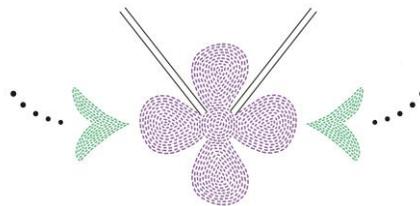


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Smithers, British Columbia
Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Hall**



Public - Hearings 1 & 2

Publication Ban - Hearing 3

Tuesday September 26, 2017

Public Volume IV:

Hearing 1: Vicki Hill, In Relation to Mary Jane Hill;

Hearing 2: Vivian Tom, In Relation to Destiny Tom;

**Hearing 3: Tom Chipman, Lorna Brown, Gladys Radek, Agnes Chipman
& Stephanie Chipman, In Relation to Tamara Chipman**

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II

Publication Ban

A ban on publication is in effect on the name of the adolescent and any specific information concerning him in Hearing # 3 of this transcript, which is the public testimony of Tom Chipman, Lorna Brown, Gladys Radek, Agnes Chipman & Stephanie Chipman, In relation to Tamara Chipman.

This ban on publication was ordered by Commissioner Brian Eyolfson on August 22, 2018 pursuant to Rule 55 of the Commission's *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*.

III

APPEARANCES

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada		No Appearance
Assembly of First Nations	Julie McGregor (Legal counsel)	
Government of British Columbia	Jean Walters (Legal counsel) Taryn Walsh (Representative) Bethany Estiverne (Representative)	
Government of Canada	Anne McConville (Legal counsel) Lucy Bell (Legal counsel) Judith Hoffman (Legal counsel)	
Heiltsuk First Nation		No Appearance
Our Place - Ray Cam Co- operative Centre		No Appearance
Vancouver Sex Workers' Rights Collective		No Appearance
Women of Metis Nation / Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak		No Appearance
Northwest Indigenous Council Society		No Appearance

Note: For the purpose of establishing this record of attendance, counsels are considered present whether they attended one or all of the public hearings held over the course of the day at the Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Hall (Public #1).

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V

LIST OF EXHIBITS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
Exhibits (code: P1P020101)		
Witness: Vicki Hill in relation to Mary Jane Hill		
1	Copy of photograph of woman in white skirt standing outdoors with arms crossed on 8.5 x 11 inch office paper.	21
2	Black and white copy of photograph of young girl in white blouse and dark skirt on 8.5 x 11 inch office paper.	21
3	Black and white copy of photograph of young woman embracing young child with caption "Vicki's Brother Matthew and Mom (born in '69)" on 8.5 x 11 inch office paper.	22
4	One-page with copy of news clipping "Woman's body found"; no date or publication information on page.	25
5	One-page photocopy of newspaper including article "Hill inquest reopens Monday" published in Prince Rupert, B.C. on Thursday June 22, 1978.	27
6	Two-page copy of Coroner's Inquisition report regarding death of Mary Jane Hill.	28
7	One-page letter to Vicki Hill from RCMP dated May 25, 2017 with file reference number A-2017-05324. Exhibit	29
8	Copy of certificate of Death Mary Jane Hill dated June 29, 1978.	31

VI

LIST OF EXHIBITS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
Exhibits (code: P1P020102)		
Witness: Vivian Tom in relation to Destiny Tom		
1	Video presentation family photo album of Destiny and her family (23:57 minutes).	
2	Digital photo (colour) of photograph of Destiny and young man, placed with ceremonial objects during Vivian Tom's testimony.	
3	Second digital photo (colour) of photograph of Destiny and young man, placed with ceremonial objects during Vivian Tom's testimony.	
4	Digital photo (colour) of poster bearing inscription "Destiny Rae Tom," displayed during public testimony of Vivian Tom.	
5	Digital photo (colour) of "Team Destiny" t-shirt, displayed during public testimony of Vivian Tom.	
6	Digital photo (colour) of bright orange poster bearing inscription "Violence robbed 3 yr. old Cassidy Rain of her mother," displayed during public testimony of Vivian Tom.	
7	Digital photo (colour) of pink poster with message "Stop Violence," displayed during public testimony of Vivian Tom.	
8	Digital photo (colour) of pink poster "...Violently Murdered..," displayed during public testimony of Vivian Tom.	
9	Digital photo (colour) of green "Stop Violence Against Women" poster, displayed during public testimony of Vivian Tom.	

VII
LIST OF EXHIBITS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
10	Digital photo (colour) of yellow poster with composite of images, displayed during public testimony of Vivian Tom.	
11	Digital photo (colour) of white poster "Thou shall not murder," displayed during public testimony of Vivian Tom.	
12	Digital photo (colour) of "Justice will be served!!" poster, displayed during public testimony of Vivian Tom.	

1 Smithers, British Columbia
2 --- Upon commencing on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 9:12
3 a.m.

4 **MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** Typically I don't need
5 a microphone but I'll use it this morning.

6 Good morning, everyone. My name is
7 Terrellyn Fearn and I am the Director of Health and
8 Community Relations for the National Inquiry.

9 My family name is Peters and I'm from
10 Glooscap First Nation in Mi'kma'ki which is very far from
11 here. Those you may know that as Nova Scotia. So you have
12 to travel over the extremely large mountains, across the
13 prairie, over a smaller mountain, and when you come to the
14 ocean, that's where my traditional territory is.

15 I'm very honoured to be here today in
16 Wet'suwet'en territory. I want to acknowledge the
17 territory, the beautiful territory and land of the people
18 of these many nations. And I also want to acknowledge that
19 I am a visitor on this territory and I intend to walk
20 gently and softly.

21 I want to welcome you all here today. I
22 want to acknowledge the families and the survivors that are
23 going to be sharing their stories. I want to acknowledge
24 their supports, other family members, members of the
25 community, and members of organizations that support them

1 throughout this journey.

2 I would like to acknowledge that we are very
3 grateful to have some elders from all of the five clans
4 participate over the next three days. We have elders from
5 the Bear and Wolf Clan, the Fireweed Killer Whale Clan, the
6 Big Frog Clan, the Caribou Clan, Small Frog Clan, and the
7 Beaver Clan. And we're very honoured to have our elders,
8 our cultural supports, and our traditional people support
9 the work of the families and survivors. So I want to
10 acknowledge that.

11 I'd like to, at this time, call upon Chief
12 (Inaudible), Chief Timberwolf, and she has been very
13 graciously and patiently teaching me how to say her name so
14 I told her I'd give her a little wink and I hope that I
15 pronounced it properly.

16 She is going to do a welcome and an opening
17 to the territory for us. So Chief Timberwolf, may I ask
18 you to come up?

19 **CHIEF MABEL TIMBERWOLF:** Good morning,
20 everybody. My name is Mabel Forsyth and my chief name is
21 Timberwolf. I'm (speaking in Native language). And this
22 is -- we're on (Native word) meaning Grizzly House.

23 And I would like to welcome you to (Native
24 word) Grizzly House and I'll have a word of prayer for the
25 family and supporters.

1 --- Opening prayer

2 **MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** If I could ask you
3 just to stay up for a couple more moments.

4 I'd like to ask Bernie Williams to come
5 forward.

6 Oh, you may all sit down.

7 Chief, we'd like to present you with a gift.
8 If I may ask Bernie Williams to come forward and present
9 Chief (Native word), Chief Timberwolf with a gift in honour
10 of acknowledging her welcoming.

11 **MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS:** I just want to say
12 *how-a, how-a, how-a* to you. *How-a* for allowing us to do
13 this work here on your territory. My name is (Native word)
14 which means Golden Spruce Woman. I am a hereditary chief-
15 in-waiting. My heredity chief's name is (Native word)
16 which means Chief of Two Villages.

17 The highest gift that my understanding is
18 and my Haida Nation, you know, and like our way is that the
19 highest gift that you can give to another chief on behalf
20 of the four Commissioners and the families here, I want to
21 say *how-a* and offer you a copper on a copper plate to you.
22 *How-a, yeah.*

23 **MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** Thank you. I would
24 like to call upon Molly Wickam to come and open us in song.
25 I think when we were asking how to introduce Molly she had

1 said, "You can call me Moll." That's what she's known in
2 the sacred tent as. So Moll, would you please come up and
3 we're very grateful that you're able to join us today in
4 our offering of song.

5 **MS. MOLLY WICKAM:** (Speaking in Native
6 language). I'm going to share a Wet'suwet'en women's water
7 song with you today in honour of the women and the families
8 that are here today and in honour of those who don't have a
9 voice any longer for the families that are going to be
10 doing this hard work of truth telling today.

11 And so this song comes from Cassia House
12 (phonetic) territory. This song comes from (Native word)
13 and it was created and came from the water and the
14 territory there and it was created for our women to honour
15 our connection as life givers to the water.

16 And today I want to share this song because
17 we have *Wetsinqua* water outside that was brought to you
18 from the territory. This water is -- carries strength,
19 this water carries medicine, this water is very much alive
20 and a part of our territory, and this water can help to
21 support us through this time.

22 And we have a very strong connection as
23 women to water. As the blood that flows through our veins
24 brings life, the blood that flows through our territories
25 brings life as well. And it can also bring healing.

1 So just as a reminder to lean into the land
2 during these days, to lean into the territory and the
3 ancestors that walk with us.

4 So this is the Wet'suwet'en women's water
5 song.

6 --- (Drumming and singing Wetsinqua water song)

7 **MS. MOLLY WICKAM:** So that song is
8 expressing our love for our sisters, expressing our love
9 for our waters, and all of life and creation.

10 And I just want to also just say that I
11 acknowledge that (Native word) that are here today and how
12 proud I am to be a Wet'suwet'en woman standing here in
13 support of all of these families, in support of all the
14 love in the room and all the love that we have for our
15 women who are beautiful, intelligent, valued, and loved.
16 So (Speaking in Native language).

17 **MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** Molly, if I can ask
18 you to remain up here. And I'll hand it over to Chief
19 Commissioner or to Commissioner -- and Commissioner Audette
20 as well to offer you a gift in recognition and thanks.

21 I am now going to hand the floor over to
22 Chief Commissioner for her opening remarks.

23 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Bonjour.
24 Bon matin. Je me présente, Marion Buller, et je suis le
25 Commissaire en chef. Je vous présente avec grand Plaisir

1 mon amie la commissaire Michèle Audette.

2 Hello. I'm Marion Buller. I'm Chief
3 Commissioner of the National Inquiry, and with pleasure I
4 introduce my friend, my dear friend, Commissioner Michèle
5 Audette.

6 I want to start by acknowledging the spirits
7 of the missing and murdered Indigenous women and young
8 girls. I want to also acknowledge the courage of the
9 families, the survivors of violence, and the LGBTQ2S
10 people.

11 I also want to acknowledge that we're on the
12 unceded traditional and ancestral territory of the
13 Wet'suwet'en people.

14 Bienvenue à nos audiences à Smithers.
15 Welcome to our Smithers hearings. Thank you, Chief
16 Timberwolf for starting us off in a good way this morning.

17 Molly, thank you for your beautiful song in
18 your strong voice.

19 Thank you also to the fire keepers. They
20 are tending our sacred fire outside.

21 And thank you also to the elders for
22 supporting us and just keeping us on the right route, the
23 right path.

24 I want to just briefly explain that
25 Commissioner Qajaq Robinson, while en route to Smithers,

1 found out about a death of a close family member. She went
2 home, of course. So she asked me to pass on some simple
3 messages, "Speak up. Speak out."

4 Commissioner Brian Eyolfson sends his warm
5 regards and wishes for strength and courage for all of us.

6 Yesterday the hereditary chiefs welcomed us
7 and led us into town. We were humbled and truly honoured
8 to be able to walk with the hereditary chiefs and the many
9 family members and survivors of violence. We walked in
10 memory of lost mothers, sisters, cousins, nieces, aunties,
11 and good friends. They were real people, real people who
12 are gone from us, gone from all of Canada, but remain in
13 our hearts.

14 The National Inquiry came to Smithers
15 because we're on the Highway of Tears. This is a location,
16 a very important location because it's part of the national
17 tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous woman and girls.

18 Here we will listen to families and
19 survivors of violence. We will listen to them with open
20 minds and open hearts. The families and survivors will
21 help us understand what went wrong, what worked, and how to
22 make life better and safer for all Indigenous women and
23 girls, and indeed, for all Canadians.

24 I'm going to ask now Terrellyn Fearn to
25 explain the health supports that we have present in the

1 room and elsewhere during the National Inquiry.

2 **MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** As was mentioned
3 earlier, it may be a hard journey over the next few days as
4 we enter into sharing part of our stories and truth about
5 ourselves or our loved ones. That can impact us
6 individually; it can impact our family, our community, and
7 of course, those watching, impact us a nation.

8 So it's really important that our families
9 and survivors feel supported throughout this process. So
10 we work them very closely to better understand how they
11 want to be supported throughout this process.

12 So I just want to share some of the supports
13 that are available in the room. As the Chief Commissioner
14 mentioned, we do have the fire keepers. There was a
15 lighting of a sacred fire ceremony yesterday. That fire is
16 there for all of us to utilize to go and sit with the fire
17 keepers. We will have health supports there as well to
18 "lean into the land" as we heard Molly share.

19 The cedar is here for us, the land is here
20 for us, the water is here for us to support us in the work
21 that we do every day, especially over the next few days.

22 So I want to acknowledge our fire keepers
23 that have offered to come and light that fire and sit by
24 that fire and pray by that fire for the next four days
25 while we do this hard work. They are here for all of us

1 and I want to acknowledge them for that.

2 We have medicines. The medicines are here
3 for us as well. We have cedar. Those of you that came in
4 the front, there are cedar pouches for you to grab and take
5 that medicine and call on that medicine when you need to.

6 We have our cultural supports, our elders,
7 our grandmothers that are here as well that have very
8 graciously offered us of their time, their knowledge, their
9 wisdom, their hearts, to sit with us for the next three
10 days. So they're here for your support as well.

11 We've had a wonderful collaborative
12 opportunity to work with some of the local health
13 organizations and agencies. So I just want to acknowledge
14 everyone that's in this room in a purple shirt. They are
15 our local trauma therapists, counsellors, cultural
16 supports, and health supports.

17 So they can raise their hands but they're --
18 if you take a look around -- maybe turn around and -- well,
19 you can see their faces but if -- on the back of their
20 shirts, if I can get someone to turn around, it clearly
21 identifies health support.

22 So if you have a question, if you would like
23 to sit and have some tea and chat or sit by the fire, if
24 you're not feeling well, please reach out to one of these
25 wonderful supports in the purple shirts and they would be

1 happy to address the needs that you have.

2 We also will be reciprocating that and
3 checking in with you to make sure if there's anything that
4 you need or would like some support with.

5 We do have some trauma therapists here over
6 the next four days, three days. And at the registration
7 table there's a sign-in sheet. So if you feel you would
8 like to schedule a session with them just to sit, just to
9 talk, we do have private spaces for one-on-one sessions
10 available. And so if you go to the registration desk
11 someone there can schedule a time that best suits your
12 need.

13 We also have an elders' room so just as you
14 walked into the friendship centre, on the left there is an
15 elders' room there that we have for elders and our cultural
16 supports. If you'd like to go in and sit, there's coffee
17 and tea and will be refreshments and other goodies in
18 there, okay?

19 I also want to acknowledge that we have --
20 of the health supports we have some partners. We have
21 members from the Moricetown Health Centre that are here to
22 support us today. So I want to acknowledge you for coming
23 and supporting the families and being here for all of us.

24 From the Northern Society for Domestic
25 Peace, we also have some of their counsellors as well, so

1 thank you.

2 And of course, from the friendship centre,
3 have been very gracious to offer their counsellors and
4 workers to support this work in addition to our Inquiry
5 staff.

6 So I just want to acknowledge the
7 collaboration of the local communities and extended
8 communities of this nation in ensuring that together our
9 families can be supported. So thank you for that.

10 Around the room we have brown paper bags.
11 Those are tear bags. Some of you may be familiar with
12 that. As we go through this journey over the next three
13 days you may experience many different things. You may
14 experience sadness, pain, grief. And so those tears, the
15 tissues around the room are for you to wash away and wipe
16 your tears.

17 And we ask you that you put those tears in
18 the tear bag because those tears are medicine. We were
19 given those tears from the Creator to help us. When our
20 feet hit the land and we walk through the land those tears
21 are to help us along our journey. So those tears and that
22 medicine is very powerful and they're very sacred to us.

23 So after you're finished with your tissue if
24 you could put that in the tear bag, one of our health
25 supports at the end of the day will collect them and bring

1 them out to the fire keepers to be burned.

2 I also want to acknowledge that there are
3 people watching from coast to coast to coast and that it
4 also -- we want to ensure that you have supports in place
5 and feel supported throughout this process.

6 So I just want to send a reminder to anyone
7 that's watching from afar that we do have our support line.
8 And that support line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a
9 week. And it's answered by trained counsellors that can
10 support you and speak with you and sit with you.

11 It's also -- you can speak to someone in
12 English, French, Ojibway, Cree, and Inuktitut as well. And
13 I'll give you the support line number and I'm not sure if
14 we can have it across the cameras, but that number is 1-
15 844-413-6649. And that number can be found of course on
16 our website and on our Facebook page and we'll make sure
17 that we Tweet it out as well. Just a reminder if you need
18 an extra little bit of support over the next three days as
19 you journey with us from afar.

20 The final thing I would like to mention is
21 that Smithers recently has been put on boiled water
22 advisory and as we've heard from the sharing of Molly, it's
23 very ironic. Women as water carriers, water is the blood
24 of life and that I want to caution us all that the water is
25 sick and unsafe in this area right now. And so we've done

1 our best to bring in water. You'll see the extra water
2 over on the tables. There's cups there. We have water
3 positioned through all the venues and all the rooms. So
4 please be conscious not to drink the tap water but to drink
5 the water that we have brought in.

6 And we engaged in a water ceremony yesterday
7 to ask for not only healing for our women and our families
8 and our men, but for the land and for all its resources and
9 for water as well.

10 So if you're by accidentally take a drink of
11 tap water and you feel you have a bit of a fever, you feel
12 nauseous, you feel sick, please identify yourself with one
13 of the health supports and we'll make sure that we work
14 with you on that, okay?

15 I'm around. I'm available as well if you
16 have any questions. I'd be happy to sit with you as well.

17 At this time, I'd like to hand the mic over
18 to our Director of Research, Aimee Craft.

19 **MS. AIMEE CRAFT:** Thank you, Terrellyn.
20 (Speaking in Anishnaabe). I'm of the Wolf Clan from
21 Manitoba and I'm happy to be here today when I acknowledge
22 Wet'suwet'en territory.

23 And I've been asked to come up and speak
24 about four things. And I know that there's a lot of
25 information coming at you so I'll try and be brief about

1 those things but also tell you where you can get more
2 information about them.

3 So the four things I'd like to mention --
4 the first is the blankets that you see here and you'll see
5 in many of the other spaces that we'll be using over the
6 next three days. These blankets were created by families,
7 survivors, community members, women in institutions, in a
8 partnership with E. Fry in Saskatchewan. As well, some of
9 these blanket squares were created by family members,
10 survivors, community members, in Whitehorse where the first
11 community hearing was held.

12 These are blankets that are going to travel
13 with the National Inquiry throughout its work and we want
14 to make sure that people have an opportunity to add their
15 voice to these blankets. So we have in the family room in
16 the building right next door an opportunity to work with
17 your own squares to provide your message, to provide your
18 expression -- whatever that is -- of prayer, an image, and
19 that that will be incorporated into these blankets as they
20 travel all across the country.

21 The second thing I would like to mention is
22 that we have an opportunity for other artistic expression.
23 As part of the research team, we think it's important not
24 only to hear words but to make sure that people have an
25 opportunity to express themselves in any way that they see

1 fit.

