aunties on my mom's side and they got mad at me,
15 yelling at me, saying I was a liar. Calling me a whore. We
16 had to go over the statement a couple of times and I think
17 because I was maybe traumatized, that's where the story of
18 the other one came out, because I was getting confused. And
19 I didn't mean for it to come out.

20 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: How did your mom
21 treat you in that process?

22 WOMAN A: She was really mad. She said,
23 what did you do? Why did you call the police? Where did
24 he go? What happened?

25 She'd left (~~inaudible~~) (something by my

1 bed,) some forks and spoons and a but(ter) knife or
2 something. Woke me up before she left and said that they'd
3 be back. They were going to go for a beer run. I woke up
4 and he was in bed with me and I was in the dark and I
5 reached for it when she left and it wasn't there. He must
6 have seen it and moved it. I don't know. I don't know what
7 else to say about that.

8 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: How did that
9 affect you growing up after that?

10 WOMAN A: I don't think I'm that close to
11 that side of the family. It's always been something
12 difficult that -- just knowing all those years that those
13 aunties said that to me made me unable to turn to them. Or
14 feel comfortable with them. I know that I was angry at my
15 mom for -- she told me not to tell my dad because he had
16 heart problems. I didn't want to be the reason to cause his
17 heart to fail because the shock. (~~inaudible~~) (He wouldn't
18 be able to handle it), so I never did tell. So even though
19 I went through (~~inaudible~~) (the courts) I think the one
20 person I wanted to tell, I didn't tell. (~~inaudible~~)
21 (Because he died. He used to always hold her accountable
22 and say, "What about [Woman A]? What about [Woman A]?", and
23 then) he passed away. It just got worse.

24 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: How did it get
25 worse?

1 WOMAN A: Well, from there we moved to
2 [City 1] because he went into a coma. That's when he passed
3 away. He never made it out. After he passed, we moved to --
4 we were staying in an apartment right by the hospital in
5 [City 1]. And my sister beat me when we lived there. My
6 sister -- my next oldest sister. And she couldn't -- I was
7 all scratched up, had blood dripping off my face. And
8 somebody, a man there, one of the party buddies, he was
9 always around, he got her boyfriend and they both came in
10 and said, stop, stop that.

11 And they interfered and -- nothing was
12 done about that.

13 And then I don't know -- there's stuff
14 like - ~~when~~ (what) do I tell them? I started walking and
15 hitchhiking and -- I don't know if I felt so comfortable
16 hitchhiking. I'd walk for miles, though, by myself at
17 night. We moved to (~~inaudible~~) ([City 2]) after that and
18 left me there. She didn't even tell me she was going to
19 leave me there. She moved to [City 3] without me. I stayed
20 -- I finished the rest of the [school grade B year]. All of
21 that was in the [school grade B year], that year that he
22 went into hospital. Started at [School in Village 1], I
23 went to (~~inaudible~~) ([School 1]) in [City 1] and then to
24 the [School 2 in City 1] and (~~inaudible~~) (and then to [City
25 2] all in that year). They must have just felt pity for me

1 and just passed me anyway. I didn't fail into [school
2 grade C] and I was in (~~inaudible~~) ([City 2]) I finished
3 [school grade B] and then [school grade C]. And they knew,
4 too, that she just left me there, because I started my
5 period and they asked me if I had anybody, and I didn't
6 have anybody to call.

7 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Who were you
8 living with?

9 WOMAN A: My auntie (~~inaudible~~) ([Auntie
10 1]), she was through marriage through my half-uncle, [Uncle
11 2]. They worked together. Yeah, my [Auntie 1], at that
12 time, she was a drinker. So was just kind of unsupervised,
13 basically. I would hitchhike. I started hitchhiking. My
14 friend (showed) ~~saw~~ me walking along the tracks ('til) ~~and~~
15 we'd go (out of) ~~to~~ town (where) ~~and~~ nobody could see us on
16 the highway. Truckers, all kinds of different --

17 I know I was way too young, but that's
18 where I gave -- I guess I gave permission that I was under
19 age, so probably -- I don't remember if it was -- I don't
20 remember -- I was old enough to count outside, so I was
21 thinking it was that summer, that [school grade B] going
22 into [school grade C]. I had sex with -- he was a teenager,
23 he was, like -- I don't know, he was, like -- he was older
24 than me. 18, 19. Because they were all drinking, so I don't
25 know -- you could assume they were old enough, but I know

1 he was, like -- because my cousin got upset with me and
2 said he was too old for me. And then she said I shouldn't
3 be dealing with that anyway. So [school grade B] and
4 [school grade C], that's, like, [an older child].

5 It was in the summer because I know -- I
6 know when I finished [school grade C], she just showed up
7 in the night again and just took me. Basically the last
8 day, or the last couple of days of school. So that's when I
9 think it happened, [school grade B] going (in)to [school
10 grade C]. (I would have still been [an older child].)

11 And then she came (from [City 2]) and got
12 me and we moved to [City 3]. And I was beat. This where I
13 say I was probably beat almost to death. I didn't report
14 it. (By) my brother, (~~inaudible~~) (and the lump was so big)
15 I couldn't put my hand around it and touch my hand. It was
16 so big. And later in life in my 20s I went to go see an X-
17 ray guy because my jaw was bothering me, and he asked me
18 when I broke my jaw, and I said I never broke my jaw. And
19 he said, yes, you did, do you want to see the records?

