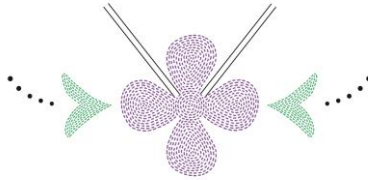


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-gathering process – Part I 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

III

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Public Volume 85: Roxana Wilson, Jacquita White and Samantha Pelkey, In relation to Adriane Wadhams	1
Heard by Commissioner Michèle Audette	
Commission Counsel: Shelby Thomas	
Grandmothers, Elders and Knowledge-keepers: Gilda Morgan, Sharon Brass, Ruth Alfred	
Clerks: Bryana Bouchir and Maryiam Khoury	
Registrar: Bryan Zandberg	

IV

LIST OF EXHIBITS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
Witnesses: Roxana Wilson, Jacquita White and Samantha Pelkey		
Exhibits (code: P01P15P0108)		
1	Folder containing 29 digital images displayed during the public testimony of Roxana Wilson, Jacquita White and Samantha Pelkey	52
2	Reasons for Sentence in the matter of HMTQ v. Jason James Kennedy, released May 29, 1992 Court file No. 61144 Victoria Registry/No. 0324 Campbell River Registry. Citation: 1992 CanLII 1974 (BCSC)	52

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 3rd, 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 3rd, 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 8th 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 dlix_s'ala. And dlix_s'ala
14 us means to teach us at a young age where we're raised up
15 with 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).

18 **--- Upon adjourning at 16:42**

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LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

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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.



Patricia Cantle

April 17, 2018