2 So if you have a song or if you have a
3 painting or if you would like to provide some of your
4 traditional crafts that you've done in honour of murdered
5 and missing Indigenous women and girls or to support
6 families or something that you would like to leave as part
7 of a legacy, we have that opportunity to submit those
8 pieces of art into what we've called a legacy archive. And
9 that will last much longer than the duration of the Inquiry
10 itself. It's going to be its own living archive that's
11 based on Indigenous protocols and ways of keeping those
12 items.

13 So some of them may be sacred items and we
14 will respect the way in which you ask that those be cared
15 for and stored, and in some cases, brought back into your
16 communities after it's done its work.

17 So there's more information about that on
18 our website as well but I wanted to make sure you have the
19 opportunity to speak with Petra, who's in the next
20 building, and she has a room set up and she'll also have a
21 sign-in sheet if people would like to do that.

22 So you can go to the family room and make a
23 square or you can talk about different forms of art or
24 something that you would like to share, and that will
25 include ceremonial objects if you would like to share some

1 with the Inquiry.

2 The third thing that I was asked to speak
3 about is this Miskwaabimaag basket. It's a red willow
4 basket that sits here with the Commissioners as they travel
5 across the country. And we have -- this is the big one.
6 There's also a smaller one that sits in other rooms.

7 And that basket is made from red willow that
8 comes from Mantiouwabe (phonetic) which is a sacred site in
9 Manitoba. Red willow is used by a lot of different
10 Indigenous nations across Turtle Island and is a very
11 important healing medicine. And this was made by women
12 from Manitoba to help with the truth-gathering process.

13 And truth gathering is not the same thing as
14 truth finding, right? It's an opportunity to hear a
15 variety of different truths that come from different places
16 and different people and to bring that all together.

17 So that basket represents that truth-
18 gathering process that's being undertaken by the National
19 Inquiry with the help of families and survivors that are
20 sharing their stories throughout this time.

21 And with it sits a copper cup to acknowledge
22 that water that's part of Creation -- and that Molly, you
23 have spoke about it through your song -- to recognize that
24 those are all connected to each other with the feathers
25 that are here that were harvested by women from Haida Gwaii

1 and that will be shared with families.

2 Now the fourth thing that's tied to this --
3 and I should say, actually, within -- if you want to know
4 more, if you're a nerd like me and you want to read up or
5 learn more, there is a banner here that explains the basket
6 and there's more information on the website as well, or you
7 can stop me and say, "Tell me about these baskets. Where
8 do they come from? Who made them? Who put their hands on
9 them? What are they there to do? How can they help us?"

10 I'd be really happy to share that with you.

11 So that's that banner. And this banner here
12 on my left talks about the gifts of reciprocity. And
13 you'll see that when families and survivors, community
14 members are here and sharing their stories with the
15 Commissioners, they will be offered the gift of
16 reciprocity. And those are seed packets that have been
17 packaged with that intention of building relationships.

18 Relationships are so important to everything
19 that we do. And that relationship built through that gift
20 of reciprocity means we're acknowledging the importance of
21 what you've done today, how you've helped the National
22 Inquiry do its work. And we want to build and continue
23 that relationship with you.

24 So as you plant those seeds you can send us
25 pictures or a story. And you can tell people that this

1 comes from this experience of working with the National
2 Inquiry. And we're happy to hear those stories and we'll
3 build that into how it is that we report on the work that
4 we're doing and build that relationship.

5 Today we have fireweed which is a species
6 from this area. We're not introducing new species or
7 bringing plants that don't grow in places where they don't
8 belong. We are very conscious of that and so we wanted to
9 honour the territories that we're in by having gifts that
10 are appropriate for that land.

11 We have a description of the seven different
12 types of seeds and so we bring seeds that are appropriate
13 in each different region that the National Inquiry is going
14 to visit.

15 So those are the things that I was asked to
16 speak about and I'm very honoured to be here in this
17 territory for those who have decided to come and share.
18 For those who are not quite ready to share or who want to
19 share in a different way, we're always happy to hear about
20 that as well. And as I said, the artistic expression is a
21 very important way to do that and you'll be hearing from
22 some youth on Wednesday about how they have chosen to
23 express themselves through their art, through their music,
24 their song, and what it is that they're trying to say
25 through that. So I would encourage you to come and support

1 those youth that will be sharing on Wednesday afternoon
2 with the Commissioners.

3 Okay, so *miigwetch* for your time.

4 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** We'll just
5 take a short break while we set up for the first family.
6 Thank you.

7 --- Upon recessing at 9:43 a.m.

8 --- Upon resuming at 10:03 a.m.

9 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** We'll
10 resume, thank you.

11 And as we start with every hearing, the
12 Commissioners have a special oath that we take. We call it
13 the Ledoux Oath because Sean Ledoux in Whitehorse in our
14 hearings asked us to take an oath and we've continued that
15 tradition.

16 So Madame (Inaudible)?

17 Mr. Registrar?

18 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Thanks very much.
19 Still haven't quite memorized the oath yet so I'm going to
20 have to read it a couple more times.

21 **COMMISSIONERS, AFFIRMED**

22 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Mr.
23 Ouellette, please start.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you, Chief
25 Commissioner and Commissioner Audette.

1 For the record, my name is Breen Ouellette
2 and I am a lawyer with the National Inquiry. It is my
3 honour to introduce Vicki Hill, who has travelled from
4 Prince Rupert. She is here today with the support of her
5 daughter Zoey Hill Harris. And she also has a son named
6 Eric Hill Harris.

7 Mr. Registrar, Vicki has requested to affirm
8 with an eagle feather.

9 **Hearing #1**

10 **Witness: Vicki Hill in relation to Mary Jane Hill**

11 **Heard by Chief Commissioner Mario Buller and**

12 **Commissioner Michèle Audette**

13 **Commission Counsel: Breen Ouellette**

14 **Registrar: Bryan Zandberg**

15 **MS. VICKI HILL, AFFIRMED**

16 **--- EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:**

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Vicki, I want to offer
18 you this cedar tie in support of your testimony today.
19 Thank you.

20 Vicki, could you start by telling the
21 Commissioners the name of the loved one you are here to
22 talk about today?

23 **MS. VICKI HILL:** My mother, Mary Jane Hill.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And can you tell me
25 your relationship to Mary Jane?

1 **MS. VICKI HILL:** She's my mother.

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. You've brought
3 some pictures today. I'm going to hand them to you one by
4 one and would you please describe for the Commissioners
5 what each picture is?

6 Here's the first one, and if you could show
7 it that would be good.

8 **MS. VICKI HILL:** This one, she was standing
9 on the bridge in Kincolith.

10 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 1:**

11 Copy of photograph of woman in white skirt
12 standing outdoors with arms crossed on 8.5 x
13 11 inch office paper

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And could you describe
15 who's in this picture?

16 **MS. VICKI HILL:** This was her when she was a
17 little girl. And all the pictures that I have were handed
18 to me from one of her sisters.

19 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 2:**

20 Black and white copy of photograph of young
21 girl in white blouse and dark skirt on 8.5 x
22 11 inch office paper.

23 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you. And could
24 you describe this picture for us?

25 **MS. VICKI HILL:** This one is her with my

1 brother Matthew Hill. He's still alive. I believe it was
2 in Kincolith.

3 --- EXHIBIT NO. 3:

4 Black and white copy of photograph of young
5 woman embracing young child with caption
6 "Vicki's Brother Matthew and Mom (born in
7 '69)" on 8.5 x 11 inch office paper

8 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Thank you. And can
9 you tell me your mother's date of birth?

10 MS. VICKI HILL: August 27th, 1946.

11 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And can you tell the
12 Commissioners what happened to your mother?

13 MS. VICKI HILL: She was found -- her body
14 was found 21 miles from Prince Rupert.

15 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: M'hm.

16 MS. VICKI HILL: She was only (inaudible).
17 Yeah. She was murdered.

18 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Do you know around
19 when your mother was murdered?

20 MS. VICKI HILL: Around March 26th, 1978.

21 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And do you know where
22 your mother was living at the time she was murdered?

23 MS. VICKI HILL: I believe she was living in
24 Prince Rupert.

25 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And how old were you

1 at the time that your mother was murdered?

2 MS. VICKI HILL: I was six months old when
3 she died.

4 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: So you have no memory
5 yourself about your mother?

6 MS. VICKI HILL: No, I don't.

7 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Did your mother have
8 any other children?

9 MS. VICKI HILL: She had four kids including
10 me, an older sister that passed at 11 months, then my older
11 brother Matthew -- he's still alive -- and my brother
12 Magnus (phonetic) and he's deceased, and then myself.

13 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And do you remember
14 when you learned that you had brothers and a sister?

15 MS. VICKI HILL: When our father passed away
16 in 1992.

17 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And what did you learn
18 about your siblings?

19 MS. VICKI HILL: I had other older siblings
20 besides us so my dad had five other kids before he married
21 my mom.

22 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: M'hm. And who did you
23 live with after your mother was murdered?

24 MS. VICKI HILL: I lived with my
25 grandparents, my dad's side of the family.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And how long did you
2 live with them?

3 **MS. VICKI HILL:** When was about -- til I was
4 13.

5 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And why did you stop
6 living with them at that time?

7 **MS. VICKI HILL:** There was so much abuse and
8 stuff going on. Nobody would believe me.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** In our previous
10 discussions you've indicated to me that you don't want to
11 talk about that abuse that you suffered as a child. Is
12 that still the case today?

13 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I don't want to talk about
14 it.

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. So do you need
16 a moment?

17 So when did you start trying to learn about
18 your mother?

19 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Around 2006, I believe.

20 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And what records have
21 you kept since your mother's death?

22 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I've got ---

23 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did you receive
24 records from other people?

25 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I received a book. It's

1 filled with a lot of articles; then it was handed to me and
2 it's something I will treasure. It's got a lot of family
3 pictures and ---

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you remember who
5 gave you the book?

6 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Kayley Riddle (phonetic).
7 She was a support worker with me and she handed that book
8 to me.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And other than
10 pictures in the book, what else is in the scrapbook?

11 **MS. VICKI HILL:** There's pictures; there's
12 one of my -- a few of my articles in there. There's a lot.
13 It's something I hope to share with you guys.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. Well, I've made
15 copies of some of the news articles from the book so I'm
16 going to pass them to you and I'd ask you to describe them.
17 I may have a few questions for each one.

18 So for the first newspaper clipping, could
19 you tell me what the headline is on that?

20 **MS. VICKI HILL:** "Woman's Body Found."

21 --- **EXHIBIT NO. 4:**

22 One-page with copy of news clipping "Woman's
23 body found"; no date or publication
24 information on page

25 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And if you refer again

1 to the article in the first paragraph, does it say -- can
2 you tell me what it says?

3 **MS. VICKI HILL:** It says (reading newspaper
4 article),

5 "Body of 31-year-old Mary Jane Hill of
6 Kincolith was found on Highway 16, 20 miles
7 at least from Prince Rupert at 5:00 p.m. on
8 a Sunday. At the time the police suspected
9 foul play but (inaudible) is still under
10 investigation. RCMP said -- asked that
11 anyone who saw or had any contact with Hill
12 on the afternoon of the 26th of March
13 contact them. Police also ask that any
14 motorists travelling on the highway between
15 the hours of noon and 6:00 p.m. Sunday
16 between Terrace and Prince Rupert and
17 noticed any unusual or parked vehicle is
18 asked to contact the Prince Rupert RCMP."

19 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you. Are you
20 aware of any other Indigenous women being found in the area
21 where your mother was found?

22 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Not too far from where my
23 mom was found there was an Alberta Williams.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** I have another
25 newspaper article here. Can you read this headline right

1 there please?

2 **MS. VICKI HILL:** "Hill Inquest Reopens
3 Monday."

4 --- **EXHIBIT NO. 5:**

5 One-page photocopy of newspaper including
6 article "Hill inquest reopens Monday"
7 published in Prince Rupert, B.C. on Thursday
8 June 22, 1978

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm. And can you
10 read this paragraph right there?

11 **MS. VICKI HILL:** "According to the report
12 the only drugs found in the body (inaudible) 0.5 mg and ---
13 "

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** I think that's
15 pronounced "phenobarbital".

16 **MS. VICKI HILL:** "--- commonly used in the
17 treat --- "

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Treatment of ---

19 **MS. VICKI HILL:** " --- epsilipsy. Hill was
20 epileptic. However, the report went on and normal --"
21 what's that?

22 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Concentration.

23 **MS. VICKI HILL:** "--- concentration of ---"

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Phenobarbital.

25 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I can't say that.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** It's phenobarbital.

2 **MS. VICKI HILL:** "--- in the bloodstream of
3 the epileptic (inaudible) the drug of medication is 0.5 to
4 225 mg. taking into account can deduce that Hill had not
5 taken any medication for 48 hours."

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you. So these
7 clippings, you've said, you've received from a certain
8 person and was it something you ordered or was it a gift?

9 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I was looking through the
10 Prince Rupert library and she managed to help me with a lot
11 of this.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** I have another piece
13 of paper that you've provided to the Commission. Can you
14 read what it says at the top?

15 **MS. VICKI HILL:** "Inquisition."

16 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so do you remember
17 how you received the coroner's inquisition? Okay, that's
18 fine.

19 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 6:**

20 Two-page copy of Coroner's Inquisition
21 report regarding death of Mary Jane Hill

22 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I can't remember.

23 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** That's okay. Can you
24 read what it says about the cause of death at the bottom
25 here.

1 **MS. VICKI HILL:** It says,

2 "We the jury find that Mary Jane Hill who
3 was 31 years of age did die or about the
4 26th day of March, 1978. We find the place
5 of death was Highway 16 East, 21 miles from
6 the city centre. We further find the cause
7 of death was bronchitis and ---"

8 What was that?

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Bronchial pneumonia.

10 **MS. VICKI HILL:**

11 "We further find that the death of Mary
12 Jane Hill was a result of manslaughter."

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. And now this is
14 a letter you've provided. Can you describe this letter for
15 the Commissioners? Yes. Can you read what it says at the
16 top here?

17 **MS. VICKI HILL:** "The Royal Canadian Mounted
18 Police."

19 --- **EXHIBIT NO. 7:**

20 One-page letter to Vicki Hill from RCMP
21 dated May 25, 2017 with file reference
22 number A-2017-05324

23 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And the date of the
24 letter?

25 **MS. VICKI HILL:** May 25th, 2017.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And who is it
2 addressed to?

3 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Vicki Hill.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And can you describe
5 what this letter is regarding? You can just summarize.

6 **MS. VICKI HILL:** This letter is -- I
7 requested some documents and some stuff and I didn't get
8 what I asked for. And my understanding with this letter,
9 the letter that was -- they did was asking for information,
10 all files, documents, memos, emails, reports, and other
11 documents related to Mary Jane Hill.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay, and so you said
13 you made a request originally and somebody helped you with
14 that?

15 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Yes.

16 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And who was that?

17 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Jessica.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know Jessica's
19 last name?

20 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I can't pronounce her name.
21 McDermott (phonetic).

22 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. And so this
23 letter was in response to your request?

24 **MS. VICKI HILL:** No. When we filed for it
25 they had 30 days to respond and this is what I got.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay, so does the
2 letter say that -- were any records included with this
3 letter when it was sent to you?

4 **MS. VICKI HILL:** No, just this ---

5 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay.

6 **MS. VICKI HILL:** --- piece of paper.

7 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And have you -- it's
8 now September 2017. Have you received anything yet?

9 **MS. VICKI HILL:** No.

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** No. Thank you.

11 And can you describe this certificate that
12 you provided to us?

13 --- **EXHIBIT NO. 8:**

14 Copy of Certificate of Death Mary Jane Hill
15 dated June 29, 1978

16 **MS. VICKI HILL:** This piece of paper that I
17 have was my mom's death certificate.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And do you remember
19 how you came into possession of that?

20 **MS. VICKI HILL:** The worker that was working
21 with me, she took me to the Ferguson (phonetic) home and I
22 didn't expect to have this but when we got there they
23 handed me the original death certificate.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And you say "the
25 worker". Sorry, who was the worker?

1 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Kayley Riddle.

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. So have the
3 police ever provided you with information about your
4 mother's murder? Have you ever spoken with the police?

5 **MS. VICKI HILL:** No.

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you ever remember
7 speaking with someone on the Project E-PANA?

8 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Yes, I do.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And do you remember
10 what they told you?

11 **MS. VICKI HILL:** She doesn't fit the
12 criteria of the E-PANA.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so what are they
14 listing on as -- what are they identifying, E-PANA?

15 If it helps, do you remember what they list
16 on their website? Just take your time. Would you like a
17 break?

18 Vicki would like a short five-minute break.

19 ---Upon recessing at 10:23 a.m.

20 --- Upon resuming at 10:35 a.m

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you, Chief
22 Commissioner.

23 Do you remember speaking with an E-PANA
24 officer?

25 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Yes.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you remember that
2 officer explaining what happened to your mother's clothing?

3 **MS. VICKI HILL:** They were found somewhere
4 in the alley. They were ---

5 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you remember which
6 city the alley was in?

7 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Prince Rupert.

8 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And do you remember if
9 any medication was found with her clothing?

10 **MS. VICKI HILL:** It was for her epilepsy.

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** But do you remember
12 the officer's name?

13 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Wayne.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** But not his last name?

15 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I can't remember.

16 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** That's okay. Do you
17 remember the police mentioning anything about vehicles?

18 **MS. VICKI HILL:** They mentioned something
19 about a white -- old white model car.

20 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And did they say who
21 the car might belong to?

22 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Might have been a White
23 guy.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. Is your mother
25 listed among the missing and murdered women on the E-PANA

1 site, the website?

2 MS. VICKI HILL: No.

3 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Were you told why she
4 is not listed on the site?

5 MS. VICKI HILL: She doesn't fit the
6 criteria.

7 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: How does it make you
8 feel that the RCMP does not recognize your mother as a
9 victim of the Highway of Tears?

10 MS. VICKI HILL: (Inaudible).

11 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Do you feel that it
12 disrespects your mother's memory?

13 MS. VICKI HILL: Yes.

14 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Do you know if the
15 police have ever had a suspect in your mother's murder?

16 MS. VICKI HILL: Not that I know.

17 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And did the police
18 ever suggest a reason for why your mother was found so far
19 out of town?

20 MS. VICKI HILL: No.

21 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Was there ever a time
22 that you stopped looking into your mother's murder trying
23 to learn more?

24 MS. VICKI HILL: Yeah.

25 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And why did you stop?

1 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Because I wasn't getting
2 anywhere.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so you weren't
4 getting anywhere and that was leading you to stop looking?

5 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Yeah.

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. Did you ever
7 speak with anyone from the Oppal Inquiry about your mother?

8 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I did, but at the time when
9 that happened I was at the Prince Rupert College but they
10 were surprised when I got up to -- like, I signed in and at
11 the time I did give them briefly about -- a story about my
12 mom. And it had to do with the Vancouver Sun.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did you feel you were
14 able to tell your experience and your mother's experience
15 to the Oppal Inquiry?

16 **MS. VICKI HILL:** At that time, it seemed
17 like I wasn't -- like, they weren't listening at all. And
18 I was -- it's hard to explain but it was something that I
19 was surprised by.

20 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Were you trying to
21 tell them something that wasn't being accepted or what
22 exactly was that frustration you were having?

23 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Well, to me, I honestly
24 want to say that with all of this and when Wally Oppal
25 showed up in Prince Rupert, I did give part of my story to

1 him. But they didn't expect me to be there so it was kind
2 of caught off guard thing. But I did, like, talk about my
3 mom and I also -- I put in there -- I said, "We are all
4 human. We all have a heartbeat and we all bleed red."

5 And it's -- you know, to me, it's like they
6 should have had a better understanding. We, as the family
7 members that have to live our life like this for the rest
8 of our life and it's not easy. It's not. And I think they
9 should have understood and realized, you know?

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Have you ever been
11 interviewed by journalists about your mother's murder?
12 Have you been interviewed for newspaper articles?

13 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Yes, I have. The Vancouver
14 Sun, New York Times, Prince Rupert Daily News, The Northern
15 Connector, Jessica McDermott.