20 And he showed me the x-ray and showed me
21 the difference between both sides. And it was the side that
22 was on -- it was all swollen. My eyes were swollen shut. So
23 that was -- it was [in the 1990s]. I remember working in
24 [school grade D or E]. I think it may have been [school
25 grade E]. Because when I remember my timeline, I started

1 off (~~inaudible~~) (living with her in [Location in British
2 Columbia]) where I got beat up because of the later place.
3 I think it was in [school grade E] it happened. So [in the
4 1990s]. I had to stay home and if you look at ~~my~~ ([School
5 in City 3] records, you'd see I missed -- for as long as
6 that lump on my head to go away and the swelling and my
7 black on -- my face was just black and blue all over the
8 place. To me it felt like forever because I didn't leave my
9 room. I couldn't even get up. It was hard for me to just go
10 to the washroom, I remember. And just recovered in my room.

11 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Did you have any
12 medical attention at all?

13 WOMAN A: They asked me not to report it.
14 I don't know what else to say about that.

15 Do I just keep moving forward?

16 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: If that's what
17 you'd like to do. So ~~with~~ you were (going to [School in
18 City 3] at the time) -- that was when you moved to [City
19 3]? You were living with your mom again?

20 WOMAN A: No, I was living with my sister,
21 [Sister 1]. My mom was living with her boyfriend.

22 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And what were
23 the events leading up to what happened with your brother?

24 WOMAN A: He doesn't really -- he doesn't
25 seem to recall, he says. I make my own assumption that he

1 was on (maybe some kind of) drugs because -- I don't know,
2 he was just so much more severe. I wasn't getting through
3 to him. That and just the combination of being blacked out
4 and everything, I guess. But don't tell -- I don't know the
5 dates so I couldn't tell. And I was just a kid anyway.
6 (~~inaudible~~) (I've never had a very good gauge) probably
7 because I grew up with all of this, it was normal for me.
8 But he came in, it was just him and I home, and she told
9 me, don't let anybody take that (coat) -- just stuck in my
10 head. Like, she just told me that. And he came and
11 (~~inaudible~~) (he was trying to take that) jacket. She just
12 bought it for me, and I said, no. And it was just me trying
13 to practice my (~~inaudible~~) (boundaries), not a good time to
14 try that because I just remember her saying it to me, don't
15 you let him take that off you. But it nearly cost me my
16 life trying to protect that.

17 So that's what led him to it.

18 Then we moved to (~~inaudible~~) (from there
19 we moved to [City 4]) and --

20 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you want to
21 go --

22 WOMAN A: A couple more minutes.

23 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Take a deep
24 breath and try to figure out if you want to move forward.

25 WOMAN A: So from [City 3] we moved to

1 [City 4]. I again was staying with my sister, [Sister 1],
2 there. And then -- no, I forgot about [Village 1]. It was
3 the first thing, [Village 1], after [City 3]. So for my
4 [school grade F year] I was living in [Village 1]. And she
5 moved me there and left me living there alone again. Family
6 cabin. And so unsupervised and I was raped while I lived in
7 this -- not inside this house but ~~en~~ (while I lived [in
8 City 3].) (~~inaudible~~) ~~I never got it reported~~ (I didn't
9 report it.) I was raped more than once in one night.

10 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Would it be a
11 strong assumption to say that with all of these subsequent
12 incidents where you've been sexually assaulted or
13 physically assaulted, these haven't been reported because
14 of that initial reaction that your family had when you
15 reported your uncle?

16 WOMAN A: Maybe.

17 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Because you got
18 such a negative reaction and you were trying to protect
19 yourself?

20 WOMAN A: Yeah. Every time it's just, like
21 -- I know in the end it's what I think.

22 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: It just sounds
23 like everything that happened after that court process, you
24 never reported it again.

25 WOMAN A: Yeah. I never thought of that.

1 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: How do you feel
2 that impacted you?

3 WOMAN A: Not reporting it that time?

4 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yeah.

5 WOMAN A: I guess I -- (inaudible).

6 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: That's fair.

7 WOMAN A: Yeah, I (hadn't) realized --
8 well, you know, when I was raped I told a family member, I
9 told my niece. It was her family, too, on her mom's side.
10 So she didn't know what to do or say, she was a teenager
11 herself. I didn't have my mom there, I didn't know what
12 she'd have said or done anyway. I got home and I had
13 (~~inaudible~~) (sap) in my hair and I didn't want to phone
14 anybody or tell anybody. (I felt really ashamed) I had a
15 (to) fight with him and I was telling him, no, and we
16 rolled down an embankment together because this is how much
17 -- he just raped me. He falls down an embankment with me up
18 in [(Lake 1)]. It was, like, a grad party or something. I
19 was telling my -- after it happened I went and told my
20 niece about it. I want to get out of here. (~~Inaudible~~) (I
21 want to go home) she said, well, go home, then. I just
22 remember being shocked, like, how -- so she put me in a car
23 with somebody and she told me -- I remember in my head,
24 just go with his brother and his brother will make sure
25 you're okay, and he'll stay away from your if he thinks

1 you're with his brother.

2 And so I sat on his lap and he was just,
3 like, hands all over me and stuff. I did end up having sex
4 with him, probably because I got to say -- I don't know, he
5 was older than me, too. He was older. I think he was old
6 enough to be (~~inaudible~~) (buying alcohol then). Anyway, so
7 his younger brother left. But his younger brother, he was,
8 like, stupidly, he had it in his head that we were
9 together. He just raped me. I had to fall ~~on him~~. I took
10 his body weight. He landed on top of me off that
11 embankment. And then he stared at me, and said, it didn't
12 have to be this (~~inaudible~~) (messy. I screamed at him it
13 didn't have to happen at all) ~~never happen at all~~. They
14 just left me there. So when I left with the brother, I
15 missed that other one in there.