16 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did you ever do a
17 podcast?

18 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Oh, with Angela Sterritt, I
19 believe her name is.

20 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And the organization?
21 Was it the CBC?

22 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Yes.

23 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. Vicki, can you
24 tell the Commissioners what effect it's had on you and your
25 family not having your mother in your life?

1 **MS. VICKI HILL:** For one, I never knew her.
2 But to me, in my eyes, she gave me life. She gave me this
3 life. She gave me birth. Now, I have to live without her.
4 She wasn't there for my son's grad. She won't be there
5 when I get married. She won't be around when she grads or
6 when she gets married. She won't be there for any special
7 occasion, period.

8 And that's not fair. She didn't deserve
9 this whatsoever. She had children to look after. She had
10 siblings. She wasn't there to see her grandchildren be
11 born. And this is all tough and now I'm the one who has to
12 deal with it. She's not going to be there when I need her
13 the most.

14 And I see a lot of the families, the
15 grandmothers, their children, and I sit there and I watch.
16 I have a chance to make a difference in my kids' life, I
17 think.

18 I'm not only speaking for my mom; I'm
19 speaking for the rest of the families. I understand what
20 they're going through. I feel their pain, I feel their
21 hurt, I can see it. I'm not afraid. I have my rights too.
22 I do. And things have got to change no matter what.

23 And if you were put in this situation I
24 guarantee you're going to feel the same way I do.

25 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Vicki, have you had

1 personal struggles because of the pain that you carry?

2 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Yes, I did.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Can you describe them
4 for us?

5 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I became a really heavy
6 drinker. I was an alcoholic. But I always made sure my
7 kids were taken care of and those were my foster parents
8 that took care of them when I went out. And I made sure
9 they had food, clothes on their back, a roof over their
10 head and they know that.

11 The pain that I carry, that's what I used to
12 kill the pain. And I'm not ashamed to tell you. How else
13 are you supposed to deal with it when nobody's going to
14 listen? It took me a long time to get through it but my
15 daughter is with me and I'm thankful for her to be there.

16 But the alcohol issue was a big problem.
17 And I swear, if it wasn't for my kids, I don't know where
18 I'd be today. I probably would have went down that same
19 road. I do love my kids dearly. They are the reasons why
20 I'm here.

21 That's all I have, is them, and nobody's
22 going to take that away from me, nobody. I fought hard and
23 long for this. And I have always said to my kids I loved
24 them all the time, all the time, before they go to bed,
25 before they walk out the door, before they hang up that

1 phone.

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** When you say you love
3 them so often, is there fear in that?

4 **MS. VICKI HILL:** No.

5 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** You're not saying --
6 okay.

7 Have you had any counselling support for the
8 problems that you've experienced in your life?

9 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I did for a while but they
10 kept on moving away so I just quit going to counselling and
11 stuff. And then I've just never really trusted anybody.
12 Trust was a big issue in my life.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So you say they kept
14 moving away. How many counsellors did you go through?

15 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I think I went through a
16 few of them, about three, I think. At the time they were
17 all women. They were women. I would only speak to women
18 and that was just the way I am.

19 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did you know where
20 your mother was buried before you had counselling?

21 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I believe so, yeah.

22 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. Are you -- so
23 you're not relying on counselling now?

24 **MS. VICKI HILL:** No.

25 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And why not?

1 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Because there was really
2 nobody stable enough to stay and be a counsellor because I
3 was moving around.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So Vicki, what
5 problems do you think contributed to the disappearances and
6 the murders of Indigenous women and girls along Highway 16?

7 **MS. VICKI HILL:** To me, I -- there's no cell
8 service between Rupert and Terrace. And there's no
9 billboard signs up in Prince Rupert whatsoever. But you
10 can go beyond Terrace and up to (inaudible) murders
11 billboard signs.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And that the
13 billboards, they should say or they do say in those other
14 places?

15 **MS. VICKI HILL:** "No hitchhiking". I think
16 that's what it says.

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** "No hitchhiking"?

18 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I think that's what it --
19 no (inaudible).

20 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Is there any
21 hitchhiking sign in Prince Rupert at all?

22 **MS. VICKI HILL:** There is as you enter out
23 but it's right against the street light as you head out
24 right near McDonalds, but it's really small. It's like
25 probably 8 x 10 or 10 x 13.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** How's the
2 transportation along the Highway of Tears for people that
3 don't have a car?

4 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Well, right now there's
5 really -- right now the only way in and out of there is by
6 bus. But my understanding of the bus situation -- I don't
7 think, you know, with Greyhound itself, I don't know what
8 their situation is. But there was supposed to be bus
9 services but I've never heard anything of it.

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you remember what
11 time you would have to leave by bus to travel from Smithers
12 back to Prince Rupert?

13 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Yeah, if I were to leave
14 here after this, I would have to be up at two o'clock to
15 get ready to go to the bus depot here and leave at three
16 o'clock in the morning.

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And do you think it's
18 safe for women and girls to be waiting for a bus at three
19 o'clock in the morning?

20 **MS. VICKI HILL:** No. For one thing, what
21 happened last night, I'm going to bring it up. I tried to
22 call for a cab last night but there was no cab services
23 which is very sad for a company not to have any cabs
24 running late at night. And this was probably just about 10
25 o'clock at night going on to 11:00 and they said they don't

1 start til 6:00 in the morning. I'm like, wow.

2 You know, there's something wrong here.
3 This is how it all happens. Something's got to be done.
4 We're talking about lives. We're talking about human
5 beings. We're talking about everybody.

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Vicki, what would you
7 hope the outcome will be as a result of your testimony to
8 the Commissioners today?

9 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I know for one is justice.
10 For two, to get transportation done. For three, to
11 actually realize, you know, the stories that are being told
12 are true and it comes from the families, and so cell
13 services properly put in place or cameras along the
14 highway.

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And Vicki, for
16 yourself and your search for answers and just even
17 information, are you hoping that anything will happen for
18 you personally?

19 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Yes. I try put things in
20 place and I want justice for my mom. Also, not only for
21 her, you know, for the rest of the families. They need
22 peace, like. The family need their (inaudible) you know,
23 hurting. But with me, I have -- I'm going to do what I
24 need to do. It's not easy for me but I'm going to have the
25 strength to do this today.

1 And I'm thankful for all the people that
2 were here with me as I did the walk. And that was my very
3 first time I ever did that walk. And I understand the
4 pain, but you know what? The walk we did was just the tip
5 of what these women went through. You can't imagine what
6 my mother went through or the rest of the women, how they
7 ended up the way they were.

8 Yes, we had sore feet. Yes, we had
9 blisters. But to me, I was thinking about it. That was
10 really nothing compared to what they went through. But it
11 doesn't compare to the hurt, our hurt (inaudible). And
12 we're the voice for them.

13 Are we ever going to find the answers? Are
14 we even going to get what we want?

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so you said it has
16 not been easy for you and you want answers and information.
17 So is it too difficult for you and for families to get the
18 answers that they want from the police and from the other
19 government institutions that are in the possession of that
20 information?

21 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Yes. I mean, it's hard to
22 get any info from them (inaudible) because when I asked
23 about my mom's stuff because I wanted the photographs, I
24 wanted the word-by-word from the report from the coroners
25 and everything, I wanted everything. And I told them, "I'm

1 old enough to know and I have my right to it."

2 But what I was told is that there was too
3 much -- what do you call that -- graphic -- too much
4 graphic and too much disturb -- I can't remember the name
5 of it.

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Are you thinking
7 disturbing images in the photos?

8 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Yes. Yeah. But you know
9 what? Why can't I have those? You know, who else saw
10 those? Who else saw the pictures? Who else saw
11 everything? There's just me and my brother left but it's
12 me that's doing this.

13 And there's a few things that I've read up
14 on. I always wondered why we weren't able to do those
15 testings, those swabs. There was semen found on her and
16 there was no drugs or alcohol found in her system
17 whatsoever.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you, Vicki. I'm
19 going to turn it over to the Commissioners to ask any
20 questions that they may have.

21 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Merci.
22 Tshinashkumitin. Merci beaucoup. Thank you, Vicki for
23 your truth, sharing your truth to us too. I hope all the
24 institution or people across Canada, that they see and they
25 hear and they witness most of your strength. And on this

1 side too, we need the strength and you gave me that gift by
2 sharing with us the story of your mom and how a great
3 mother you are with your children. So it's very important.
4 Merci.

5 And I have a couple of questions. The first
6 one is when you requested the document or the files to the
7 RCMP, I just want to make sure I understood. You didn't
8 receive anything from your mom's file?

9 **MS. VICKI HILL:** The one that I received was
10 an inquisition piece of paper that I have, just the one I
11 showed you.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** I just want to ask one
13 other question. Recently you received some other documents
14 but were they related to the RCMP request?

15 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I believe it was sort of
16 like -- I think it was a coroner's report, I believe. But
17 it's got word-for-word from the testimonies. It's 90 pages
18 and I've got it with me today.

19 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And when did you
20 receive it?

21 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Last week.

22 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Was it identified as
23 coming from the RCMP?

24 **MS. VICKI HILL:** No.

25 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Merci. Do we

1 know if the file of your mother are destroyed? Did they
2 say anything or it's still there?

3 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I think it might be still
4 there. I'm not sure.

5 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** If I may say
6 to conclude, I think you deserve to receive those files and
7 that you deserve to see. And I hope that when that day
8 happens that you will be surrounded by people. And if our
9 lead counsel -- legal counsel and help people from the
10 Inquiry walk with you on this. Merci beaucoup.

11 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Thank
12 you.

13 Vicki, thank you so much for your truth and
14 your courage and your strength. And so we thank you for
15 being here too with your mom. It's so clear that she loves
16 you and I see the resemblance, another strong, strong
17 woman. Be proud, Vicki. I know you are.

18 I just have a few questions. Vicki, you
19 mentioned about no cell phone service between Prince Rupert
20 and Terrace. Do you know whether there are any telephone
21 booths or telephones or emergency phones along the highway
22 there?

23 **MS. VICKI HILL:** There is nothing, nothing.

24 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Still?

25 **MS. VICKI HILL:** Nothing.

1 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Okay.
2 Are there other spots between here and Rupert where there's
3 no cell phone service or poor cell phone service?

4 **MS. VICKI HILL:** There is none in
5 Moricetown, no cell service in Moricetown either.

6 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Okay.
7 And do you recall seeing any emergency telephone booths or
8 anything like that? No? No. I don't either. Okay.

9 Vicki, thank you so much. If there is
10 anything that you think of maybe a few days from now that
11 you think, oh I wish I had said this or that, please
12 contact Breen and he'll pass along to us whatever you'd
13 like to add. And feel free to do that.

14 Thank you very, very much for your truth,
15 as I've said. You're a real inspiration to all of us.
16 Thank you.

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So Vicki, is there
18 anything you want to say in closing to the Commissioners?

19 **MS. VICKI HILL:** I would like to say thank
20 you from the bottom of my heart for being here and
21 listening to the stories. And no words can put into place
22 how I feel right now. I'm -- and I hope you guys in the
23 next few days listen to the rest of the families. And I
24 was honoured to open up this morning. Thank you. And I
25 pray that other (inaudible) families out there that they'll

1 have the strength and courage to do what I did. Thank you.

2 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Our Elder
3 Doris and Commissioner Audette are going to be presenting
4 gifts to Vicki and her family.

5 (Commissioners and Elder Doris Rosso (Lht'at'en)
6 present fireweed seeds to Vicki Hill)

7 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** We'll
8 take a short break. Thank you.

9 --- Upon recessing at 11:15 a.m.

10 --- Upon resuming at 11:37 a.m.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** For the record, my
12 name is Wendy van Tongeren and I am one of the Commission
13 Counsel.

14 Commissioner Audette, I have some news in
15 regards to the schedule. A family was expected to be here.
16 They've faced a difficulty and therefore they will not be
17 here. And so unfortunately, we have to cancel the next
18 segment and so nothing will be happening in this room until
19 1:30, after the lunch break, right? So that's close to two
20 hours. Thank you.

21 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Merci
22 beaucoup, Maître Wendy. Thank you.

23 --- Upon recessing at 11:38 a.m.

24 --- Upon resuming at 1:43 p.m.

25

1 **Hearing #2**

2 **Witness: Vivian Tom in relation to Destiny Tom**

3 **Heard by Commissioner Michèle Audette**

4 **Commission Counsel: Wendy van Tongeren**

5 **Registrar: Bryan Zandberg**

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Commissioners, we're ready to
7 begin.

8 My name is Wendy van Tongeren, Commission
9 Counsel. And the next witness that will be speaking this
10 afternoon -- and we apologize for the lateness; we're a bit
11 late -- it's Chief Vivian Tom, T-O-M.

12 Before Chief Tom actually commences we have
13 the honour of a hereditary chief being in our presence and
14 I'd like to ask that Hereditary Chief Lucy Gagnon and
15 Victor Jim come forward to be acknowledged by the
16 Commissioner. And I understand that we also have a guest,
17 Jeff Brown, who is going to be seating as a support person
18 for Chief Tom. And his name is Medeek (ph). Thank you.

19 And here's another one, Medeek.

20 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** He received this.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yes. Oh, he did?
22 Okay. You only get one. I said you only get one and you
23 got (inaudible).

24 (Commissioner Audette honours hereditary chief Lucy Gagnon)

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** All right, so we

1 can commence.

2 So you get to carry this microphone so that
3 everyone can hear you. It's important that you bring it
4 quite close to your mouth so that it actually works for us.
5 And let me just -- we'll do this. Okay, you're all set.

6 So I -- is it okay if I call you Vivian?

7 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Thank you. Thank
9 you so much. And I do want to thank you very much for
10 being here. I appreciate that you were scheduled for this
11 morning and you were ill and so you were not able to make
12 it. But in spite of that you were driving and found your
13 way and we have the pleasure of having you this afternoon,
14 so thank you so much.

15 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Thank you.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Now, the -- just
17 one more thing. Thank you. We talked before. We've
18 spoken quite a bit in preparation of what you have to say
19 this afternoon, trying to ensure that I could listen to the
20 things that you considered important and also the things
21 that Commissioners feel that they need to hear in terms of
22 the themes of the Terms of Reference. And you've also told
23 me that you would like to actually swear on a Bible before
24 you begin to speak to the Commissioner.

25 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** M'hm.

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And so I'm going to
2 ask that you do that now.

3 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Okay.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And this is the
5 Registrar. Hi.

6 **THE REGISTRAR:** I've just got to get this
7 microphone working. I'll pass you that Bible. Okay, if
8 you can hold that while we do the oath.

9 **CHIEF VIVIAN TOM, AFFIRMED**

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So as I look around
11 I see a number of reminders of a remarkable young woman,
12 Destiny, who is your daughter.

13 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And that is one of
15 the topics that you're going to be covering this afternoon,
16 I understand, which is her murder ---

17 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- which took
19 place in 2013?

20 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** But there is much
22 more to your life besides your daughter. In fact, you're
23 assisting in raising her daughter whose name is Cassidy
24 who's now seven; is that right?

25 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And you're also a
2 chief in Burns Lake?

3 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes, for the Wet'suwet'en
4 First Nations ---

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

6 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** --- formerly known as the
7 Broman Lake Band.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And so there are a
9 number of things that you're going to be talking about
10 including the tragedy of the death of your daughter; is
11 that correct?

12 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So I'm just going
14 to list them so the Commissioner knows in advance what to
15 expect and then we can start, all right?

16 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Okay.

17 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So you're going to
18 talk about the history of your people; is that right?

19 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And the history of
21 your family?

22 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

23 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And you're going to
24 talk about the history of the residential schools in your
25 area around Burns Lake?

1 MS. VIVIAN TOM: Yes.

2 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And then you're
3 going to talk about your personal story?

4 MS. VIVIAN TOM: Yes.

5 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And that will
6 include an ongoing history of abuse on Destiny, Destiny
7 Tom, by her partner whose name was Garrett George; is that
8 right?

9 MS. VIVIAN TOM: Yes.

10 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And that there were
11 a number of incidents where there was atrocious violence
12 inflicted upon her by him for which he even went to court,
13 but nevertheless, he did eventually murder her?

14 MS. VIVIAN TOM: Yes.

15 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And you're going to
16 be talking about some of the facts that you learned from
17 the police and others about how the murder took place?

18 MS. VIVIAN TOM: Yes.

19 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And that you
20 discovered that she died alone?

21 MS. VIVIAN TOM: Yes.

22 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And that she
23 actually called out for help and nobody helped?

24 MS. VIVIAN TOM: Yes.

25 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And as a result of

1 that you went through extraordinary effort to try to find a
2 way of healing yourself as a result of that horrific news
3 and memory that you carry?

4 MS. VIVIAN TOM: Yes.

5 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, and there may
6 be some more?

7 MS. VIVIAN TOM: M'hm.

8 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: But are you ready
9 to begin?

10 MS. VIVIAN TOM: Yeah.

11 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Thank you.

12 So let's start with the history of the
13 people. And you know the Terms of Reference and so it is
14 important with you with all your knowledge and experience
15 that you think about the Terms of Reference to the extent
16 of an important theme is the vulnerability of Indigenous
17 women and girls. And so as you speak about the history of
18 your people, the history of your family, the residential
19 schools, and your personal story, where you can teach us
20 more about what it is that is having an impact on the
21 women, the Indigenous women and girls within these areas
22 about which you've become so familiar in your various roles
23 in life -- if you could just make sure you remind us of
24 those and so that it will assist the Commissioners in
25 developing their recommendations ultimately.

1 MS. VIVIAN TOM: Okay.

2 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So the
3 history of the people, what people are you talking about
4 when you talk of the history of the people?

5 MS. VIVIAN TOM: The Wet'suwet'en First
6 Nations in this area. They're Wet'suwet'en in our
7 traditional name but they are called Carrier in the English
8 term. And we have different houses that we sit under for
9 the potlatch system. And the houses are, like, the
10 different clans. And I sit under the Grizzly House and
11 Medeek is Jeff Brown, my house chief. And he was there
12 with me right when Destiny passed away and he assisted when
13 we had to go through the funeral process and the potlatch.

14 So that's why the house chiefs are there, to
15 assist their house members, their clan members. By clan, I
16 mean that whatever our mother's clan is we follow because
17 we're a matriarchal society. So if I'm there and say you
18 were my child, then you would fall under the Bear Clan.
19 And even if you got married to someone else, the children
20 would still follow you. That's how we looked after
21 everyone.

22 And the father clans -- so when a person
23 died, the father clan is hired to assist the mother clan in
24 the funeral arrangements, the expenses, buying the clothes,
25 paying for everything. And then after the funeral, the

1 mother clan -- because they're going through the grieving
2 process and they can't -- our term was that's how we looked
3 after them because they were under so much sorrow and grief
4 that they couldn't think straight. So the father clan
5 would step in and help with the funeral arrangements.

6 And after the burial and the funeral then
7 the mother clan would get together and they would pay the
8 father clan back everything -- for everything that was
9 spent on the loved one.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. And this was
11 important for you as it relates to your daughter Destiny
12 and that funeral?

13 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. And I'm
15 hearing from what you're saying that this is an important
16 organization system amongst your people to assist each
17 other; is that correct?

18 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** To work in harmony
20 and assist each other ---

21 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** M'hm.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- when difficult
23 things arise?

24 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And has that been

1 basically permitted as long as you can remember or have
2 there been any interruptions by colonialization?

3 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** My grandfather was 108 when
4 he passed away in 1986 and he remembers the first vehicle
5 that came into the Bulkley Valley. And he said there were
6 -- he was about 12 years old at the time and they used to
7 live up by the Hudson Bay-Dennis Lake area. And they were
8 playing outside at dusk and all of a sudden they saw these
9 eyes, big eyes coming towards them in the dark and they got
10 scared and they all scattered. And that was the first
11 vehicle in the Smithers area.

12 And so he told us a lot of stories and like,
13 the way they raised us, they were very strict. And it's so
14 different nowadays. And back in the sixties, seventies,
15 eighties, the parental guidance in the home was very strict
16 and the children listened right away.