16 I missed -- I want to talk about it but
17 it's jumbled up, the story, because I got raped at the
18 beginning of the night by another -- somebody else. He's,
19 like, the same age as me. We were in the same home room.
20 And I just remember thinking, like, I thought you were
21 nice. I woke up and he was doing that to me, he was raping
22 me. He (too) was (~~inaudible~~) (trying to) act like we were
23 together after that. So I drank heavy after that and I
24 (~~inaudible~~) (jumped in someone's car and they brought me up
25 to (indiscernible) Lake). (I)t happened again. That same

1 one that raped me there raped me again up there. So he
2 raped me twice that night. And -- which is probably why I
3 was caught off guard and -- I didn't want to go ~~back there~~
4 (to the bathroom) by myself. I was telling him, that just
5 happened to me. I guess there was a part of me that was
6 just trying to act like it didn't happen. (I was telling
7 myself) it was ludicrous, but it happened. And then it
8 happened again. And then that other guy got me when I was
9 trying to go to the bathroom. I said (, "I don't know where
10 to go.") - I was terrified, and she said, ~~just~~ (inaudible)
11 ("Just go right there") and there was lights from the fire
12 (inaudible) (flickering) how could nobody have seen it
13 happen? (Inaudible) (How did nobody see what) happened. So
14 I fought him so hard, he caught me with my pants down
15 because I was going to the bathroom. And (it was pretty
16 violent) then so then after that, I ended up with that
17 brother because -- I don't know. I think I just lost my
18 mind. (Inaudible) (He said he cared for me and then I
19 realized what am I doing I need to get out of here,) away
20 from this guy (inaudible) (he's not taking care of me,) he
21 just wanted sex with me. It was stupid. So I (inaudible)
22 (ran out of there in the) early morning and I got on the
23 highway and I just put myself -- I hitchhike home and I
24 didn't know where my keys and my wallet were, so I had to
25 climb in the window. Nobody was home. I had ~~stuff~~ (sap) all

1 over my hair. I tried to figure out how to clean this mess
2 before anybody seen ~~it~~ (me). I couldn't ~~pick it up~~ (get the
3 sap out). So my niece came in, I have been trying to knock
4 all day. I said I just -- I was trying to get this out of
5 my hair. I was hiding behind the door. She came in and
6 ended up asking her mom and she helped me, just the two of
7 us. We didn't go show anybody else what happened. And then
8 I told her, ~~put~~ (but) I didn't report it. I told her. And
9 that's her family, and she didn't know how to react because
10 that was her family that did that. And (~~inaudible~~) (it
11 still doesn't get) talk(ed) about. But that's that. That
12 was that. It was, like, one of my worst nights when I was a
13 teenager.

14 And then that was [school grade F]. And I
15 was pretty messed up, so I ended up getting in a fight with
16 this adult woman at a barn dance, kind of thing. She was
17 like a grown-ass woman and I was just this teenager and had
18 all this crap that was happening. But she was trying to
19 fight me, fist fight me. She grabbed my hair, she started
20 punching me. I think I had already so much savage in me, I
21 didn't let her get the upper hand and I was just crazy.

22 And then I moved to [City 4]. I don't
23 know, there's a story between there. It's really, like,
24 again, I put myself in the situation. I trusted him and he
25 got me intoxicated. I woke up to him (~~inaudible~~) (raping

1 me). There's a story in between there. There's another
2 story in between there, too.

3 That's when I got intoxicated with a
4 group, they were all older adults. We were in a bar and the
5 last time I remember -- the next thing I was -- I was in
6 the back of someone's vehicle and the next thing they were
7 driving, and the next thing there was an older man raping
8 me. I don't know if you include those kind of stories.

9 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: All of your
10 stories are important. Whatever you feel you can share, as
11 many details as you can remember. It's okay. I think you've
12 painted a pretty clear picture of the harm that's been done
13 to you and you don't have to recall every single moment
14 because that can be, like, ripping off a whole bunch of
15 band aids and --

16 WOMAN A: Yeah, it was, like --

17 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: (It's also what
18 you want to come out of this as well, right?) What do you
19 want to see happen with the inquiry? How do you want your
20 story to impact --

21 WOMAN A: (~~Inaudible~~) ((Sobbing) (it)
22 makes my people look bad.

23 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: It's not making
24 your people look bad. It's about --

25 WOMAN A: I want Canada to know who --

1 that's why I made myself come here.

2 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: You don't make
3 people look bad. Each person that's done this to you has
4 had something happen to them. And that's what we're trying
5 to identify, are these intergenerational causes of
6 violence, and how to make those cycles stop. The next
7 generation of sons are not raping other people's daughters,
8 right? You're not trying to shame your people, but you had
9 a tremendous amount of trauma in your life that sounds like
10 you haven't talked about very much, and this is really
11 difficult to do that, and I'm acknowledging that it takes a
12 great deal of strength to be where you are right now.
13 You're a very strong woman.

14 WOMAN A: I have talked myself blue in the
15 face. I used to be able to talk -- I don't know -- it was
16 like I was desensitized from it. Just like a ~~real~~ (robot) -
17 - go off and talk about it. I brought myself to a
18 therapist. I ended up just walking from school in [City 4]
19 and just ended up walking inside a counselor's office. And
20 I just started sharing. Because I guess I couldn't hold on
21 to any of that anymore. I couldn't hold it all anymore. So
22 I started talking and talking. I'd go there after school, I
23 don't know how often. But then they said, it's starting to
24 seem like sessions, and I just wanted to say, I don't
25 normally see, like, the opposite gender. He was trying to

1 get me to see someone else, but it was just, like, I was
2 more comfortable. I was all spaced out. And I sat in his
3 office and I just started talking. I wasn't like that. I
4 was a shy, quiet kid. But anyway, I haven't even got to
5 what happened to me in my 20s. It was one of my worst --

6 I was drinking. I went out to a nightclub
7 and supposedly I was just hooking up with this guy. But he
8 ended up having roommates. When I tell my story to a
9 therapist, they say it sounds like possibly I was given
10 something, because then I was woozy and then the rest of
11 the weekend was in and out. And I just remember there was a
12 couple of times I was really weak, lifted myself to the
13 window and I was trying my hardest to yell out and I
14 couldn't. No energy, nothing. And I just lay back down. And
15 said, by time I did get out of there, I had no energy. It
16 was the whole weekend had passed. And they had me since
17 Friday until Sunday. And I was severely raped and
18 traumatized and sodomized and that didn't get reported.

19 And that wasn't even the final rape. I was
20 in my 20s and still I got raped again after that. Back in
21 [Village 1]. And it was involving drinking, too. I got back
22 to [Village 1], I was so broken after what happened. It was
23 [on a particular day]. I had no business, I didn't want to
24 go out. I didn't plan on going out. I was just home. And
25 then my cousin came to get me. Nobody comes to get me

1 (inaudible) (in my hometown). It's [on a particular day],
2 let's go. Let's go, cousin. It made me feel -- (included I
3 guess) so I went with them and I ended up being raped that
4 night. (Inaudible) (As you know, people say,) you're so
5 beautiful. (inaudible) It's not a blessing. It's a curse.
6 People objectify you. Like, (your prettiness), your beauty
7 is for everybody. So I would see it. I'm beautiful,
8 everything that's happened -- I don't know -- I was trying
9 to -- I was trying to (avoid this) ~~uphold this~~ (inaudible)
10 (happening to my daughter). In this past year she was
11 raped. And I don't know what happened. She won't talk about
12 it. ~~I have~~ (From) someone else's writing, (inaudible) (on -
13 - one of those) social media sites, (inaudible) (bullied
14 her and said stuff). The way that they wrote, it was
15 somebody, they said Caucasian, and then they said, this
16 Caucasian person, lock(ed) her in his basement (inaudible)
17 (and had his way with her) and I'm, like, why wouldn't she
18 tell me or talk to me? Why can't we do something about
19 this? And she'd tell me nothing. And everybody says,
20 that's just the way it is. I can't force her to tell me
21 anything. So nothing came out of that either.

22 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: How old is she?

23 WOMAN A: She's [a teenager]. Her
24 (inaudible) (Dad committed) suicide a couple of years back.
25 I had a partner, he's an alcoholic and he ended up leaving

1 us ~~about~~ a ([a period of time]) ago. (~~Inaudible~~) (I don't
2 know what I'm going to do for her) we're at an age where
3 she's really hard to connect with. She's mad and angry. I
4 got hit by a [vehicle] a [number of years] ago) now, and
5 that night when I got in my cab, the cops (~~inaudible~~)
6 (ended up in our house and strong-armed me around --) big-
7 ass bruise on my leg from them because they took me -- I
8 think my sister -- one sister (we don't get along), I think
9 she tried to use that situation to (~~inaudible~~) (to try to
10 get her into her) custody, because at that time she tried
11 to take -- just take her. She picked her from the foster
12 care and she just started driving ~~around~~ (out of) town with
13 her. I was, like, on the phone (with [Daughter]) and said,
14 where are you going? We're supposed to have our first
15 visit that day. Within half an hour -- where are you?

16 And she goes, I don't know, ~~and~~ (but)
17 she's not telling me. ~~Don't~~ talk to me. I tried to ask her
18 where we're going, because I told her that I have an
19 appointment. I know that we have our first visit today.

20 They told me that you wanted to go visit
21 with [Sister 1] and [Sister 1] was going to bring you over
22 (to go see D.) That's what the foster people told me.

23 And she was, like, no, that's not even
24 true. I didn't want to, but then [Sister 1] showed up.

25 I said, you don't have to (hang out with

1 her or) visit with her if you don't want to.

2 Anyway, that was, like, very traumatic for
3 her.

4 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Is your daughter
5 currently in care?

6 WOMAN A: No. Nothing came out of that.
7 Nothing against me.

8 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Was she in care
9 at some time?

10 WOMAN A: Yeah, for four days.

11 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.

12 WOMAN A: And they released her and they
13 released -- they said I was clear from everything.

14 I said, yeah, it would be clear because I
15 didn't do anything. I got hit by a [vehicle] that --
16 earlier that evening, I didn't get handled right, † (the
17 ambulance) sent away my witnesses who said, I'll stick
18 around, should I get a statement when the police get here?
19 Or what's happening? The ambulance people both told him
20 there's more than one witness here. And he told those
21 witnesses, no, show's over, you can all go now.

22 And my head and every, I was not okay
23 after I got hit by the [vehicle], so I was slow reacting. I
24 don't know if that was the trauma or what, but it was too
25 late. By the time I -- I wanted to say, wait, wait, because

1 they just kept talking over me. The ambulance people. Don't
2 I need those guys? No, these cases, they're all the same.
3 They follow a process or whatever. And it was, like, are
4 you sure?

5 And then they wanted to bring me -- the
6 cops were going to bring me -- they wanted me to point out
7 the spot. I got out of the ambulance and I took 1 or 2
8 steps away from the ambulance and I was trying to point to
9 them, right there, I was crossing the street -- and then
10 they just disappeared. They were by my side. I was, like,
11 how long have and been talking to myself here? And it just
12 seemed very bizarre. And then I went in the ambulance and
13 stuff, I said, I'm really stiff and I'm getting -- I don't
14 want to be in pain sitting in the waiting room, can I -- is
15 it an option if I go to see the doctor the next day? Or
16 how does this work? I don't know what to do. I don't have
17 anybody with me. I just don't know what to do.