17 And it's different now with the leniency of
18 discipline on children. Some have been successful in
19 raising their kids without spankings but the majority I
20 find is -- it's a lot harder on the parents because I find
21 especially with the generation now that the young children
22 don't have respect for their parents. And I'm getting off
23 track here.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Isn't that funny
25 where you get off track from time to time? But thank you

1 for identifying it. And so we'll move on to something
2 else.

3 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Okay.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So the -- but let's
5 relate this then to the history of your family. And how --
6 in terms of the history of your family -- and you talk
7 about your grandfather and you've told me some of the
8 things about him that are very special about him. But
9 again, let's try to connect this where we can about the
10 vulnerability of Indigenous women and girls.

11 So tell us about the history of your family
12 in connection to that topic.

13 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** My grandparents were very
14 strict and very protective. And because there wasn't hydro
15 at the time when everyone was growing up it was -- they
16 would get up early with the daylight and they would go to
17 bed when the -- pretty well when the sun set. And they
18 would get the business done early the next day. And their
19 kids weren't allowed at the time to go out and wander and
20 do whatever they wanted.

21 Now, even with -- I find that with the safe
22 homes for the teens that their curfew is at midnight and
23 that's pretty late for a 14-year-old. And with my
24 grandparents, the way they raised us was with -- to teach
25 us how to respect others.

1 Even my mom and dad -- we grew up in an
2 alcoholic home. There was a lot of violence. But at the
3 time there wasn't as much violence as there is nowadays
4 with drugs and everything. And there was -- you know, it's
5 -- at times we were left alone for a month at a time,
6 sometimes two months at a time where my grandparents would
7 raise us. And they lived across the road from us and so --
8 -

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I have you water if
10 you need it.

11 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yeah.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And I should say,
13 we haven't acknowledged Gladys Radek who is behind you and
14 helping. So Gladys, thank you for being here.

15 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Gladys was there when
16 Destiny passed away. She had Destiny's picture on the van
17 when she first came to Burns Lake. And so I'm so thankful
18 that she did that and you know, it meant a lot to me as a
19 mom because that's one of the worst fears that a mother
20 faces and the parents face, is that everyone will forget
21 your child and you know, and even just forget them as a
22 person.

23 And even for myself it's hard when we're
24 raising my granddaughter because she cries for her mom when
25 she's going through a rough time. And she -- you know, she

1 wants to be with her mom sometimes and I'll be going into
2 that later on.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. So let's --
4 speaking of the history of the family, let's talk about you
5 as a member of the family. And you have accomplished a lot
6 in your life. Talk about the role of a chief and how you
7 decided to actually go into the election for that purpose
8 to try and hold that position and how long you've done it.

9 And again, tell us about what in your role
10 as a chief you have learned about the vulnerability of
11 Indigenous women and girls and what services are available
12 and what aren't.

13 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** It was difficult for me to
14 even think about running for the chief position because I
15 have to go into my health and the challenges that I face
16 with my health. I had pneumonia 10 months old. Seven and
17 eight years old I had tuberculosis. And my mom said back
18 then she wasn't sure if the doctors treated me properly for
19 the TB.

20 And at 13 I was vomiting blood and because
21 of that I ended up with bronchiectasis in my left lung over
22 30 years ago. And with that I was supposed to go through
23 surgery and have my lower left lung removed and they found
24 out that it was too late, that it had spread to the middle
25 of my right lung.

1 And if you look at a diagram of the lungs,
2 it's a majority of the -- like, the size of the lung on
3 both sides so it's just like half a lung. And with that I
4 was prone to pneumonia, double pneumonia, pleurisy,
5 everything that has to do with the lungs.

6 And with that I was diagnosed back in -- I
7 think it was early or late eighties and the doctor told me
8 -- the specialist told me at the time that there was
9 nothing that they could do for me except send me home to
10 die a slow and painful death. And you know, I just didn't
11 want to go back to that doctor.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And I wouldn't
13 either actually. Good choice.

14 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yeah. And with that I
15 still went back to college and university and -- but for me
16 it was just like I had to work twice as hard. I had even
17 on the job I worked for over 12 and a half years, 13 years
18 as a drug and alcohol counsellor and I was -- you know, it
19 was what I grew up in that I wanted to change everything
20 for my kids. I wanted to have a safe home for them,
21 especially the girls. I didn't want them to wake up with
22 sexual abuse and physical abuse and you know, shown to them
23 on a daily basis or weekends. I was very protective of my
24 kids.

25 And out of five kids we only have two left.

1 We lost a son, the second son in 1983. He was five weeks
2 old and he ended up with medical problems. And I had a
3 miscarriage between, you know having Chenara in '86 and
4 Destiny in '91. And then we lost ---

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Andy Junior in --
6 when was Andy Junior born?

7 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** In 1981 and Sheldon was
8 born in 1983, Chenara was born in 1986, and then I had the
9 miscarriage and then Destiny was born in 1991.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so here you
11 are, a busy mom and having these issues with your kids as
12 well, and you've maintained your position as a chief for
13 how long?

14 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** For over a year since July
15 7th of 2016.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And what would you
17 say about the band and their attitude towards women as
18 chief.

19 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Since we've gone through
20 the whole incidence of -- with Destiny and her passing away
21 in another community where she was living with her common-
22 law partner at the time, everyone was, you know, really
23 upset. The uncles were very protective of the girls and
24 you know, I've never seen one of -- my brother-in-law is so
25 protective that he said that he didn't care who it was, if

1 he ever found out that someone -- if he ever saw someone
2 fighting a girl in front of him that he didn't care who it
3 was he was going to use a bat on them, because when they
4 saw Destiny in the casket she was black and blue on one
5 side and her nails were torn and she had bruises all over.

6 And the whole attitude of the community was
7 you know, not to -- for the men not to fight the women.
8 But sometimes there are incidences where the women will
9 fight each others or like, not -- there was a really bad
10 incident that happened in our community and you know, it
11 didn't matter what we did. We tried to save that girl.
12 She passed away in our house and it was my son's
13 girlfriend.

14 And something had happened at another house
15 and like I said, I didn't want any alcohol, any partying in
16 our house. And my son brought her back from where the
17 incident happened. He brought her back home and he called
18 the ambulance for her. And this was on a Friday night.
19 And then Sunday morning she was gone. And we still don't
20 know what happened yet. The autopsy report is still coming
21 out.

22 And it's really hard. What this has shown
23 me is, you know, not to blame a whole community for what's
24 happened because a lot of my in-laws were away. They were
25 out of town, some up in the Yukon and they're getting

1 blamed and thrown in with everyone else that they were a
2 part of it. And it wasn't even the case. We weren't even
3 home when the incident took place but we got back home late
4 Saturday night and Sunday morning she was gone.

5 And it's taught me, you know, not to take
6 out any anger on other people. Even with what happened to
7 my daughter, I had to forgive the person. It wasn't right
8 away but I had to forgive that person that murdered my
9 daughter because you know, what I have learned as a
10 Christian is that God will not let us into Heaven if we
11 have hatred or bitterness in our heart. And I really want
12 to be with my daughter. I want to be with my kids when the
13 time comes.

14 When this happened with Destiny my husband
15 and I were talking about giving up. We were talking about
16 suicide. We were laying there in the bedroom and he just
17 wanted to give up. And I've never heard him talk like
18 that. And then we heard Cassidy laughing. She was only
19 three years old when her mom was killed. And we heard her
20 laughing in the living room. And we decided there and then
21 that we couldn't give up. We have someone that we have to
22 raise.

23 Even though my husband had a stroke about
24 four years ago and I have -- I was on disability level 2
25 before I became the chief. And even with that, I'm still

1 working, doing my best to work with what I have and it's
2 been rough, really, really hard.

3 Sometimes I get scared that I might forget
4 how Destiny looked. I'll never forget her because she was
5 the kindest person that was there for me whenever I had
6 medical appointments because of my lungs and at one time
7 because of a cancer scare. She dropped whatever she was
8 doing. She would bring Cassidy with her and she'd say,
9 "I'm there, Mom." And she would wait with me while I went
10 through all these tests. And she was a very caring person.

11 And one thing that it has taught me as a
12 chief is, you know, even when you see discrepancies, if you
13 see abuse issues happening, I have learned as a person
14 before I became the chief is, you know, it's hard but not
15 to pick sides, especially as a grandmother. You learn
16 never to pick sides because you know their family.

17 And after this happened to my daughter I
18 could still go up to the person that killed her. I could
19 still give him a hug and you know, he was suicidal after
20 this incident and I had to think of him as a person that
21 was hurting.

22 And one thing as a grandmother and a parent
23 is the most important lesson, the way my grandparents
24 taught me is never to pick sides, never to pick favourites.

25 One story my uncle told me about my grandma

1 and grandpa -- they used to feed us and look after us.
2 There was eight of us and I was the oldest girl. And I had
3 two older brothers and the rest were younger. And we were
4 sitting around the round wooden table and we were all
5 eating. My uncle walked in and he asked my grandma in
6 Carrier, he says, "Which one is your favourite one?"

7 And then my grandma looked at him and she
8 was looking over her glasses and she looks at my uncle and
9 she says, "What do you mean, favourite? They're all
10 hungry."

11 And you know, it taught me the unconditional
12 love that they had for us. And they raised us on love and
13 respect for one another, even for my parents when they
14 would wake up hung over. We never judged them. We never
15 put them down. We never called them alcoholics. We never
16 -- if they wanted a glass of water, a cup of tea, you know,
17 we'd run and we'd get the water. And it wasn't just water.
18 My mom always wanted ice with her water and you know, we'd
19 run and get it. And we were happy to do something. That's
20 how we were raised.

21 Nowadays when we ask our kids to get a glass
22 of water or tea or coffee they just drag their feet and
23 "Not again." And ---

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Vivian, are you
25 ready to talk about the death then of Destiny? Should we

1 even -- because even though it's true, there's
2 unconditional love and you hug this fellow who killed your
3 daughter, but perhaps if you describe some of the things
4 that happened before and during and during the
5 investigation we could just get some ideas on how to
6 prevent things like this that happened.

7 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Okay.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So let's start with
9 -- why don't we start with the -- when she died. And I
10 understand what happened was she wasn't living at your
11 house.

12 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Okay.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** She was living at
14 Garrett's mother's house in Nadleh?

15 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And that it was
17 understood that she went to a party?

18 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Which was a few
20 doors down?

21 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And then eventually
23 her body was found basically on the street or in the snow.
24 It was at a cold part of the year?

25 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** M'hm.

1 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And the police
2 became involved?

3 MS. VIVIAN TOM: M'hm.

4 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And then you
5 eventually found out from a relative, I think, at first --
6 was it your daughter, your other daughter when you were in
7 Ottawa?

8 MS. VIVIAN TOM: My son.

9 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Your son, okay. So
10 you came back from a trip to Ottawa and you've discovered
11 that news?

12 MS. VIVIAN TOM: Yes.

13 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And both you and
14 Andy your husband were horrified?

15 MS. VIVIAN TOM: M'hm.

16 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And so you ended up
17 communicating with the police about what had happened; is
18 that right?

19 MS. VIVIAN TOM: M'hm.

20 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And they offered to
21 allow you to see the site where she was?

22 MS. VIVIAN TOM: Yes.

23 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And what happened
24 then?

25 MS. VIVIAN TOM: We were at the hotel in

1 Prince George and we got the news from my son. He came in
2 and his cousin was with him and he says, "Mom, you guys
3 have to get up now." He said, "Something happened to
4 Destiny. They found her."

5 And I said, "What do you mean, they found
6 her?"

7 And my husband was in the tub at the time.
8 And I said, "What are you talking about?"

9 And he said, "They found her body in
10 Nadleh."

11 And I said, "How do you know?"

12 And he said that he got a call that Destiny
13 had passed away. And I went and told my husband and he
14 just screamed. I've never seen a man scream until I heard
15 him.

16 And I -- when they told me I said, "No." I
17 said, "I have to see her to believe it. I have to see her
18 before I know for sure."

19 And even then, the RCMP came, knocked on the
20 door. They gave us the information and I said, "No. I
21 have to see it."

22 And Mary Teegee came to the door and she
23 works at Carrier Sekani Family Services and she gave us the
24 news also that if we needed anything that they would help
25 us.

1 And I said, "I have to go to Nadleh. I want
2 to see for myself."

3 And we got to Nadleh right away and we were
4 told that Cassidy had been picked up. She was only three
5 years old at the time. She was at home with the other
6 grandma.

7 And everybody was gathered at the hall. My
8 brothers came from Moricetown and we were told that her
9 body was up behind the hall. So we walked up there and her
10 body was still laying in the mud and the snow and it was
11 under a yellow tarp.

12 And I didn't like seeing her like that. It
13 was just like in the movies. And I didn't like seeing her
14 like that. And I found out later on, like, they wouldn't
15 let me cross that police line, the ribbon. They said that
16 if you cross that line whoever did this to her will get
17 away with it because the evidence will be contaminated.

18 And I -- you know, I didn't really care. I
19 did care but I didn't really care. I just wanted to hold
20 my daughter. I just wanted to hold her body but they
21 wouldn't let me. And that's one of the worst things you
22 can ever tell an Aboriginal woman is that she can't be with
23 her child, especially when they're passing because
24 traditionally, we were raised that if somebody is sick or
25 dying in the hospital we're all there as family to say our

1 goodbyes, to say our farewells, and just to let them know
2 that we love them and they're not alone.

3 And I couldn't cross that line so I had to
4 go back to the hall. And it was hard but we found out that
5 Cassidy was picked up right away. And then I found out
6 from the RCMP later on, the investigating team, that they
7 didn't go into the house where Destiny was living. And we
8 were all upset as a family. Like, why didn't they go in
9 because that's where she lived. They should have checked
10 for evidence.

11 We heard that Garrett had gone home or he
12 had changed sweaters and he had lost the keys for the car.
13 Destiny's body was found outside the driver's side of the
14 car and it was on the ground. And they said that Garrett
15 had changed sweaters and they couldn't find the keys.

16 And we were upset because we figured that,
17 you know, for a year and a half we didn't know who did this
18 to Destiny. And the worst part that you could ever go
19 through as a mother, as a father, is to hear rumours that
20 they were ganged up on. And we heard rumours that there
21 was two or three of them.

22 And you know, when that incident happened,
23 when she was being beaten that night, I also heard that
24 someone heard her screaming for help but they didn't phone
25 the RCMP.

1 And we need more awareness. Once there's a
2 fight going on in a community, I am not scared to phone the
3 RCMP. Like, I don't care who it is. Like, even my own
4 family, I could phone the RCMP on them if I have to to keep
5 them safe. That's the safest place where they'll be until
6 they sober up where they're not going to harm another
7 person and they're not going to harm themselves.

8 And anyway, with Destiny, we heard that
9 people were aware of her being beaten at home but they
10 didn't step in; they didn't do -- you know, they didn't try
11 to talk to Garrett. The violence that led up to this, she
12 was pregnant at three and a half months and it came ---

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** But this was
14 previously, right?

15 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Right, okay.

17 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** It came out in court at
18 another court hearing that he only used one knife on
19 Destiny. For some reason the Crown counsel and the lawyer,
20 they made a deal for him to get off on an easier charge.
21 But when she was pregnant at three and a half months
22 pregnant he was upset because she was going on a grad trip
23 with the rest of the grads to Calgary and he didn't want
24 her to go. So he was trying to tell her not to and she
25 said, "I'm still going."

1 And he grabbed her by the hair in the
2 kitchen, threw her down, got on top of her, and straddled
3 her. He was sitting on top of her and he opened a drawer
4 for the knives and he grabbed a knife and scarred her on
5 her chin. And then he threw that knife in the sink. He
6 grabbed another knife and then he marked her, scarred her
7 right here on her chest at about the size of a quarter or a
8 loonie. And ---

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So when you said
10 "right here" you mean sort of just above ---

11 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Right above ---

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- the opening of
13 your blouse?

14 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes, right above the heart.
15 And he threw that knife in the sink and then he grabbed a
16 big knife and he was going to stab her right through and
17 she used both hands to stop him and all her fingers were
18 cut.

19 And she thought she heard my car because I
20 had just gone into town to gas up and I was going to follow
21 my brother back to Moricetown and we were going to work on
22 my mom and dad's grave, my grandma and grandpa's grave and
23 clean it and fix it up.

24 And Destiny yelled out, "Mom," and then she
25 thought I came back and she was scared that he was going to

1 use the knife on me. And so she ran in the bedroom. And
2 then he locked the door. He ran in with her.

3 And I came back and I went into the bathroom
4 and then I was going to run back out and I saw a spot of
5 blood on the bathroom sink. And Garrett always had
6 bleeding noses.

7 And I told him. I said, "Gee, you guys.
8 You're here not even 15 minutes and you already got a
9 bleeding nose." I said, "You should clean it up."

10 And I walked out and I was going to catch up
11 to my brother Wayne. And after that my van door wouldn't
12 shut so I had to run back in the house.

13 And I told them, "I need you guys' help." I
14 said, "The van door won't close."

15 So Garrett came out of the room and here I
16 gave him this big screwdriver and he gave it back to me.
17 And after he finished using it, it was just like this scary
18 movie. And after that I left back to Morricetown.

19 And then after that he -- I found out that
20 he made her get dressed. He had her locked in the bedroom
21 when I was there. He made her get dressed when I left and
22 then they were hitchhiking. He was forcing her to
23 hitchhike back to Nadleh. And they said when an elder
24 picked her up she said that Destiny had sunglasses on and a
25 dark hoodie.

1 And he was going to hide out in Nadleh with
2 her. And he tried to ask that elder to drive him up the
3 hill out of town. And I guess he didn't want anybody
4 spotting Destiny. And that elder said, "No, I have
5 business to do in town and this is as far as I go."

6 And then so they had to walk up the hill.
7 And at that time, Andy came home and he said there was
8 blood all over in the kitchen, on the counter, on the
9 cupboards, on the floor. And he phoned our son Andy Junior
10 and he said he doesn't know where Destiny is and said that
11 there's blood in the kitchen.

12 So Junior came down right away and they
13 tried to knock on the door and I guess they tried to make
14 it look like they were in the room sleeping or something.
15 And they locked the door and -- when they left. And so my
16 son had to -- they used something to break the handle off
17 and that's how they got in the room. And there was nobody
18 there.

19 And later on we found out from Destiny that
20 she was so scared about ending up in Nadleh with him that
21 she said if a car stopped she was asking him to -- to ask
22 the driver to just go and she was going to lock Garrett out
23 and she was going to ask the driver to just go. And when
24 she saw the cops come in she was really happy and she was
25 relieved.

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And the cops came
2 because Andy had called them when he found all that blood
3 with Jason; is that right?

4 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

6 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** And ---

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So he was arrested
8 eventually?

9 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Garrett was
11 arrested by the police that night?

12 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yeah.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

14 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** And what was maddening was
15 it didn't come up in court that he had used three knives on
16 her. There was only a report that only one knife was used.
17 And we were really upset that a deal was struck because I
18 was thinking, like, he could have been charged for
19 everything, like, kidnapping, unlawful confinement, assault
20 with a weapon times two -- and that's three knives --
21 assault with a weapon times three on two persons.

22 But it's so weird how the Canadian courts
23 don't acknowledge a unborn child. They don't acknowledge a
24 fetus as a person. So they couldn't charge him with
25 assault times two.

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Because she was
2 pregnant?

3 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** And ---

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** About -- how many
5 months did you say she was pregnant?

6 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** She was three and a half.
7 And they only sentenced him for one year.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

9 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** And he was supposed to be
10 on a no-contact order but he would send mail to her somehow
11 from jail and he would -- it was just like he was stalking
12 her and making sure he knew where she was and what she was
13 doing.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And I think you
15 mentioned to me that sometimes he'd put the baby's name on
16 it or something to get the mail?

17 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes, he would put Cassidy's
18 name on the envelope and that's how he got the mail
19 through.

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So he was released
21 and do you remember what year that was that he stabbed her?