18 Anyway, it was when the police were trying
19 to take my statement, that's when I got out of the
20 ambulance and I turned to my side and they weren't there,
21 and that's when I just walked home from there.

22 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: What was the
23 circumstance around that, ~~that you didn't~~ (your daughter
24 ended up in care for four days?) --

25 WOMAN A: Well, [E.] and I went over to

1 someone's house and had some drinks on the way back from
2 her [holiday] dinner. We all went. Everybody went. And then
3 on the way home, [Daughter 1] went home and then we stopped
4 at his cousin's place for some drinks. And then she put us
5 in a cab to go home. I got home in the cab and at some
6 point he didn't -- he got out of the cab. And I was, like,
7 what -- he just randomly disappeared when he's drinking.
8 And so I got back to the house and I was trying to find my
9 phone. I was trying to figure out what to do. Should I call
10 the -- I'm just going to wait for him. And then he just got
11 back right before those cops came and he went upstairs. He
12 was trying to tell me his story. He's, like, I just got
13 beat up down the street and he's, like, those punks, they
14 didn't get anything, though, because I didn't have anything
15 on me.

16 And then he just goes up the stairs and
17 I'm, like, what? What happened? Wait, I'm just trying to
18 look for my phone. I go, okay.

19 He goes, yeah. And he goes upstairs. Then
20 I was, like, downstairs because before he showed up I was
21 looking for my phone. So I'm, like, okay, I'll be right
22 upstairs.

23 And then while I was looking for the
24 phone, that's when the police -- because the police ended
25 up knocking on my inside door and I opened it and that's

1 when I -- they put me down to the floor and they got him
2 from upstairs and dragged him down the stairs. And that's
3 when -- they put in the report that she was all traumatized
4 by -- and she even said this herself -- I was freaked out
5 because of the way that they busted in. And, like, she
6 said, and how they handled you. And I was, like, I know,
7 really rough. And I said, here they're trying to say that
8 you were traumatized already, but the way that they just
9 busted in and all that, that freaked her out, and she ran
10 upstairs. Because she ~~wasn't~~ (was) even awake and she was
11 asking me, who is that? I was, like, I don't know who is
12 at the door at this time of night. And they went to the
13 door. My god, it's the cops. And she was, like, cops? And
14 then I locked it. As soon as I locked it, they pushed the
15 door in. And that's when all ~~that~~ (the chaos) broke open
16 and she ran upstairs.

17 And then that's when they took her into
18 care. They took me downtown into the police station and
19 arrested -- whatever -- they had me overnight and then they
20 had him in the hospital. They assumed that ~~I hit him~~
21 (~~inaudible~~)... (He ended up with a stab wound) and they ~~said~~
22 (assumed) that I did that. In the midst of all that, I had
23 no idea. Then I was trying to explain to them, you know
24 what, I just got hit by a [vehicle] tonight and you guys
25 are, like, pushing me -- I don't know what injuries and all

1 that you might be causing on top of what's already happened
2 to me. If you guys just look at your file, I have it
3 written, because they had my arms down to the ground and
4 stuff. I said, you just take a look at that paper because I
5 had it tacked to the wall. And I was, like, I'm all stiff,
6 I'm in a lot of pain right now and you guys are, like, you
7 don't need to be using this force. You, like, could have
8 just told me to go on the ground and I would have went on
9 the ground. You don't have to, like, use all that force. So
10 they did. They checked it out and then after that they were
11 easing. But they still used excessive -- they let me use
12 the washroom and all that stuff that night. There was cops
13 in there laughing at me. Even female cops. So, yeah, that
14 was my first real awakening of -- what I went through what
15 you were talking about, I went through when I was younger.
16 How I feel about reporting it and stuff like that. Well,
17 this -- I have seen police rough people up before, but this
18 is my experience. And after that I was, like, no. I was
19 pretty desperate when just in this past little while that
20 my daughter ran off in the middle of the night. She was
21 (feeling) very emotional. And then -- I called my sisters.
22 I took her phone off her. I was over her phone. I took her
23 phone and called my sister [Sister 2] and told them to come
24 and get her. And when I told her that they were coming for
25 her, she took off. She took off because she knew -- it's

1 different (rules). She didn't like it when she was in
2 foster care. She was -- I said, so you think I'm too hard
3 on you? (~~Inaudible~~) (With rules, I didn't grow up with...).
4 I have to give up things. I had to include everybody. I had
5 to (~~inaudible~~) (have) my counsel. I don't know. Those are
6 some situations I think need to be in there for how -- I
7 can see, I guess, I haven't had my own experience like that
8 before to show me -- I can see why other people don't like
9 going to the police and stuff. Because after that I was,
10 like, no, now you've changed me. (I was a fence-sitter.)
11 Now I'm quiet person, but now I'm going to be speaking out.
12 So any time I'm wrong now, I don't just sit on it. But
13 yeah, at least the question with all this other stuff,
14 that's unreported. Because of what it would do community-
15 wise. Like I was saying, there was some families that did
16 things to me that are both my family and the family of my
17 family. I don't know if that makes sense.

18 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: (No, I get it.)
19 ~~Yeah, it does.~~

20 WOMAN A: So the repercussions of all of
21 that, I --

22 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So what do you
23 want to see changed? What recommendations do you have for
24 the commissioners to help break those cycles of
25 intergenerational trauma? Because like I was saying, you

1 said it yourself, you don't want to be blaming or shaming
2 your own people but some things happen to the people (who
3 have wronged) you ~~around~~ along the way that taught them
4 that this is okay.

5 WOMAN A: Yeah.

6 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: How do we change
7 that where people understand and are healing from all of
8 that past trauma and how to stop that cycle?

9 WOMAN A: I think this is something very
10 well that was planned for Canada to be doing to our people.
11 They wanted us to be so messed up that we're going to be so
12 busy healing over here that we don't even know that they
13 are still stealing our land right from underneath us. So as
14 much as this might sound whatever, but I know it's
15 connected with giving the land back to the people so they
16 can have their pride and have their culture and feel free
17 to go out. And that's part of the healing. Feel free to go
18 out, collect their medicines to go and practice their
19 culture by being (right) ~~raped~~ out there. And not have to
20 worry about no trespassing signs and all this
21 ridiculousness where we don't even know where we can go
22 anymore. Nobody knows where they can go pick berries. Like,
23 literally I Googled -- I was trying to go berry-picking and
24 (~~inaudible~~) (I was laughing at myself when I was doing
25 that) but that's what I see has a lot to do with it. As

1 long as we're being victimized and then treated like
2 victims and put over here in the victim corner while is
3 this the bigger picture, and it connects us -- it's always
4 connected to our land. The land is our culture, it's our
5 identity. And so many things about that picture, the land
6 connection, involves police force, which doesn't help the
7 people feel safe. People want to live those relationships.
8 There's no relationship. The only relationship is the
9 nonexistence of it. But I think that that's what -- I think
10 that's what needs to happen, is at some -- that's one part
11 of it. Then when you have this land and you have these
12 resources, which are our own economy, there's funds that --
13 you know and nothing specifically for all of this trauma.
14 And I mean, there's no way to umbrella that -- when they
15 say the reconciliation, I say reckless reconciliation. I
16 say some people accepted money. That's, like, a little
17 handful here, pebbles here, took money. But there's all of
18 this here, all the rest of the millions that were killed,
19 what about them? That's reckless. That's almost as bad as
20 these chiefs signing deals, land deals saying we'll deal
21 with you.

22 So I think that there's no neat and tidy
23 clean picture about all of this. As much as everybody, and
24 the way the system is built, it needs to be neat and tidy
25 to work with the system. But it's not that way. Humans are

1 not that way. Neat and tidy, fit in a box. That's just not
2 the way it is. We're not going to know the answers, it
3 evolves as we go. And this is the beginning, I can say. It
4 was enough to get me out of not ever reporting any of this
5 stuff. For me to want -- I like the sounds of what you guys
6 are doing. I want my story to be useful so that I don't
7 want to say ~~that's~~ (that it's) hopeless. Because the way
8 that I'm coming at it is sounding, like -- you know, how
9 are we going to get there? That's hopeless, when they give
10 us this picture -- give the land back. It's like saying
11 give Canada back, right? And the automatic reaction is to
12 laugh at it because -- that's the real things that need to
13 be talked about. Which is five years ago, ten years ago,
14 maybe a year ago, two years ago, where was this idea of
15 this project?

16 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Nowhere.

17 WOMAN A: Yeah. So when people say --
18 remember that natural reaction is to just chuckle, to give
19 the land back, to give us our rightful -- then maybe we can
20 stand up and sit up taller. And then we will want to be --
21 okay, just for (~~inaudible~~) (like a settler, take this plot
22 of land out of all of Canada and everything and we're going
23 to give you this), this is yours. So today I give you
24 (~~inaudible~~) (the deed to that and I hand that to you,)
25 you'll feel like you won the lottery, right? You're going

1 to feel like -- now imagine if you did that for our people
2 that are broken and all this stuff. Then they're going to
3 be sitting upright, they're going to be, like -- they're
4 going to do all this work because they are going to
5 realize, I'm going to take care of this, because if I just
6 die off and I don't have any -- all the things connected to
7 it, all the future generations, I don't have anyone to
8 leave it to, I didn't do anything to take care of it,
9 there's nothing to pass on because I didn't take care of
10 that land.

11 Well, that's basically us. That (land
12 also) represents us. There's a whole bunch of us, all just
13 broken, devastated, crushed and if you did give them
14 something that was -- it is theirs. Not if you give them
15 something that hypothetically was theirs -- no, it is
16 theirs. Why is it such a ridiculous notion? If somebody
17 asked us of the notion of this project 5 or 10 years ago, I
18 wonder what the reaction would have been. It could have
19 been -- yeah, I'd like to see that happen, kind of thing.
20 But so I don't like to think that things are impossible
21 because I have seen some things. And a part of that is
22 surviving a lot of that stuff that I survived.

23 Because (There's even) a story in there
24 that I didn't get in there where I had to jump out of a
25 moving vehicle moving over 100 kilometres because there was

1 -- I hitchhiked and there was a man trying to touch me
2 sexually. And so I was trying to get him to stop, and so he
3 started choking me. And that's when I had to jump out. And
4 that was [on a particular] night. My sister, she dumped me
5 on the highway there because she got mad because they were
6 drinking. I wasn't drinking. There's stories like that.

7 There was another story where I was [a
8 teenager]. That's when I met -- and I end up with this man
9 who was [a number of] years older than me because of all
10 where I came from. And he saw -- and this man gave me some
11 attention. He was a native man. I stayed with him for,
12 like, [a number of] years. And I raised his kids. But we
13 had a break up in between there, right around the time
14 (after) ~~that~~ I met him. And I left him in the middle of the
15 night and I hitchhiked to [City 4]. And I went back to my
16 mom's and in that journey, in that hitchhiking trip (from
17 [Town 2]) to [City 4], there was this older man who picked
18 me up, and he was starting to proposition me and asking me
19 how I wanted to do this, and I said, do what? And I still
20 had some of my innocence in me to really, like, I didn't
21 expect this from this old white man. Like, I didn't expect
22 he was going to proposition me like that. What are you
23 talking about?