22 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Two thousand and nine
23 (2009).

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And so he was
25 released and then there was another incident where she was

1 also badly hurt by him?

2 MS. VIVIAN TOM: He ---

3 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Was that after
4 that?

5 MS. VIVIAN TOM: Yes.

6 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, okay.

7 MS. VIVIAN TOM: This was ---

8 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Before she was
9 murdered?

10 MS. VIVIAN TOM: This was in Nadleh where my
11 son phoned me. He had gone to work and he lived in a
12 different place. He had his own place at the time. And he
13 phoned home and told us, "You guys better check on Destiny.
14 She texted and said that -- to come and pick her up right
15 away."

16 And then later on he said that the text
17 changed, that, "Oh, Garrett is back. Everything is okay
18 now."

19 And it didn't sound like Destiny so I went
20 to Fraser Lake right away. I phoned the RCMP down there
21 and I told them what had happened, that he has a history of
22 violence.

23 And so the RCMP met me at the house down
24 there and we got in. The door was locked and we finally
25 got into the house. And we found out why -- I went into

1 the bedroom right away and the RCMP were looking in the
2 front. And Destiny was laying in bed and Garrett was
3 beside her and he was holding her like that. And I lifted
4 the curtain, like, opened the curtain a bit and her face
5 was all bruised.

6 And we woke her up and the RCMP told her --
7 told me to bring her into the other room and stay there.
8 And so they arrested Garrett right there. And we had to
9 phone the ambulance because she had a hard time breathing.
10 And I think Cassidy was in the other room too. The mom
11 said she was away on training and she didn't know what was
12 going on. And sure enough, Cassidy was sleeping in the
13 other room and she was younger than three at the time.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So he went to court
15 for that as well?

16 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

17 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And what happened
18 at that time?

19 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** He was charged with
20 assault. And we didn't really keep track of him because we
21 were more worried about Destiny. And we got her right out
22 of there. We took her car with us and everything else.
23 And we were just happy to get her right out of that
24 residence.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Was that Nadleh?

1 MS. VIVIAN TOM: Yes.

2 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So -- and
3 you've talked about something happening in 2009 and she was
4 murdered in 2013. Like, how old was she when she was
5 getting all these beatings from this guy?

6 MS. VIVIAN TOM: She was 18 when the knives
7 were used on her and she was about 19 or 20 when the
8 ambulance had to be called and she was 21 when she was
9 murdered.

10 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And so how did it -
11 - you said that you've moved her out of Nadleh and yet she
12 ended up being murdered in Nadleh. So where was that
13 transition where she actually went back or was taken back
14 or whatever? How did that happen, from what you recall?

15 MS. VIVIAN TOM: He kept on stalking her and
16 even though there was a no-contact order. She tried to go
17 on with her life and she ended up getting a job about,
18 like, way up close to the Yukon border. And he tried to
19 stop her from going up there. He texted her and told her
20 that -- he pretended to be -- I guess he was using his
21 mom's cell phone and told Destiny that Garrett passed away.

22 And Destiny phoned home and she was quite
23 upset. And I said, "Well, I haven't heard anything." I
24 said, "Just keep on going to work if you have to go. He's
25 probably trying to stop you from going."

1 And she was crying on the phone and she said
2 she didn't know what to do.

3 I said, "Just go to work." I said, "They're
4 paying your way to go up to do this camp job and he's
5 probably just trying to get you back."

6 And so she kept on going. And he -- I guess
7 he kept on finding her, stalking her until he got her back.
8 And the last time that she went back to Nadleh she said
9 that she was going to Prince George and she was really
10 happy.

11 And I thought she was seeing this young man
12 that didn't drink and didn't do drugs and so I didn't
13 question her. And she said that somebody else was going to
14 drive her and she was really happy. And here I found out
15 later on that she picked up Garrett and they went to Prince
16 George and stayed there. That's how he manipulated
17 everything to get her back.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. And you have
19 mentioned alcohol.

20 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And so from your
22 information and your observations and anything that Destiny
23 may have told you, was it apparent that Garrett was using
24 alcohol?

25 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And what about
2 Destiny?

3 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And you've told me
5 that there was quite a bit of alcohol that Destiny would
6 drink and that she actually was trying to seek some help
7 for that?

8 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes. At that time I don't
9 think our band had a drug and alcohol counsellor. And she
10 wanted to go to a treatment centre but she kept on asking
11 or phoning and tried to get help to go into a program where
12 she would quit drinking. And they kept on stalling or they
13 just didn't bother returning her calls. And she finally
14 got upset and she just started drinking again.

15 And you know, when I heard that I was really
16 broken-hearted because I used to work as a drug and alcohol
17 counsellor myself and we know the signs when somebody is
18 determined to go to treatment. We know the danger signs to
19 look for when they're in an abusive relationship.

20 You know, I raised her in a home where I --
21 they've never seen me drunk once. They've never had a
22 party in the house once while I was there. I found out
23 later on when they were teens that when I was gone they
24 would have a party with one of the older relatives coming
25 to visit and they would be all sly about it and they would

1 laugh about it.

2 But when I was there, especially as kids, I
3 made sure they had a safe house because I used to hide in
4 the attics, I used to hide in the back of the bush, I used
5 to hide in the haunted hall. We'd camp out in the back and
6 you know, I'd be dragged out by my hair when my ---

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Who did that?

8 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** My mom found me and you
9 know, she would drag me home. And I made sure the -- like,
10 even a 60-year-old man -- and I was 12 at the time. A 60-
11 year-old man tried to say that he was going to have sex
12 with me and that I didn't have to be scared.

13 And you know, I didn't want my kids growing
14 up in a place like that. I was determined because they
15 were my babies I was going to look after them. I was the
16 mother bear. I protected them wherever we went.

17 When I went back to school, college or
18 university, I made sure that they were well taken care of,
19 protected. When my husband drank he would go outside the
20 home. He wouldn't come home with a party or wouldn't come
21 home drunk. And he respected the rules of the house as not
22 to drink at home. And I'm glad, you know, the kids had a
23 safe place.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm. Now, when
25 you went to Destiny's memorial it was an open casket, I

1 understand?

2 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And you noticed
4 that her head was -- it looked unusual, different from when
5 she was alive. And I understand as well that you read the
6 autopsy report and it was concluded that the injury was so
7 severe that her head was actually detached from her body as
8 a result of a forceful blow. Is that what you read and
9 what you experienced?

10 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes. the autopsy report
11 came out that she had suffered three traumas to her body,
12 that even if she made it to the hospital she wouldn't have
13 made it even if they brought her to emergency. And they
14 said that she was kicked or hit under the chin so hard that
15 her spine had dislocated from her body. So it was just
16 like she was decapitated but her flesh and her skin was
17 still holding her head onto her body.

18 And when I saw her in the casket her head
19 was just at an odd angle and I was wondering why. They
20 said that she had some broken ribs; she had ---

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So this is
22 devastating, devastating news you've had and you have to
23 figure out a way that you can carry on with life and be a
24 chief. And you found some resolve partly with a pastor ---

25 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

1 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- and also by
2 building her a tombstone; is that right?

3 MS. VIVIAN TOM: Yes.

4 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Do you want to tell
5 us about that?

6 MS. VIVIAN TOM: This part I'll have to get
7 up and ---

8 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Do you need -- are
9 you going to speak as you do it?

10 MS. VIVIAN TOM: Yes.

11 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, so we just
12 have to check in with everyone that they can see you and
13 the camera people can see you. So we need your guidance if
14 -- so whereabouts would you like to go?

15 MS. VIVIAN TOM: I'll just -- right there.

16 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, great. And
17 just, yeah, tell us the story. Tell us. Because I
18 understand that this actually worked well for you to put
19 her spirit to rest and to calm your heart.

20 MS. VIVIAN TOM: It was really hard for me
21 when I had to deal with knowing what happened with the
22 autopsy report. So the way I deal with stress is sometimes
23 I go to church because that's what my grandma and my
24 grandpa, they taught us as kids. I'd be -- even up to 14
25 years old I'd walk with my grandma to church, to the

1 Catholic Church in Moricetown.

2 And so I was at church one time in Burns
3 Lake after I heard about the autopsy report. They said
4 with that there was brain hemorrhaging and broken ribs, the
5 spine separating from the body, the head being separated.

6 And I couldn't stop crying when I heard
7 that. That's how I went up for prayer and I just cried and
8 I cried. And then I thought of how I was robbed of that
9 chance to be with Destiny to say goodbye to her.

10 And all of a sudden it was just like, in my
11 mind, I could see this vision. This tall pastor was
12 standing beside me and he was tall.

13 And this part, I'll -- it's going to be
14 pretty intense, that's all I can say. But I had to do it.
15 In my mind I could see -- like, I had my eyes closed when I
16 was being prayed over and I could see Destiny's body on the
17 road in the mud and the snow, with the yellow tarp covering
18 her.

19 And you know, when they said that I couldn't
20 cross that line to hold her, to hug her, to say goodbye to
21 her, that really broke my heart as a mother. And then -- I
22 might not need this because I'm going to be going back and
23 forth.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** (Inaudible)?

25 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yeah, because I'm going to

1 be -- okay, it's going to be pretty intense but in my mind
2 I could see that Destiny was laying there. It was just
3 like she was laying there and I was walking back and forth.
4 I was just like a caged lion. It was just like I could see
5 her but I couldn't be with her. And I just kept on walking
6 back and forth and walking, walking and looking at her. It
7 was like, how can I get to her? How can I get to her?

8 And then I finally just barged through that
9 line. I went to her. I lifted up that tarp. I crawled
10 under the blanket, the tarp with her and I hugged her. I
11 grabbed her in my arms.

12 I said, "Destiny, I'm so sorry. I'm so
13 sorry for what happened to you. I love you and I miss you.
14 I'm so sorry that you were all alone when this happened.
15 I'm so sorry that we weren't there to protect you as Mom
16 and Dad. I'm so sorry, Baby. I love you."

17 And I just kept on holding her and rocking
18 her in my arms. I just couldn't stop crying when I was
19 getting prayed over.

20 I said, "Destiny, I'm so sorry. I wanted to
21 be there with you but we couldn't. I'm so sorry that you
22 had to go through this alone." And I told her. I said,
23 "We'll look after Cassidy the best that we can. We'll
24 raise her. We love her just like our own. We love her
25 just like we love you."

1 And then all of a sudden it was just like
2 when they were -- that man had his hand on my shoulder and
3 he was praying -- it was just like I could feel or see a
4 bone coming out on each side of the shoulder. And then
5 it's like a big huge wing came out on both sides. And then
6 it went right down to the floor, white wings.

7 And then after that it was like Destiny's
8 body was laying right here but it looked like Jesus' body
9 where it was covered in a white sheet and then tied around
10 the neck, tied around the feet and the arms.

11 And then all of a sudden I just reached down
12 and I saw these huge hands up in the clouds. And the hands
13 were just like this on both sides. And it looked like it
14 was ready to receive a newborn baby. Like, the hands were
15 out like that.

16 And I grabbed Destiny and it was just like I
17 flew like an S shape. I grabbed her body and I flew with
18 her and I put Destiny's body into that man's hands, gently
19 like a newborn baby. And that was how I dealt with it.

20 And so I told people that have lost their
21 loved ones, if they're still missing, if they drowned, if
22 they were murdered, go back to them in your spirit, in your
23 prayers. Go back to them and say your goodbyes to them.
24 It means a lot to them.

25 I had to say this to one of my friends that

1 her brother drowned and they couldn't find his body in
2 Frances Lake. And I told her to go back to him in your
3 mind and tell him that you love him. Tell him goodbye.

4 And that's how I've dealt with the grief and
5 the loss. I -- we -- my husband and I, I thought about
6 going back to drinking but my husband said no because I had
7 over 30 years sobriety. And my daughter Chenara is 30 now.
8 Destiny would have been 25, 26.

9 And with that because Destiny died all
10 alone, I found out from Victims' Assistance from the
11 program that you can get up to \$5,000 for any funeral
12 arrangements or a headstone or anything. So when we went
13 to pick out Destiny's headstone I wanted to make sure we
14 had something like an angel to be with her because she was
15 alone when she died.

16 And so when we ordered the headstone it was
17 three feet high and two feet wide and it was holding a
18 heart. And we put her grad picture on there. And with
19 that, that headstone was ordered from India and it took a
20 few months. We only had time to get the base of the
21 headstone done because for the headstone potlatch -- and
22 Medeek was there and he assisted us. He assisted me with
23 burying my daughter, with putting the headstone on.

24 And after that I was happy that because she
25 was alone when she died I had to make sure that we had an

1 angel headstone. And it's beautiful. It's just like the
2 white wings that I talked about on the back and it's
3 holding a pink heart.

4 And I was interviewed by a journalist from
5 Regina, Saskatchewan about this last summer. And Cassidy
6 was with me. Cassidy was six years old when she talked
7 about committing suicide. She told me that when she came
8 home she said, "Grandma, I asked Bree," her little cousin
9 who is five, "I asked Bree if she wants me to commit
10 suicide."

11 And I said, "What did Bree say?" I said,
12 "What did Bree do?"

13 And she said, "She went like this."

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Nodding
15 affirmatively.

16 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** And it just broke my heart.

17 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I just need to put
18 on the record that you are nodding your head like this as a
19 yes.

20 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes. It just broke my
21 heart that she said that and she figured that because the
22 teenagers in our community attempted suicide and they were
23 brought in by ambulance she figured death, suicide, and she
24 could be with her mom.

25 Since she came back to our community --

1 she's seven now -- she's been bullied by the older kids,
2 even by a 10-year-old boy, other kids her same age. She's
3 been bullied because she has no mom or dad. And it hurts.

4 You know, as soon as she talked about
5 suicide I dropped whatever I was doing, cooking, and I went
6 in the living room and I sat her on my lap and I said,
7 "Baby Girl," I said, "if you commit suicide you can't be
8 with Mom because Mommy fought hard for every breath. It
9 showed in the coffin. Her nails were broken. There were
10 scratches on her hands. She was all bruised up." I said,
11 "Mommy fought hard for every breath and you can't be with
12 her if you commit suicide."

13 So after that it changed to where she said
14 that she wants to die as soon as possible so she can be
15 with her mom. And even with that it's really hard to
16 control the bullying unless I'm with her 24/7. And it's
17 sad that as a grandmother we can't even leave our kids for
18 15 minutes and they get bullied.

19 And that's one thing too is I found out from
20 the Ministry that, you know, I only get 300 on top of what
21 would have been her Child Tax Bonus. And I tried to apply
22 for the Child Tax Bonus but they said no. They said that
23 it's already included in whatever you're getting.

24 And then I found out from another
25 grandmother that's in a wheelchair, she's raising three

1 kids. She said her daughter never woke up one day. And
2 this was in Stellako. And I -- she said she was so upset
3 with all the paperwork that she told the Ministry, she
4 says, "I'm going to look after them with my own money if
5 you --" you know, she didn't want to go through all the
6 paperwork.

7 And that's one thing that I addressed as a
8 chief is fair. Like, with my job as a chief I've been
9 trying to do my best to be fair right around in everything.

10 Like, if somebody gets something and they
11 don't have to pay for it and somebody's trying to ask for
12 payment I said, "No." I said, "You have to be fair about
13 it. If they don't -- they didn't have to pay for it then
14 this person doesn't have to pay for it. We have to be
15 fair."

16 And so I'm glad that I bring that up. And
17 even with what happened to Destiny, that was thrown in my
18 face at a community members' meeting about what happened
19 with Cassidy. And the comment was, "Oh, so I see that
20 you're advocating for a new car for the health clinic.
21 That's nice. But I also see that you're advocating for
22 Cassidy. There's 240 other members that need advocating
23 for. What are you doing about that?"

24 And oh my God, when they brought Cassidy
25 into it I just -- the mother bear in me stood up. My hair

1 went up on my neck. My hands went up and I stood up and I
2 was just like the undertaker when I got up.

3 But I was still respectful and you know,
4 it's really tough. You think that as an orphan that people
5 would be nice but no, it's not the case.

6 And so I've tried to talk to the school
7 about programs for Cassidy. And one thing that I have
8 advocated for and I have asked other parents is to advocate
9 for a child or an art and play therapist because if you try
10 to send a counsellor in to talk, you know, it goes above
11 the kid's head. It's just like speaking French in front of
12 someone that doesn't speak French.

13 And the kids, their language is art and
14 play. That's how they talk things over. I listen to
15 Cassidy when she's playing. The art and play therapy
16 helped her right away. As soon as her mom passed away we'd
17 go to a restaurant and she would put all the condiments
18 around her and like, the napkin holder, the salt and
19 pepper, the ketchup, all these different things, she would
20 put it around her placemat.

21 And I said, "Baby," I said, "what are you
22 doing?" I said, "How come you keep putting everything
23 around there?"

24 And then she says, "Because they're the good
25 soldiers. They're protecting me."

1 She was scared because her mom was murdered.
2 And you know, the unsaid fear of a child comes out in their
3 play. And that's their therapy. And even for an adult,
4 any adult can go through the art and play therapy and it's
5 far more effective than just going to see a clinician.

6 Right now with Cassidy, after she found out
7 about Disneyland, like, first when I first became chief she
8 didn't want me to go back to work. She wanted me to stay
9 home after her mom died so I stayed home. But after she
10 found out about Disneyland she says, "You can go back to
11 work, Grandma. I want to go to Disneyland." And so I'm
12 going to do one of those GoFundMe pages and take her there.

13 And you know, it's been really hard.
14 Sometimes with my health, like I said, I'm on disability
15 level 2. Even with -- this morning, like, they had me on
16 the long-term or I don't know how they use the medical term
17 but the morphine, the pills for longer lasting pain
18 management and then the syrup for faster reacting pain
19 management. So I've been on both and it just gets me tired
20 sometimes. And I just about had a search party out for me
21 but I'm glad, you know, that I made it here.

22 And we've been trying to keep Destiny's
23 memory alive. And ---

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Want to talk about
25 the pictures?

1 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Yes.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Talk about the
3 pictures that you've brought and we've also got a bit of a
4 DVD to show. But you should just tell where Garrett is
5 right now.

6 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** He was sentenced -- at
7 first we found out that he was only going to be sentenced
8 for eight years. And there was an outcry in our community.
9 All the aunties were upset because they found out what
10 happened to Destiny.

11 Destiny was just like Heidi when she came
12 home because I found out that when she was staying with him
13 that she wasn't allowed to go anywhere to visit. The
14 cousins there told me that, "Oh, she was here but she's not
15 allowed to visit," and stuff like that.

16 And but when -- as soon as she gets home she
17 puts Cassidy in a buggy and then she'd walk down to her
18 grandma's and visit her grandma. And I told her, "You're
19 just like Heidi. The first place you head is to your
20 grandma's."

21 And I was happy to see that she was happy to
22 be home. And the pictures, we did a March for Violence
23 Against Women.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah. Just
25 describe where they are so that ---

1 MS. VIVIAN TOM: They're ---

2 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- (inaudible) in
3 a transcript.

4 MS. VIVIAN TOM: The wall on this side and -
5 --

6 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, on the left
7 side.

8 MS. VIVIAN TOM: --- there's different
9 pictures of Destiny when she went on the Vancouver Sun Run.
10 She went on it twice, once when she was single and then
11 another time after she had Cassidy. She had Cassidy in a
12 buggy and she went the full 10Ks.

13 And so we've had -- like, our t-shirt here
14 is Team Destiny and we had that made in Prince George. And
15 that's one of the pictures of Destiny. After she turned 18
16 I got her hair permed, a spiral perm, and she was really
17 happy with that.

18 And then on the other side, we were trying
19 to include another member that had passed away in the mill
20 explosion in Burns Lake, Babine Forest Products. His name
21 was Robert Luggi. And so we put Team Daling on there. And
22 so we did, you know, we did our best to support our
23 families that were going through trauma.

24 And this is when they did a march. And one
25 of my cousins from Nadleh made this poster. And it says,

1 "Destiny Rae Tom, and she loved butterflies." And that's
2 on there.