24 Normally I just -- he just seemed, like,
25 uncomfortable, like, as if, like, I wasn't playing along.

1 And because I had asked him a few times, I don't know what
2 you're talking about, this conversation is making me
3 uncomfortable, so I want to get out here.

4 Because he pulled off on a rest stop. And
5 I said, is this not what I was hitchhiking for. And then he
6 -- and then he freaked out. He started following me. I ran
7 and I ~~tried~~ (had) to hide in some bushes and stuff. He
8 drove past a couple of times trying to look for me, but I
9 hid and he was yelling, I wouldn't (have) hurt you.

10 But he was trying to proposition me for
11 sex. And so I was pretty shaken up by that because I hadn't
12 had that happen before, those other times that I
13 hitchhiked. So and I'd always heard about the men in our
14 communities getting beaten. Like, even my own brothers
15 getting beaten by the cops. So I think having that in my
16 head, too, couldn't make me feel safe to contact them. And
17 also what would they do about it? Like, this guy being
18 ~~hooded~~ (reported) on, and then what would happen? He'd
19 just be on a committee mad at me because I went and got him
20 in jail and all that stuff? You know? It's not a system
21 that you feel too confident in stirring up trouble. It's
22 like trying to stir up trouble with (~~inaudible~~) (KKKers) or
23 something and thinking that there's going to be no trouble
24 in the end. There will be. And so when you start bringing
25 up sexual trauma, rapes and stuff, people get really -- in

1 small communities, maybe larger ones, too, but they get
2 defensive. And nobody wants to own up or believe it or all
3 that kind of stuff. So that was a lot for me to carry to
4 weigh out, is this community who already doesn't know me
5 very well, ~~is it going to~~ (and already doesn't) stand
6 behind me just out of just being me and my -- one of their
7 community members raped me? Is that going to make it
8 easier or more hellish for me? And I'm living here alone.
9 If I was to report it, what are the other implications that
10 will happen? Not with just the law or social services but
11 say anybody in that community found out I was alone at
12 night, right? So you put all those pieces together and it
13 just wasn't ideal for me to just walk up and feel safe and
14 feel like that was somewhere for me to -- so for all of
15 this to be shown ahead of time, I'd say again, I think this
16 is in a good direction because the truth does need to be
17 told about, like, these ~~times~~ (patterns) need to be shown,
18 truths need to be told because just like how they had the
19 truth and reconciliation for the residential school
20 survivors, we also need that same for the next generations.
21 And that's what I am. I didn't go to residential school,
22 but my parents did. And that's the story of what happened
23 after they did what they did to my parents, and then sent
24 them home to have kids of their own. And that's the next
25 generation, whatever we're called, we're that. I'm sure

1 there's lots more similar stories to mine that are just
2 same patterns of what happened at the residential school.

3 So I don't like hearing about deadlines.
4 That whole stressful thing about the deadlines with the
5 truth and reconciliation of the residential school
6 survivors, because there's tons of them out there that are
7 still (so) ~~sole~~ in their addictions, they are so broken,
8 that they can't even see straight to even start talking
9 about it. And they just let those deadlines pass because --
10 and so like I say, that reckless reconciliation because
11 people took money. There's all those ones -- what about the
12 dead? And they didn't get to say anything. Some of them
13 died in the residential schools. Some of them survived
14 later but then couldn't live with -- all the different
15 stories. Some of them, the bodies -- because the nutrition
16 (and everything else) and all the rest of it. There's so
17 many different things of why they didn't make it. But for
18 some to take - (it's what I feel like) again, another thing
19 that Canada wanted was that division. Here, you guys take
20 this money and then now it's all a clean slate, right? But
21 no, it's not. It's not because for one, I want to speak
22 about the ones that died. Because my parents were gone
23 before this whole thing took place. What about the ones
24 after? My generation? The ones after the (ones that went
25 to) residential school? It's kind of like you're getting

1 raised by people who were fully trained by those people
2 that beat the crap out of them. So I don't know -- it's a
3 step in the right direction, is all I can say for now. As
4 long as there's communication, grass roots is grass roots
5 and why all of this other stuff, this whole systemic ends
6 up becoming oppressive, is because these systems start
7 losing connection and sight of the people. (The)
8 grassroots. So keeping these dialogues and keeping the
9 communications open, if there's really going to be any real
10 (impact)-- I hear you guys talk about follow-up, but I hope
11 the follow-up is also going to be for all of this, too.
12 That it just doesn't get cut off at this one interview.
13 Through the follow-up there might be more things that come
14 out that are useful. Because you don't want to just try to
15 take all the useful stuff out of these two hours and then
16 in the after care maybe there's more.

17 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: It is open, too,
18 as well, if you have more to add, I will give you my
19 contact information. So you can always submit more in
20 writing or if I'm able to, I can do follow-up sessions.
21 That might be a little harder to manage. There's ~~only~~ so
22 many registrants that haven't had the opportunity to speak
23 yet. But definitely I want to leave it open to you to
24 provide more information or if you want to provide photos
25 or documents or art or -- we're really encouraging people,

1 if they have any art that they do, to also contribute to
2 our artistic archive.

3 I do have one last question for you and I
4 just wanted to know -- where is it that you draw your
5 strength from for yourself and your daughter? Because I
6 sense a lot of strength and you seem to have powered
7 through so much so where is it that you draw your strength
8 from?

9 WOMAN A: It's probably just -- I freak
10 out. I freak out to everything. Even to come to this
11 appointment. And I break apart. I felt like I broke into a
12 million pieces. And I grew up like that because I didn't
13 have somebody there to turn to. You know, like a kid should
14 have. So I second-guess myself. I have so much anxiety when
15 I have to make up a decision. When I have got to decide
16 something, I'm, like, that now. But probably because I have
17 always had to -- you know, I'm trying to explain it. Like,
18 because I had to. I had to. I was just this little kid. You
19 see this little toddler and you go through the ages. 5, 6,
20 7, 8, 9, 10. All those ages, you'll still be telling them -
21 - the 5, 6, 7, 8-year old, 9, 10-year old -- that they
22 don't have to worry, you did such a good job, I'm so proud
23 of you. And don't worry about all of those details. I
24 didn't have anybody to do that. So I had to do that. I
25 remember lots of things -- it's one of the reasons why I

1 have these perfectionist things, because -- and it probably
2 stems from residential school, too, like the perfectionist
3 things. Like, the crumbs. To get the little crumbs, but
4 then the adult would see this little five-year old trying
5 to fix those crumbs, and it would be, like, no, no don't
6 worry about that. You know?

7 And so I remember growing up with this
8 voice, it was, like, when do I do? What do I do now?
9 What's the next choice? What -- you know, freaking out.
10 And it wasn't until even just recently I realized I did
11 that. And I'm still doing it. I'm freaking out and my
12 voices inside me are saying -- my voice was telling me, you
13 can't possibly survive this. You can't possibly get through
14 this. And I do. So I guess at some point I started looking
15 at that and started realizing, why are you freaking out
16 about -- you've said that to yourself before. You said
17 you're not going to get through this, you couldn't possibly
18 get through this, but you did. So somewhere just even in
19 the past five years, I'll say, I started realizing -- so I
20 don't know -- you said, how did I get through all of those
21 years? I freaked out. I don't know what I'm doing, I don't
22 know what I'm doing. I don't have any parents to call, I
23 don't have any siblings to -- because I don't talk to them.
24 I don't talk to anybody. So I grew up like that. Just not
25 having anybody. So you have coping skills. Which doesn't

1 mean you're not freaking out on the inside. My god, my god.
2 Now I realize when I really freak out, and the volume is
3 really up on the inside of -- I'm saying to myself, you've
4 said this before. You've enough experience now that you
5 know you do get out on the other side. And now I can share
6 that with my daughter. I tell that to her when she went
7 through her rape. I was able to tell her, I'm so sorry,
8 baby, that this happened to you. But I just shared ~~though~~
9 (shared with her) that (~~Inaudible~~) (, "I know it doesn't
10 feel like it right now but this is going to make you
11 stronger), you're going to get through this, and I'm going
12 to be here with you." (~~Inaudible~~) (I didn't have anybody
13 to) get through it with, but you do. And I'm going to be
14 here. And so ever since I had her in [the 2000s], I did
15 have a suicide attempt, but I'll never do that again. I
16 felt pretty low at that time, but nothing -- because now
17 after going through that, watching my daughter lose her
18 dad, it really made me realize, and after surviving my own
19 and having to face her and having to realize, my god, what
20 did I do? But there's no way -- I learned so much out of
21 all of that.

22 And I can share with her now, when she's
23 feeling that low. (I told her) I know it's not exactly the
24 same, but you do get through this you're going to know,
25 because you're going to be the one guiding your little ones

1 -- she's got a niece. Her brother has a baby. I told her
2 you're going to have your chance to ~~make babies~~ (be giving
3 these) words of advice ~~to you~~, this wisdom. And it'll be
4 based on your experience because you got through it. It's
5 not easy to go through these things when you're on your
6 own, because I think it changes you, too. Hardens you.
7 Because I certainly wasn't like this.

8 I often wonder, ~~even~~ (if I'd cry), so when
9 I do cry, I'm kind of impressed because then it shows I'm
10 not completely dehumanized and there's still hope for me
11 yet.

12 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: You know, I ask
13 that question because I think that -- I like to acknowledge
14 every person's strengths (that walk through this door)
15 because this is not easy to come and sit in front of a
16 camera with a stranger to talk to people that are not in
17 the room with you. But to reframe it in a way where you're
18 acknowledging your strength rather than me saying, listen,
19 I sense the strength. You're acknowledging that strength
20 within yourself. And you are teaching your daughter that
21 what happened to her isn't okay. When it was normalized for
22 you over the years, you're telling her that. It's not okay,
23 you're going to be stronger for this. So I want to
24 acknowledge your strength in supporting your daughter and
25 being where you are today.

1 WOMAN A: Thank you. Thank you for trying
2 to -- I can't imagine what doing this is -- it's got to be
3 really difficult.

4 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Can be.

5 WOMAN A: I heard how intense it was for
6 the truth and reconciliation interviewers and I thought, I
7 tried to be ready. That's why I got through the first three
8 stories okay, because I did write those down. And then I
9 started to space after that (and got overwhelmed) so I
10 stopped --

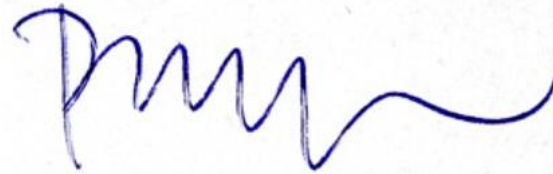
11 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: I recognize
12 you've got limited parking time and I do want you to
13 (connect with [T.] and) have a few minutes for your after
14 care. Do you have anything else that you wanted to add?

15 WOMAN A: No.

16 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. It's 6:09
17 p.m., I'm going to shut off the recorder.

18 --- Whereupon the proceeding concluded at 6:09 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I have, to the best
of my skill and ability,
accurately transcribed from a pre-existing recording
the foregoing proceeding.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Jan', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rubina Jan, Certified Court Reporter