3 And they were doing a fundraising poker
4 tournament, I think, because Destiny used to play poker and
5 they said she was a really good poker player. And I don't
6 know where she got that from because I don't play poker.

7 I forgot to mention that she was an honour
8 roll student, fully -- like, a year-round honour roll
9 student with the principal's list distinction. She was
10 like a role model student. She made a song, a CD that was
11 -- she talked about how she tried to steal at one time but
12 she said she was taught right from wrong.

13 And she wanted to graduate. When she
14 graduated we got her her first vehicle. She was one of the
15 first kids to get her licence at 16.

16 And then this picture here is of ---

17 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** That's the one in
18 the frame?

19 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** In the frame it's Andy and
20 I when we first met and this -- they said that's how
21 Destiny looks, just like me when she was younger.

22 And she really loved people. When she found
23 out that one of her cousins in Stellako had an inoperable
24 cancer, a tumour behind his nose, he was only 16. So
25 Destiny asked me if she could stay with him for a week to

1 help look after him. So her and her cousin Angelica, they
2 stayed in Stellako for a week to keep him company, to keep
3 his spirits up because they said that the tumour was
4 growing. And you know, she'd put her life on hold just to
5 be there for her friends.

6 And I'm glad that she was kind. You know,
7 that's a legacy in itself is to be kind to other people.
8 You know, some people think that it's just because of, you
9 know, your stature in the community that you have to be
10 highly educated, you have to be really smart. Some people
11 brag about, you know, their kids being so smart and that
12 and they brag about their degrees and stuff like that. But
13 you know, it's not what life is all about.

14 My grandparents didn't raise us, you know,
15 to be like that. My mom and dad, they taught us to be
16 kind. And one of the examples is if they saw hitchhikers
17 on the road and it was getting late, like, dusk, Mom would
18 tell Dad, "Go over and see if there's anybody on the road."
19 And they would bring them up and Dad would call them up and
20 we'd put them up in the -- for the night and they'd feed
21 them. So we always woke up with some stranger on our
22 couch.

23 And like, my mom and dad were very kind
24 people even though, you know, they drank a lot. There was
25 a reason, you know. I found that as a drug and alcohol

1 counsellor there's so much grief that our people go
2 through.

3 I found out for work -- in working with one
4 of the communities like McLeod Lake, a lot of those people
5 used to go to Lejac, the residential school. I used to go
6 there. And they said when the kids were picked up for
7 residential school again they would be picked up by bus and
8 they would take all the kids away for the year.

9 And a lot of the parents were so heartbroken
10 that they would walk back and to the community and some of
11 them got killed on the highway because there was a liquor
12 store or a bar there and they would be so heartbroken that
13 all their kids were taken.

14 And you know, some of those kids never made
15 it home. I remember being in residential school where two
16 boys from Fort St. James ran away and they were trying to
17 run back to Fort St. James in November on the ice. And
18 they found them freezing, and you know, a lot of things
19 like that.

20 A lot of people think that oh, why don't you
21 get over residential school? They don't realize the things
22 that they go through. My brothers went through horror
23 stories. One of my brothers just about shot himself in
24 front of my dad and told him, "Why? Why did you send me to
25 Lejac?"

1 And you know, so many different things like
2 that. Right now, every one of my brothers, they quit
3 drinking. We all pray. And one thing that my grandfather
4 taught us -- he was an Indian doctor when he was alive. He
5 was 108 when he passed away. You know, he never told us,
6 you know, "Don't go to that church. Don't go to that
7 church." He never said that the Catholic church is better
8 than the Christian church. He never said the other way
9 around either.

10 And one time my mom and dad were fighting me
11 when they were drunk. And I was about 14 and one had my
12 hand behind my back and the other one was pulling my hair.

13 I ran away from home a lot because of all
14 the abuse, the drunk men that would end up in my bed. And
15 I'd wake up and I'd run into my brothers' room and they
16 would always protect us, my sister and I. And my -- you
17 know, they would just be there for us.

18 And my grandpa never -- you know, he was
19 never ever mean to any one of us. One of the funny stories
20 of my grandpa is he tried to have rabbits and one of my
21 brothers, the youngest brother is Marshall. He got a
22 rabbit for Marshall. And then the other brother, one of
23 the other brothers started crying for one so he got him one
24 too. And my grandma was laughing at him because he was
25 chasing 99 rabbits around.

1 She said, "You can't say no to those kids
2 and now you're chasing them around."

3 You know, my -- this DVD was made for
4 Destiny after she passed. And I like, you know, the last
5 part is pretty sad for me because you'll see why. But she
6 has Cassidy in there and right now Cassidy wants to be an
7 RCMP officer.

8 And that's the good that comes out of this.
9 I asked her, I said, "Why do you want to be a cop?"

10 And she says, "So I can do good in the
11 world."

12 And I thought wow. And you know, with
13 Destiny, she did some training and she wanted to become a
14 nurse or a teacher. And she had like, one of the best
15 teachers in Grade 11 and 12. She's the one that made the
16 frame for us, a beautiful 3 x 4 foot frame with her grad
17 picture on it and all the scenes and pictures.

18 And I don't know if there's any other
19 questions?

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** The Commissioner
21 might have some questions. But do you want to show the DVD
22 or -- and I appreciate the time as well, so I'm sensitive
23 to that. Okay.

24 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Okay.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** The DVD?

1 *--- EXHIBIT NO. 1:

2 Video presentation family photo album of Destiny and her
3 family (23:57 minutes)

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Are there any
5 questions, Commissioner Audette?

6 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Merci
7 beaucoup, Maître Wendy.

8 It is more a comment coming from my heart
9 and I'm sure if my colleagues were here they would join
10 this statement that would come from my heart.

11 I have to say that the tribute that you give
12 to your daughter with the pictures, the woman she was born
13 with all her life experience until she gave life -- a
14 miracle also -- until the moment she passed to the other
15 world, you gave us something that -- I'll speak for myself
16 this time -- that it must be hard for a mom to forgive. It
17 must be hard for when we gave birth and we want make sure
18 that our children will be protected and we'll leave before
19 them.

20 And with this tribute, this honour that you
21 give -- did for your daughter, you and your family, you are
22 showing Canada that your daughter is not a statistic. She
23 is still alive as a spirit. She is still with us and she
24 will guide the work I do as a mom. I'm a mom first. And
25 later, yes, I'm a Commissioner.

1 And I honour this mandate because of your
2 daughter, because of your strength, and the teaching that
3 you are giving me that we have to forgive. Am I there yet?
4 I don't know. But I'll think about you when I have to
5 forgive something or a person or a system.

6 Thank you so much.

7 We are all responsible, all responsible. We
8 come from communities, isolated communities, urban
9 communities, or we live in the cities. We heard when we
10 were young until today some girls, some women, crying for
11 help. And when I listen to you I remind that maybe even
12 us, we didn't call 9-1-1. Even us, we missed a chance to
13 help a person.

14 And I hope -- and your testimony that we're
15 Canadian, we're First Nation, Métis or Inuit, we're a human
16 being on Mother Eartha and we hear a person crying for
17 help, we have -- it's mandatory that we take that -- the
18 phone and dial 9-1-1. We have to.

19 That's another lesson you are giving us and
20 I hope people hear this lesson.

21 So I will ask our beautiful elder from this
22 territory to give you an eagle feather that was given by a
23 grandmother from Haida Gwaii and Grandmother Bernie and of
24 course, Grandmother Kathy and her choose that eagle
25 feather. And this is how we want to honour you, honour

1 your family, but also the spirit of your beautiful
2 daughter. Merci beaucoup.

3 (Silence while Hereditary Chief Doris Rosso Timberwolf,
4 Commissioner Audette, and Elder Kathy Louis present Vivian
5 Tom with an eagle feather and a small cedar branch)

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** (Inaudible) matters
7 with in terms of the exhibits but I believe that Chief
8 Vivian Tom may leave now. We won't keep these things.
9 We'll make sure we look after them and arrange their
10 return. And we'll work on getting a copy of the DVD.

11 Vivian, we can work this out together. But
12 we just need to discuss it amongst ourselves how we're
13 going to do it effectively to make sure everything's looked
14 after.

15 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** Okay.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, we have another
17 -- okay, go ahead. A song.

18 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** I wanted to sing a couple
19 of songs before I go. You know, at one time I couldn't
20 even sing because I got over a really bout of pneumonia.
21 And that's why I couldn't complete my university degree was
22 because I had to leave school because of my lungs ending up
23 with -- like, I just about died in the hospital. And at
24 that time I couldn't even talk. I couldn't even walk
25 around in my little kitchen.

1 And I cried out to God and I said, "God, I
2 want to keep on singing," because I go into ICU, I go into
3 the hospitals and the jails and I sing with these people
4 that have no hope. Some of them are dying without
5 visitors. Some are dying without hope.

6 And this song was given to me in a dream.
7 One night I cried myself to sleep and God showed me that,
8 you know, the reason why when you pray for someone it feels
9 like it's not helping them is because it's just like they
10 have bullet holes in their heart, in their spirit.

11 This one lady was praying over me because
12 somebody made a comment or they made fun of me that I
13 couldn't even buy this \$2 book that -- at a Christian
14 workshop. And I cried about it. And later on that -- a
15 different lady was praying over me and I said, "Excuse me,"
16 I said, "when you were praying over me it was just like I
17 could see little holes in my legs and the water was coming
18 out."

19 And she said, "That was the Holy Spirit."
20 And so she prayed and asked God to seal those wounds in my
21 body, soul, and spirit with the blood of Jesus and fill me
22 up with the Holy Spirit again to keep on living. Give me
23 the will to keep on living, give me the will to keep on
24 loving, and give me the will to keep on forgiving.

25 And one night I cried myself to sleep and

1 this dream came to me. I was invited to a supper and it
2 was just like a long table. And there was 10 to 12 people
3 seated at this table. And someone yelled out in the
4 audience, "There's 12."

5 And right in front of me was a plate of
6 chicken wings. And at that time it was my favourite food.
7 And anyway, after everybody ate they got up to sing in a
8 corner on that side. And there was -- I was seated at the
9 table beside this empty chair. And there was nobody
10 sitting there all that time. And then when everybody got
11 up to sing I wasn't standing with them. I was sitting on
12 the floor against that empty chair but it -- I was leaning
13 on it but it didn't move back. And you'll know why in this
14 song. I'm still dealing with an infection in my lung
15 again.

16 But this song, every time I'm going through
17 a rough time I remember it and I -- when people are going
18 through rough time I sing it for them. And then I'll --
19 after that I'll sing -- go right into the other song.

20 (Singing)

21 **MS. VIVIAN TOM:** And this next song reminds
22 me of my grandma when she used to sit in church and sing.
23 And I used to sit right beside her and watch her sing.

24 (Singing)

25 **CHIEF DORIS ROSSO:** (Speaks in

1 Wet'suwet'en).

2 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** You have to
3 translate, Madame (inaudible).

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** (Sings Hallelujah).

5 Oh, I had to speak in English? Oh. I have
6 to translate this? Oh, the announcement, okay. Is the
7 announcement in connection to the next witness? All right.
8 Yes. Yes.

9 So now we'll have a break. We are behind
10 and so we'll have to discuss that during the break. But
11 I'm recommending we take a break for 15 minutes still so
12 that people can replenish themselves and we'll see you in
13 15 minutes. Thank you so much.

14 --- Upon recessing at 3:52 p.m.

15 --- Upon resuming at 4:30 p.m.

16

17 **Hearing #3**

18 **** PUBLICATION BAN * A ban on publication is in effect***
19 ***on the name of the adolescent and any specific***
20 ***information that concerns him in the public testimony***
21 ***of Tom Chipman, Lorna Brown, Gladys Radek, Agnes***
22 ***Chipman & Stephanie Chipman, In relation to Tamara***
23 ***Chipman. This ban on publication was ordered by***
24 ***Commissioner Brian Eyolfson on August 22, 2018***
25 ***pursuant to Rule 55 of the Commission's Legal Path:***

1 *Rules of Respectful Practice.*

2 Witnesses: Tom Chipman, Lorna Brown, Gladys Radek,

3 Agnes Chipman & Stephanie Chipman

4 Heard by Commissioner Michèle Audette

5 Commission Counsel: Wendy van Tongeren

6 Registrar: Bryan Zandberg

7

8 **CHIEF DORIS ROSSO:** (Speaks in

9 Wet'suwet'en).

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So are we ready,

11 Madam Commissioner?

12 So this particular session relates to a
13 young woman whose name is Tamara Chipman who disappeared in
14 September -- September 21st, actually, close to an
15 anniversary date -- 2005. And I'm not actually aware of
16 the names of everybody who's here so I'm asking
17 respectfully if I could just pass the microphone around and
18 have everybody identify themselves and spell their name if
19 they think that we won't figure it out on our own.

20 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** Tom Chipman, spelled T-O-
21 M, C-H-I-P-M-A-N.

22 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** I'm Lorna Brown, L-O-R-N-
23 A, Brown, just like the colour with no E. And I'm Tamara's
24 aunt.

25 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** Gladys Radek, G-L-A-D-Y-

1 S, R-A-D-E-K.

2 MS. AGNES CHIPMAN: I'm Agnes Chipman from
3 Moricetown, I guess. I was born in Rupert but we always
4 lived in Rupert all the time.

5 MS. STEPHANIE RADEK: For the record that's
6 A-G-N-E-S, C-H-I-P-M-A-N. I'm Stephanie Radek, S-T-E-P-H-
7 A-N-I-E, R-A-D-E-K.

8 MS. MEGAN PRINTZ: I'm Megan Printz, M-E-G-
9 A-N, P-R-I-N-T-Z.

10 MS. ANGELIQUA NNANEDU: I'm Angeliqua
11 Nnanedu, A-N-G-E-L-I-Q-U-A, N-N-A-N-E-D-U.

12 MR. [NAME REDACTED]: I am [name redacted
13 pursuant to Rule 55, *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful*
14 *Practice*]. I am Tamara's son.

15 MS. SARAH RADEK: I am Sarah Radek, S-A-R-A-
16 H, R-A-D-E-K.

17 MS. WANDA GOOD: Wanda Good, W-A-N-D-A, G-O-
18 O-D.

19 MS. AUDREY SIEGL: Audrey Siegl, A-U-D-R-E-
20 Y, S-I-E-G-L.

21 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So this is
22 really wonderful to have you all here. Thank you all for
23 coming. And the family has given me an order of speakers.

24 And Tom, you're number one. And I
25 understand that you're here to talk about what I mentioned

1 at the beginning. We're here to talk about Tamara ---

2 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** Yes.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- your daughter.

4 And so do you want to start off by telling us what is it
5 that you want to tell the Commissioners -- the Commissioner
6 today?

7 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** I guess we'll just start
8 at the beginning when Tamara went missing. I was away
9 fishing. I'm a commercial fisherman. I was fishing in the
10 southern part of the province, Vancouver Island area, when
11 I stopped getting Tamara's phone calls. She always kept in
12 contact with me even when I was away fishing.

13 And Tamara was -- she was kind of living in
14 two communities. She was in -- because her natural mother
15 lived in Rupert and I lived in Terrace and she was kind of
16 back and forth all the time.

17 And so when I stopped getting the phone
18 calls I just started phoning home and inquiring around town
19 and going and making -- you know, what's going on? Where
20 is -- how come I'm not hearing from Tamara?

21 And the people in Terrace thought she was in
22 Rupert and the people in Rupert thought she was in Terrace
23 because she was always back and forth. And unfortunately
24 for the investigation that it made it tough for the RCMP,
25 you know, starting four weeks or so, whatever. I can't

1 remember exactly. I think it was close to four weeks.

2 So it was really tough for them to try
3 piecing together what happened because of the time lapse
4 when I actually was the one that reported her missing. I
5 come -- when I phoned so many people and nobody had seen
6 her and I was actually the one that alerted the RCMP.

7 And in my case, that was -- the RCMP, they
8 were very cooperative with me and I hear not so in a lot of
9 cases that I've talked with, with so many people I have met
10 now being involved in the walks and in these different
11 meetings and whatnot.

12 And you meet other people that are in the
13 same situation and unfortunately, some of them didn't --
14 some of the people were kind of ignored and stuff. And I'd
15 like to bring that up. I mean, for me, they weren't
16 ignoring me because I went to the media when I was looking
17 for answers and I was trying to -- try when we were --
18 everybody was trying to put the picture together on when
19 she was last seen and looking for clues because the police
20 were running into dead ends and because of the time lapse
21 that she was reported missing.

22 And that's when I went to the media and
23 asking for help. And we were looking for clues, right,
24 some way of you know, somebody seen something, right?

25 So actually that's how this whole movement

1 got started. My cousin Florence Naziel came up with the
2 idea of the Highway of Tears that she actually seen me on
3 TV before she had heard about it herself when I was asking
4 for the public's help for clues to the investigation.

5 And yeah, Florence started the very first
6 walk and here we are today, so the awareness is just huge
7 from that time til now and with the help of all the --
8 pretty much mostly all the women. My sister Gladys jumped
9 right on the bandwagon and my other sister Lorna and
10 everybody.

11 And there's just too -- way too many people
12 to name at this time but -- and Gladys brought with her --
13 with Bernie which are real women activists and they were
14 there with us right from the beginning also when it all
15 started out.

16 But getting back to when I got home, we did
17 an extensive search right into snow. We were forced to
18 stop searching only because of the weather, because of the
19 snow. We searched for, what was it, two -- over two months
20 -- every day.

21 And we had a huge team at first but people
22 have lives and jobs and other responsibilities and at the
23 end the search team got smaller and smaller. But we kept
24 going.

25 But I'm not sure where to go from here.

1 Where should I go from here?

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, where should
3 you go from here? Okay, so tell me, how frequently did you
4 actually (inaudible)? Before she -- before Tamara
5 disappeared how often were you seeing her?

6 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** Well, when I was home I
7 would see her all the time. It was a -- [*name redacted*
8 *pursuant to Rule 55*] was two years old so he was all new in
9 our lives and Tamara always spent time at my house with
10 [*name redacted - Rule 55*]. And she had her own house in
11 Terrace as well and her natural mother lived in Rupert. So
12 she was -- she kind of liked to move around.

13 And yeah, we used to see her on a regular
14 basis when I was home. But when I was away from fishing,
15 well then, of course -- and I used to be gone for a couple
16 of months at a time down in the -- living on my boat in the
17 southern part of the province. And yeah, so it all
18 depended because I'm always working somewhere.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And can you -- and
20 you might need all of you, I'm sure, but what was Tamara's
21 birth date?

22 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** Her birthday?

23 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Her birth date,
24 birthday.

25 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** [*Date redacted pursuant to*

1 Rule 55]. I don't know what year but, you know, '70 -- or
2 October 11th, yeah. [Name redacted pursuant to Rule 55]'s
3 birthday is the [date redacted pursuant to Rule 55]. I got
4 them mixed up.

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I know. It's
6 (inaudible) sometimes it's a family project just to figure
7 it out.

8 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** She was 22 years old.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** When she went
10 missing?

11 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** When she went missing.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. So had she
13 finished school or what -- describe her schooling.

14 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** I don't think she
15 graduated. She wanted to go back to school but ---

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And in the going
17 back and forth Rupert -- Prince Rupert that is -- and
18 Terrace, did she have something that kept her occupied in
19 terms of school or work or anything like that in those
20 locations?

21 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** Yeah, she didn't really
22 have a steady job. She just worked here and there and she
23 had her -- she did have her own car but I don't know what
24 happened to her car at the time she went missing. I don't
25 know why she didn't have her car. I can't remember the

1 details but she did have her own car. I'm not sure what
2 was -- why she didn't have it at the time but yeah.

3 Yeah, so she wasn't a frequent hitchhiker.
4 She drove herself around. She had a Mustang.

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. And you said
6 that you stopped hearing from her. So describe that. Were
7 you hearing from her often and how ---

8 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** Well, she would phone me.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** What would ---

10 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** Well, we had no schedule.
11 When she felt like talking to me or see she would just call
12 me. But I'd hear from her. I'd always hear from her
13 through the week at some point of time. So she phoned me
14 every week.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

16 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** And sometimes lots of time
17 phone calls.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

19 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** And we were -- we got
20 along good.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** You got along good,
22 okay.

23 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** Yeah.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So do you think
25 that she would tell you things that were going on in her

1 life?

2 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** I don't think she would
3 tell me everything that goes on in her life because she was
4 a firecracker. She was a -- yeah, she was a pretty
5 busybody type of person. It runs in the family, I think.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Do you recall the
7 last time you spoke to her?

8 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** I can't remember the exact
9 call but I had probably been at least a month gone down
10 south for a month before I missed -- before we started
11 missing her or realized she was missing.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

13 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** So but I had seen her just
14 before we left to go fishing because it's quite a journey
15 from Rupert to Vancouver Island and when you pretty well
16 live on your boat when you're down there fishing. So I
17 hadn't seen her for a month. And I can't remember exact or
18 like, exact last time I talked to her. But it was going
19 into the second week when I was getting concerned about not
20 hearing from her.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm. So around
22 that time -- and I appreciate there was that gap -- but
23 what types of things would you talk about? Like, would she
24 tell you what she was up to and ---

25 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** Oh, yeah. Just father-

1 daughter stuff, you know. How's [name redacted pursuant to
2 Rule 55] doing and you know, just -- and she used to always
3 like to check in with me because I'm on the water all the
4 time and she wanted to make sure that I'm safe. And yeah,
5 we just -- gab sessions is all, really. Not really a
6 specific conversation, just used to -- well, we got along
7 good. We just talked to each other a lot.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And did [name
9 redacted pursuant to Rule 55] use to go with her back and
10 forth or how -- what arrangements were made about looking
11 after him?

12 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** Oh, [name redacted
13 pursuant to Rule 55] used to travel with her. Like, she
14 had her own car. This particular time, I think [name
15 redacted pursuant to Rule 55] was with -- yeah, actually I
16 think [name redacted pursuant to Rule 55] was with me or
17 was he with you? Oh, I can't remember.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** You need to speak
19 in the mic. So Lorna's got an answer for that.

20 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** Well, I had custody of
21 [name redacted pursuant to Rule 55] just for a short time
22 when Tamara was just dealing with some stuff. And so I had
23 him and Tamara had just worked really hard to get him back.
24 And so she had him and then -- but Tom being the grandpa
25 was -- quite often just had him and he happened to have him

1 at that time when Tamara went missing.

2 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

3 MR. TOM CHIPMAN: Oh, that's right too.

4 That's why were in contact. That's why we were in -- I was
5 -- memory is getting fuzzy but yeah. That's why she phoned
6 me all the time, to make sure [*name redacted - Rule 55*] was
7 okay.

8 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Because of the ---

9 MR. TOM CHIPMAN: Yeah, because he was ---

10 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- (inaudible) in
11 the back bow?

12 MR. TOM CHIPMAN: Yeah, he was with me. He
13 was just a little -- he was still pooping in his pants.

14 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, so I'm just
15 trying to get a sense then if [*name redacted pursuant to*
16 *Rule 55*] is with you and she's going back and forth and
17 there was something going on why you would have custody.
18 And was that just informal? Was that just an informal
19 agreement that you had? No?

20 MS. LORNA BROWN: [*Information redacted*
21 *pursuant to Rule 55*].

22 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

23 MS. LORNA BROWN: [*Information redacted*
24 *pursuant to Rule 55*] --

25 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I see.

1 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** --- [*Information redacted*
2 *pursuant to Rule 55*]---

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Right.

4 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** ---[*Information redacted*
5 *pursuant to Rule 55*].

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And so when was
7 this incident in relation to September 21st?

8 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** He was just a baby. He
9 was about six months, maybe, six. I think he was about six
10 months so it was about -- so I actually had Tamara in my
11 life on a daily basis because she had to come and visit at
12 my house. [*Information redacted pursuant to Rule 55*].

13 So yeah, she -- that was for about maybe --
14 I had him for probably about six or seven months and then
15 he was back in full custody of his mom when she went
16 missing.

17 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so -- all
18 right, so that was worked out and I guess her being
19 separated from her son because of that accident for six or
20 seven months, could you notice any difference in her mood
21 or how did she handle that?

22 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** Like Tom says, she is --
23 she was a firecracker. [*Information redacted pursuant to*
24 *Rule 55*].

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** [*Information*

1 redacted pursuant to Rule 55] --

2 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** She did.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- was that better
4 for her?

5 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** [*Information redacted*
6 *pursuant to Rule 55*] -- because Tamara always had the
7 support of her family and even though, you know, she was
8 having some rough times she loved her son. That, we had no
9 doubt about. She loved her son.

10 [*Information redacted pursuant to Rule 55*].

11 And it was a tough time for her but you
12 know, she visited him faithfully, like, every day she could
13 come and see him any time she wanted. And she was always
14 there for him.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So Lorna, thank
16 you. And I think this is an important point to try and
17 figure out recommendations and how to prevent this type of
18 thing happening with young mothers and boyfriends who don't
19 drive their cars well et cetera or whatever.

20 So what was it? This is critical, I
21 believe, when you say, "If only they -- if they had only
22 given him back - [*name redacted pursuant to Rule 55*], she
23 might still be alive." So what -- even if you just sort of
24 step back a little bit and think of it hypothetically,
25 like, what are the hypotheticals that are suggesting to you

1 that that was a possibility?

2 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** Well, I think, you know,
3 obviously we know our family best but I've always taken a
4 really critical look at things whether it's family or not
5 family. And I honestly felt that she was ready. She was
6 ready to have her son back. It was an incident that
7 happened. It was not like she purposely did anything to
8 harm her child or she was doing anything that -- like, she
9 wasn't under the influence of any drugs or alcohol at the
10 time.

11 So this happened. Like, he fell into the
12 water, it was reported, but I think she learned and was
13 really, really sorry. And I think that I seen the change
14 in her. You know, there was even times where she would
15 even come out to church and you know, she would even say,
16 "I think everyone will think I'm crazy if they found out
17 that I was in church."

18 But you know, she -- it was a tough step for
19 her because she had to come and have supervised visits at
20 my house. I just think they sentenced her to -- like, they
21 judged her; you're just automatically a bad mom. And I see
22 how she loved her son. I see how it just tore her apart
23 not to have him. Like, I seen that.

24 And I also think that the times of going
25 there time after time -- each week we had appointments and

1 then they were like, "Oh, no. We don't think you're ready
2 yet. No." And then she'd get her hopes up thinking well,
3 next week might be the week. "No, you're not ready yet.
4 We'll decide when you're ready."

5 And I really believe that it was a power
6 trip. "We're the ones in control here so we'll decide when
7 you're ready." And I feel as a family member and somebody
8 who would look at it logically, not just as a family
9 member, she was ready I would say weeks and even months
10 prior to them actually finally giving her back. And I
11 think - or [*information redacted - Rule 55*]. And so I just
12 think if you drag out the system -- and I realize that
13 people abuse that system -- but from my eyes, she was ready
14 long before they gave him back.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so again,
16 sort of speaking hypothetically in terms of the systemic
17 violence, is it your suggestion that as a result of the way
18 she was treated -- not being trusted, being judged, making
19 her hang on even though her family members felt that it was
20 time -- that that had an impact on her attitude towards
21 perhaps the agency or her attitude towards herself? Would
22 it have an impact on how she felt about herself?

23 What is it? If you can pinpoint what it is
24 that you're getting at here.

25 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** Oh, absolutely. Like, you

1 -- I mean, as a mother, like, if I was in a system where
2 somebody was questioning whether or not I was a good mother
3 or I loved my children, yeah, that's got to be devastating
4 to a mother. If she can't have how she feels -- if they
5 can't look at that part of her but yet just judge -- and
6 there definitely was that.

7 Like, I was at every appointment with her
8 and it was very condescending. The social worker that she
9 worked with was very condescending. And of course, Tamara
10 being Tamara was very -- like, let him kind of know that.
11 And so that's why it dragged out over and over and over
12 again. Like, it just -- that's the reality of it.

13 Yeah, and definitely I think that she turned
14 to -- I think she turned to drugs just to numb the pain of
15 not having her son.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. I'll address
17 that in a moment. But again, speaking hypothetically, I've
18 heard of scenarios where women have their children taken
19 away and it affects their income. Did anything like that
20 happen here? Was she getting income from a source that -
21 would have been cut off with [name redacted - Rule 55] not
22 being with her?

23 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** I honestly don't know lots
24 about her income. She was with [name redacted - Rule 55]'s
25 dad at the time.

1 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

2 MS. LORNA BROWN: So ---

3 MR. TOM CHIPMAN: He was supporting her.

4 MS. LORNA BROWN: Yeah. They were still a
5 couple and yeah, he did support her.

6 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Did you hear about
7 how [name redacted - Rule 55]'s dad was approaching this,
8 the fact that the child was taken away?

9 MS. LORNA BROWN: I don't know. Do you want
10 my honest answer?

11 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yes. Honesty would
12 help. Which reminds me, we forgot the oath. I forgot the
13 oath.

14 MS. LORNA BROWN: Well, yeah. We're
15 obviously not -- we don't totally respect his dad just for
16 the sheer reason, you know, not -- yeah, he's just kind of
17 arrogant and kind of -- I think didn't even really -- it's
18 complicated. It's complicated but yeah, I don't even know
19 how to answer that question.

20 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Well, let's just
21 again think, was there any ever indication that he was
22 abusive towards her?

23 MS. LORNA BROWN: Oh, yeah. Prior to that -
24 - even prior to the incident with [name redacted - Rule 55]
25 I actually got a phone call from Tamara's mom, biological

1 mom Cory. She was in Prince Rupert and she called me and I
2 just live not too far. She said, "Tamara is in trouble. I
3 need you to just go over there and make sure that she's
4 okay."

5 And I don't know if he was physically
6 abusive but I went over there and he was a little bit older
7 than her. And she just cried and he was -- he doesn't have
8 the best reputation in the town. And so he kind of has --
9 it's almost like he screens people before they even come
10 into his house.

11 And so kind of like, I showed up at the door
12 and I said, "I need to talk to Tamara. I need to see that
13 she's okay."

14 And he let her come out of the house and she
15 was crying. And I said, "You can come with me right now. I
16 can take you." I said, "Your mom called me."

17 And I think she was embarrassed that her
18 Auntie Lorna was coming to rescue her. And she said, "I'm
19 okay." And she told me how much she loved Rob and that she
20 didn't want to leave.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** About how much --
22 what was the age difference between Rob and Tamara?

23 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** Around 18 years.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Eighteen (18) years
25 difference? Did Rob work?

1 MS. LORNA BROWN: Yes, he's actually quite
2 well off.

3 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So he worked at a
4 job that he got paid for?

5 MS. LORNA BROWN: Well, that's questionable.

6 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I'm sorry?

7 MS. LORNA BROWN: [*Information redacted*
8 *pursuant to Rule 55*].

9 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: [*Information*
10 *redacted pursuant to Rule 55*].

11 MR. TOM CHIPMAN: [*Information redacted*
12 *pursuant to Rule 55*].

13 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

14 MS. LORNA BROWN: He's a -- he is a
15 homeowner. Apparently he had a grandmother that was quite
16 well off and left him quite a bit of wealth. And then he's
17 a hard-working guy. Like, he works kind of like a
18 contracting business and he owns a lot of property, does
19 all his own maintenance. But it's kind of a known fact
20 that he has a side business that really makes him the
21 money.

22 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Same sort of side
23 business [*information and name redacted pursuant to Rule*
24 *55*]?

25 MS. LORNA BROWN: That's correct.

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, and he's 18
2 years older. And so did you, as a family, make any
3 observations about any changes in Tamara in her -- once she
4 was in the relationship with this fellow, about the use of
5 drugs, for example?

6 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** Yeah, it was there. I
7 know that -- I know it was a known fact that Rob was a drug
8 dealer. Can't say I witnessed that but it's kind of a
9 common knowledge in a small town. When I really noticed
10 the change, like I said, when I had [*name redacted - Rule*
11 *55*].

12 And Tamara was doing good. Like, she was
13 actually -- I have videos which I will share with [*name*
14 *redacted pursuant to Rule 55*] sometime, when she's sitting
15 on the living room floor and he was just -- he was a baby
16 and she was -- if you could see it -- perhaps you'll be
17 able to see it one time -- but the big smile, she had the
18 hugest, biggest, most beautiful smile, contagious laugh.
19 She had a great sense of humour.

20 And so she went from that in a very short
21 period of time just not too long before everything started
22 going downhill. She was phoning me for money which I knew
23 was not a good thing. And I don't know the exact timeline
24 of that but all I know is that she went from being fairly
25 healthy and really on the right track to kind of going down

1 a slippery slope really fast.

2 And the last time I heard from her was a few
3 weeks before she actually went missing, and I -- that's
4 when she was travelling back and forth to Prince Rupert
5 quite a bit.

6 Then I noticed her appearance seemed to be
7 just more rough and so I -- we knew that she was getting
8 into the drug scene. And she just wasn't -- and like Tom
9 mentioned before, she was keeping in really close contact
10 and then she -- but she always showed up for dinners and
11 she was really close with her dad. She fished on the
12 fishing boat with him all the time and she just loved being
13 on the river, Skeena River and fishing with her dad.

14 And then all of a sudden that wasn't -- none
15 of that was happening any more. So she wasn't coming out
16 fishing and so that's -- yeah, we noticed the -- and it
17 just seemed to be in just a matter of a few months where
18 she seemed to really show those signs of drug use.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And do you
20 remember, did she have a car on September 21st, 2005?

21 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** She didn't have a car at
22 that -- she had a car but prior to that -- I think it was
23 only a couple of weeks before she had a car and she did --
24 there was -- I think there was a little -- there was a --
25 something mechanical wrong with her car and it was parked

1 on the side of the road. But she was seen after that. But
2 her car did end up on the -- I just remember it was on the
3 side of the road between Prince Rupert and it's like, what
4 highway (inaudible). I don't know what was that, about 30?

5 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** I think she got it.

6 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** And then she got it out
7 but at the time she wasn't driving her car.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

9 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** There was something
10 mechanical wrong with it.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And I understand
12 that there was some sort of evidence that she was
13 hitchhiking. What -- did somebody -- I mean, was this
14 reliable information?

15 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** Yes.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** It was.

17 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** You want to address that,
18 Tom?

19 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** Yes. Yes, she was
20 actually seen by a personal friend of mine from Rupert.
21 And I used to live in Rupert before I moved to Terrace so I
22 know lots of people in Rupert. And I fish out of Rupert
23 also.

24 So yeah, and that's why Tamara was well
25 known in Rupert also because she was actually born in

1 Rupert, so but yeah, it was a personal friend of mine that
2 actually was the last one to see her hitchhiking. And we
3 know the exact spot she was last seen.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And whereabouts was
5 it? What was the location?

6 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** They call it the
7 industrial park. It's -- I don't know, where is it, about
8 four of five -- four kilometres from downtown. And that's
9 where the -- that's an industrial area. It's on the
10 outskirts of Prince Rupert.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. So what
12 we've done so far -- I just want you to confirm that you've
13 been telling the truth. We got to clean this up somehow.

14 So Tom, everything you've told us is so far
15 is the truth?

16 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** Yes, everything's the
17 truth.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And it's the same
19 with you, Lorna, right?

20 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** Yes, I'm telling the
21 truth.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Aren't you going to
23 ask me? Okay, so maybe we should do -- I mean, I wonder if
24 we should do an affirmation just so that it's -- unless I
25 make an order -- we're okay?

1 (Commissioner Audette waives requirement for oath)

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** The Commissioner is
3 fine. I know that there is a rule that allows for that to
4 be excused, so thank you.

5 So Gladys, how about you take the phone and
6 tell us about your amazing contribution, the microphone.

7 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** I was living in Vancouver
8 near -- with my family, with my girls. And I had just
9 returned back to Vancouver in 2002 after a year of living
10 up in Terrace. And I got a phone call from my sister Lorna
11 in December. And she knew that back then when I used to
12 watch TV I'd watch the news. It didn't matter, I always
13 watched the news. I don't know why, it's so depressing.

14 But she phoned me one morning and she just
15 said, "Well, Gladys," she said, "I just didn't want it to
16 be a shock to you," she said, "but Tamara is going to be on
17 the news."

18 And I said, "What's going on?"

19 And then she told me that she was missing
20 and she told me the date that was -- she was last seen.
21 And of course, me, I had been a kind of a volunteer and
22 quite familiar with the downtown east side. I've been down
23 there for 30 years off and on.

24 And my first thought, initial thought, was
25 that if she was going to leave maybe she came down to

1 Vancouver because usually when young girls want to get out
2 of the north, whether it be economic poverty, sexual abuse,
3 or whatever, leaving violent situations, they either go to
4 Prince George or Vancouver. And Vancouver, she also knew I
5 lived there.

6 So I think it was a tip that was given.
7 Somebody had told us that they had seen Tamara down at the
8 Balmoral Hotel in Vancouver on the downtown east side. And
9 of course, I had another brother that was living in Surrey
10 and of course we phoned Tom right away and told him that we
11 were going to be doing our search because somebody had told
12 us actually that they had seen Tamara down there.

13 So of course, I think Tom was on his way to
14 some sort of job up in northern B.C. when he got the call.
15 And he phoned up his wife and he said, "Take the bus, meet
16 me in Vanderhoof. We're going to Vancouver."

17 So we went on a 10-day search. This was in
18 January. And we started -- we -- I had a printer at that
19 time and I could only do 10 posters with my printer. And
20 my whole family -- like, we had my brother's construction
21 crew and then we had Tom and Christine came down and we had
22 other family members that were down there. And we were
23 searching and searching and searching.

24 And we actually went to the police
25 department in Vancouver because Tom had started spending an

1 awful lot of money on the postering. So I went into the
2 police station there when they were at 222 Main Street and
3 I asked them, I said -- I handed them a poster and I said,
4 "Well, can you please help us here? Can you, you know, put
5 this poster out of Tamara? Can you print some for us?"

6 And the lady that was behind there, she
7 looked at the picture and she said, "No, we can't help
8 you."

9 "Well, she's missing. We heard she's down
10 here. We need help." I said, "It's costing my brother a
11 fortune to do these posters."

12 And they didn't offer us any help at all in
13 Vancouver. As it turned out, there was a young girl that
14 we had seen by the Patricia Hotel, looked just like her.
15 And even the police went and questioned ---

16 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** Oh, yeah. The girl that
17 was spotted looked just like Tamara. Probably -- well, we
18 had to go by ---

19 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** A couple of inches
20 shorter, I think.

21 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** I had to drive by her
22 three times before I -- we could see that it wasn't her,
23 eh? It was just unreal resemblance.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, thank you.

25 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** So anyway, as it turned

1 out it wasn't her and it was the very next day actually
2 that we were sitting there and we were watching the news
3 before we took off for our search party. And the Burnaby
4 RCMP had all over the news that there was a 16-year-old
5 girl that was missing. And they were actually out there
6 postering with the family. But yet when we asked for help
7 postering they flat-out said no.

8 And I'm not racist but this girl was White.
9 Tamara was Aboriginal. This is why we knew that we were
10 not going to get help from the police down south.

11 As it turned out, we never did find Tamara.

12 So after not getting any help and Tom had to
13 go back home -- he had to get back to work -- and we just
14 kept on getting tips that she was down in Vancouver but to
15 be honest with you, if she was in Vancouver, this woman
16 Bernie Williams would have found her. I would have found
17 her because we had a whole bunch of women down there that
18 would constantly search for lost loved ones and we knew who
19 to go to. But she wasn't down there and that's why I had a
20 feeling then that she was gone.

21 So a few months go by. Along comes March.
22 I'm -- this is when internet was new to me. I hear that
23 they're having a symposium in Prince George and then I saw
24 this little page that came up and it was my cousin
25 Florence. And she had a little blurb on there. It says,

1 "We're walking." And they were going to walk from Prince
2 Rupert to Terrace in honour of not just Tamara but the
3 other girls that were missing from our community of
4 Moricetown.

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Can you just spell
6 Florence's last name because I didn't quite get it.

7 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Naziel, N-A-Z-I-E-L.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, thank you.

9 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** So we heard about
10 Florence doing her walk and that's when I approached Bernie
11 and said, "Well," I said, "maybe we should go up there and
12 join the walk."

13 And so we did go up there and we did join
14 the walk. And since then, it was a kind of a template to -
15 - for Bernie and I to organize a walk across Canada because
16 we started meeting other family members who had lost loved
17 ones. We met the families of Lana Derrick, Alberta
18 Williams, Nicole Hoar. We met a lot of families also
19 through the symposium that was held in Prince George.

20 And when Florence found out that we were
21 having the symposium in Prince George at the end of March,
22 the walk that she started was on March the 11th and the
23 symposium was on March 28th.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** What year are we
25 talking about now?

1 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Two thousand and six
2 (2006).

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Two thousand and
4 six (2006), thank you.

5 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Yeah, the symposium was
6 put together by -- it was Rena Zatoriski was the main
7 person that started this symposium because of Aielah Saric-
8 Auger, the 14-year-old girl whose body was found just
9 outside of Prince George.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Gladys I hate to
11 ask you this but I need some spelling on the record.
12 Otherwise, this is going to look like a different language,
13 I think.

14 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Okay. A-I-L-A-H dash S-
15 A-R-I-C, A-U-G-E-R.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, and that was
17 the person who was organizing something? No? Who was
18 that?

19 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** No, Rena Zatoriski.

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Rena?

21 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Okay, her last name might
22 be a little bit tough and I can't -- I'll try. Okay, Rena,
23 R-E-N-A, Z-I-T-O-R-S-K-I.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And you talked
25 about a Lana Derrick which I think is D-E-R-R-I-C-K?

1 MS. NAZIEL RADEK: Yes.

2 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And who was the
3 second? Somebody ---

4 MS. NAZIEL RADEK: Alberta Williams.

5 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, Alberta
6 Williams as it's normally spelled?

7 MS. NAZIEL RADEK: Yes.

8 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And then there was
9 another woman, Hoar.

10 MS. NAZIEL RADEK: Nicole.

11 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Nicole? And ---

12 MS. NAZIEL RADEK: Nicole Hoar went missing.
13 She's N-I-C-H-O-L and her last name is H-O-A-R.

14 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, great. Thank
15 you.

16 MS. NAZIEL RADEK: Nicole has E on the end?
17 Okay.

18 So but -- so we ended up with Florence's
19 group. We ended up leapfrogging from Prince Rupert to
20 Prince George into the symposium. And when they had the
21 symposium in Prince George -- and I've been to hundreds of
22 gatherings, family gatherings, meetings, and whatnot. And
23 by far, that symposium they had in Prince George was the
24 very best organized where they actually heard the families
25 first. It was the families that came together with 33

1 recommendations for the Highway of Tears.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And that is
3 available online, isn't it? Everything okay?

4 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Yeah. She just reminded
5 me that we walked all the way from Prince Rupert to Terrace
6 and then we leapfrogged from Terrace through to Prince
7 George.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, and who was
9 that lady who ---

10 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** That was Betty Joseph.
11 That's Florence's sister.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh, okay. Great.

13 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Yes, and if it wasn't for
14 Betty Joseph, Florence, Gracie Holland, Brigitta Bartlett,
15 and our family, we were the ones that initiated that walk
16 and we walked together as a family to honour all the women
17 that were missing from the Highway of Tears.

18 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And I was saying
19 when this lady -- sorry, what was her first name again?

20 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Betty.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Betty -- when she
22 came forward that I actually have a copy of the
23 recommendations because it's available online, isn't it,
24 those 32 recommendations?

25 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Yes.

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So I don't know. I
2 know that you have the experience that you've already
3 described to us but you have a lot more. And I take it
4 that you have from time to time come up with a series of
5 recommendations on how things can be improved because
6 you've been working with families, supporting them,
7 speaking to so many, hearing so many stories. Is that true
8 that you have put together -- you've got together in your
9 mind some ideas about how women and girls can be protected
10 in Canada?

11 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Yes, we do. And that's
12 thanks to all the teams of walkers that we had walk
13 throughout the country, up to the Highway of Tears, across
14 the country, and then from Membertou, Nova Scotia all the
15 way to Prince Rupert, B.C.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm. So I don't
17 know. I don't think it would be helpful necessarily to go
18 through all of those here but I wonder -- I believe that
19 you've already provided something to research; have you
20 not?

21 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Yes.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yes, okay.

23 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Yes.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So ---

25 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** And one of the things

1 that I know that right now from that symposium there was
2 one suggestion and that was to do with Greyhound.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yes.

4 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** And Greyhound service is
5 one bus a day from Prince Rupert to Prince George. And
6 that's it. That 734-kilometre stretch we get one bus a
7 day. And when it was suggested that we even -- I remember
8 talking about free ride service that they were talking. If
9 they see a woman in the middle of the night on the highway
10 it would be good to pick her up and give her a ride for
11 free. Well, Greyhound didn't want to do that.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

13 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** They want to make money.
14 So that idea was totally quashed. And so one of the
15 suggestions that the families came up with was having a
16 shuttlebus service which is, I think, would serve a good
17 purpose for -- especially in the north because when you
18 think about it, we have 237 bands in B.C. alone. So we've
19 got reserves dotted all over those highways. And a
20 shuttlebus service, you know, sometimes we don't want to
21 travel, like, we don't want to travel all the way down to
22 Vancouver. Sometimes we want to go to the next reserve.

23 A lot of our young people now are working
24 and they have to work -- you can't work on the reserve.
25 You have to go into towns or cities and hubs to work. So

1 we're finding that a lot of people need to hitchhike
2 because you've got one bus a day.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

4 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** So the shuttlebus service
5 was an idea that was brought and when we did our walk in
6 2009 we had the opportunity to speak to a lady that was
7 hired for shuttlebus service out of Moricetown for a very
8 short period of time. And the provincial government
9 stopped funding the program so they fired her. It was a
10 very short-lived program.

11 So the way I see it is that the government
12 is now saying, "Well, we did provide that service but we're
13 done." You know what I mean?

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

15 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** That kind of attitude.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So it was clear
17 that the intention was it would be on long-term basis?

18 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** That's right.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And that wasn't
20 happening?

21 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** All those recommendations
22 should have been based on long-term basis.

23 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

24 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Are we going to end the
25 violence in two years because you cut the service? No, not

1 going to happen.

2 So now the talk about the Greyhound is that
3 -- I was actually just speaking to the mayor of Prince
4 Rupert and questioned him about his pulling Prince Rupert
5 right out the shuttlebus service area. And he gave me this
6 song and dance about why they shouldn't be included in
7 that.

8 And I just looked at him. I said, "Do you
9 realize that Tamara went missing from your city here?"

10 And he looked at me. And he said, "No."

11 And I couldn't believe he said no. And I
12 said, "Well, that's why we're here."

13 And he said, "Well," he said, "you heard
14 about the Greyhound bus service."

15 So now I'm finding out that the Greyhound
16 bus service wants to cut their services, not just from the
17 Highway of Tears, but from every major highway in B.C.,
18 including Vancouver Island.

19 I think what Greyhound's idea is that they
20 want to be a parcel business. They don't care about
21 people. But if they want to be a parcel business why not
22 let us get our own shuttlebus services? Each and every
23 reserve in this province can have their own shuttlebus
24 service. We can train our own drivers. We can have our
25 own drivers. We can have our own mechanics. We can have

1 our people working. It's going to create jobs. That's
2 what I can see happening with the Greyhound bus service.
3 We don't need them.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So clearly a
5 shuttlebus of some -- transportation of some sort, in your
6 view, would prevent some of these deaths or will -- would
7 have prevented them?

8 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Yes.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And it's a matter
10 of figuring out how to do that ---

11 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Yes.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- with or without
13 Greyhound?

14 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Yes.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And then you had
16 another -- in the 32 -- another recommendation focusing on
17 hitchhiking because that's -- we are hypothesizing that as
18 a result of some evidence that she was seen, that that may
19 have significantly contributed to what happened. So the
20 other recommendation had to do with when the police -- when
21 the RCMP see a hitchhiker on the road. And do you remember
22 that recommendation?

23 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Yes.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** That they would
25 stop and communicate with that person? That they would ---

1 MS. NAZIEL RADEK: Yes.

2 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.

3 MS. NAZIEL RADEK: But I've yet to see that
4 happen because you know, I don't know how many times I've
5 driven up that highway and the hitchhiking hasn't stopped.
6 So there's something more underlying and that, to me, would
7 be related to the poverty on our reserves where people
8 can't afford to buy a car.

9 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, so that's
10 looking further up the river, right, as to what is
11 contributing to people hitchhiking. And yes, clearly if
12 people don't have -- and I understand that one of the
13 recommendations once was for a shuttlebus but it really
14 needs to be free to be effective.

15 MS. NAZIEL RADEK: Yes.

16 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah. That's
17 right.

18 MS. NAZIEL RADEK: Yes. And you know, like,
19 we know of people that have to hitchhike just to go to
20 work. I've even picked up a young lady just outside of
21 Smithers to take her back to Moricetown because she had to
22 go to see the doctor. She was nine months' pregnant.

23 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm.

24 MS. NAZIEL RADEK: If they need to go into
25 town to get food, how is she supposed to get there if she

1 has no money for anything else? She's got to put baby in
2 diapers. How is she supposed to do that?

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And another
4 recommendation -- you know, you're right. This is -- it's
5 -- these are matters worthy of a lot of discussion to --
6 and there are many examples of things that are not being
7 done well and not identifying the needs of people.

8 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** M'hm.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** One is the
10 increased patrolling by the RCMP on the highways.

11 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Boy oh boy, that one's a
12 tough one. I remember when we were joking around when we
13 were walking on our first walk and we were calling it the
14 Highway of Beers. There's a lot of people drinking and
15 driving out there and if we had have picked up all the beer
16 cans and everything that we were walking along that
17 highway, we would have had enough to feed everybody in
18 Prince George.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

20 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** They're not monitoring
21 anything. That's the way I feel about it is that they're
22 not monitoring anything. If you can have that many drunk
23 drivers out on that highway then what are you doing out
24 there, just joyriding?

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So at this stage,

1 without one-by-one going through 30 recommendations -- 32
2 recommendations, what do you think like, the critical
3 principles are that need to be addressed and then that
4 would be broken down into things to be negotiated and
5 sorted out?

6 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Need to have a better
7 working relationship with the RCMP.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

9 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** I know that people have
10 asked me about, "Well, do the police talk to you?"

11 They don't talk to me about Tamara's case.
12 The one time that they did get a call was I was checking
13 out a lead in Vancouver and I talked to a girl that was on
14 a witness list. And I had a police officer phone me and
15 say, "You shouldn't be talking to so-and-so because she's
16 passed a lie detector test."

17 Well, don't get me started on the lie
18 detector test. I know they're not reliable. But I had
19 that police officer -- that's the first time I got a phone
20 call from a police officer and he was telling me not to do
21 my own investigation.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so the
23 scenario is that a family has a situation and they're
24 expecting and trusting the RCMP or some other police force
25 to investigate it. They feel dissatisfied because it

1 appears that it's not being investigated and they might
2 have other clues, and yet in some circumstances, certainly,
3 they're being prohibited from -- the family is being
4 prohibited from pursuing their own investigation? That's -
5 --

6 MS. NAZIEL RADEK: That's right.

7 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, so that's
8 something -- that's an issue that needs to be addressed?
9 That's what you mean by "relationship with police"?

10 MS. NAZIEL RADEK: Yeah.

11 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. And there's
12 probably other things also in terms of enhancing the
13 relationship besides that but that's an example?

14 MS. NAZIEL RADEK: That's one example. I've
15 only had -- it was just a couple of months ago that I had
16 finally spoken to E-PANA, just a couple of months ago.
17 She's been missing for 12 years.

18 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M'hm.

19 MS. NAZIEL RADEK: And what they told me, I
20 didn't -- you know, I don't have to like it, but the thing
21 is they finally talked to me after 12 years.

22 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Now, if you don't
23 mind I'd like to go to another topic.

24 MS. NAZIEL RADEK: M'hm.

25 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And I understand

1 that you and Bernie using goodwill and food entered sort of
2 an outreach of going into various communities throughout
3 Canada and talking to people about whether or not they had
4 missing and murdered women in their communities?

5 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Yes.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And when did that
7 take place?

8 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** We co-organized Walk for
9 Justice in 2008. We walked from Vancouver to Ottawa which
10 is the first mission statement for demanding a national
11 public inquiry in 2008, because this was the message that
12 we got from the families.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

14 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Because we were starting
15 to meet way too many families with way too many issues. So
16 we thought and the families thought that it was a good idea
17 to fight for a national public inquiry. So that was our
18 first mission statement.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And I won't get
20 into a lot of details about the particular people who were
21 identified but just can you give us an overall description
22 of what you discovered? Give us -- how many locations did
23 you go to and how many people were identified as being
24 missing or murdered women?

25 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** We travelled -- we did

1 four walks with Walk for Justice and we travelled from
2 Vancouver to Ottawa 2008 and 2011. Then we walked from
3 Vancouver to Prince Rupert in 2009. And in 2010 we walked
4 from Kamloops to Winnipeg.

5 And then this is where we started collecting
6 our database. In 2011 we delivered to -- I was going to
7 say the House of Ill Repute -- Parliament Hill, we
8 delivered a list of 4,232 names of missing and murdered
9 women across the country. This is because families were
10 reaching out to us.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

12 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** They heard we were
13 walking and they would come to us and they would share
14 their stories with us. They would share their pictures
15 with us. They would give us their pictures. "Please put
16 our loved one on your van." And that's -- that was the
17 thing that we started because a picture says a thousand
18 words.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

20 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** So when they started
21 telling us their stories this just confirmed to us that
22 yes, we do need a public inquiry to find out what's going
23 on here in this country.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Exactly. So -- and
25 those went to Parliament Hill you say?

1 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Yes, and we handed it to
2 a rep. Steven Harper was in power at that time but he
3 actually wouldn't come out of the House. He sent out a
4 representative to receive the papers and we were working
5 with the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs at that time and they
6 helped us hand over these documents with the list,
7 information.

8 And they took it and they said, "Yes, we're
9 going to do something about this." Steven Harper's not
10 here any more so ---

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** We are.

12 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Yes.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So would you like
14 to address the topic of overall how this disappearance of
15 Tamara has influenced your family?

16 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Sorry.

17 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Maybe we should
18 invite that person over here.

19 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Okay, I'm sorry. Can you
20 repeat that?

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yes. I think we
22 can draw some conclusions of what we've heard so far but
23 I'm just wondering if you want to summarize the impact that
24 this has had on your family that Tamara has gone missing
25 for so long?

1 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** Number one, we love her.
2 We really, really miss her. And we know that there's not
3 just one Tamara that's missing. We know there's hundreds.
4 We know there's thousands.

5 And I think that losing Tamara has kind of
6 lit a fire in us, in our hearts because we've heard from so
7 many other families the need for justice. I think that
8 when I see my family here right now, this is only a small
9 part of our family. We have a huge family.

10 But I think that there needs to be so many
11 changes in the judicial system. There needs to be
12 recommendations. As far as I know that there's over 700
13 recommendations across the country that's supposed to be
14 delegated to protect women and children. None of us knew
15 this before.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** M'hm.

17 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** We're that family now
18 where we've got somebody that's missing. We don't want to
19 be that family. But we want to move forward to help other
20 family members too.

21 I'll never give up searching for Tamara.
22 I'll never give up looking for her or answers as to where
23 she is or what happened to her. If she's out there
24 somewhere we want to find her. We want to bring her home.
25 We want to hold her and hug her and tell her that we love

1 her, just like all the other family members.

2 There's too much pain in this country with
3 that many missing and murdered women. And we need to
4 address some of the systemic issues that are putting us in
5 this position. I'm talking about systemic racism.

6 I'm talking about the children as well
7 because so many of our women have children. [*Name redacted*
8 - *Rule 55*] is our little love and we're going to protect
9 him and do whatever we can to protect him.

10 We need to protect our young girls that are
11 here today, tomorrow, and for the next seven generations.

12 We need to do something and we need to have
13 things in place for women's programs. We understand that
14 we don't have a very good history as Aboriginal people.
15 The genocide has been here for 500 -- over 500 years. But
16 they haven't won yet because we're still here.

17 We want a working relationship with the rest
18 of society. This is our land. We want to have a good
19 working relationship. We welcomed everybody in. And what
20 are they doing to us? Our young mothers are going missing.
21 Our young mothers are being murdered at an astronomical
22 rate, more than any other race in this country.

23 And it's time to stop it and it's time for
24 everybody to realize that we're not going away any time
25 soon. We need to protect our children and we need to work

1 together with the Commission to make the laws work in this
2 land.

3 I know you guys are just a tool to get us
4 that. Let's work together and make it a good society where
5 all of us can live and breathe on the same land equally.

6 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Thank you, Gladys.
7 Now, speaking of thinking of the past to figure out what we
8 do in the present for a better future, your daughter is
9 behind you and she would like to speak. What do you think
10 about that?

11 **MS. NAZIEL RADEK:** I think it's awesome.
12 Perfect. I've got awesome daughters.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. Hi
14 Stephanie.

15 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Hi.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Hi. Things still
17 good for you?

18 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** I'm okay.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah. So we spoke
20 over lunch.

21 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Yes.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Kind of a sort of a
23 dessert-type lunch but it did the trick. So you're 33
24 years of age?

25 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Yes, that's correct.

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And so that meant
2 that Tamara is your cousin?

3 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Tamara was my cousin.
4 We grew up a very tight-knit family where all of my cousins
5 are basically my sisters. That's just how our family is.
6 There's a lot of community within our family.

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And I understand
8 that when you were younger you actually had a very close
9 relationship?

10 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** We all had close
11 relationships, every last one of us. As crazy as life may
12 have been outside, despite what we may have been going
13 through, we remained as close as we possibly could.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Now, one of the
15 things we did talk about at lunch is this approach that is
16 being taken in identifying the systemic violence or the
17 things that are happening over and over again and often
18 entrenched in policy and practice that are contributing to
19 the vulnerability of Indigenous women and girls. We talked
20 about that, right?

21 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Yes.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And would you agree
23 or not agree that a child being in foster care, say a young
24 Indigenous girl, would contribute to their vulnerability?

25 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** It absolutely

1 contributes to their vulnerability.

2 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Would you say
3 suffering violence from the police would contribute to an
4 Indigenous girl's vulnerability?

5 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Absolutely. I've
6 suffered that violence myself.

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And would you say
8 suffering an addiction would contribute to an Indigenous
9 girl's vulnerability?

10 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Absolutely. I myself
11 have had addiction issues in the past and I lost my
12 children over it. And to deal with the pain I used to
13 numb. And in some form or another at the beginning of my
14 addiction cocaine saved my life. I would have killed
15 myself if I did not have a numbing agent.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So would you say a
17 mother losing her children over an addiction would also
18 contribute to her vulnerability?

19 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Can you repeat that?

20 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** If a mother had
21 children and the children were taken away from her because
22 of an addiction, do you think that would contribute to her
23 vulnerability?

24 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** I believe that if the
25 proper supports were put in place for the mother to learn a

1 sense of how to live, a sense of dignity, and be respected
2 within the system so that they can learn theirselves a
3 better way to live to provide for their children that that
4 system could work.

5 As I feel right now, it is a broken system
6 and they do not provide, in the north specifically, the
7 help that addicts or alcoholics need. There's very little
8 help. I am so blessed to have such a big family. I have
9 sought help myself in the north and was made to feel guilty
10 for things I did not even do. I will not go back to the
11 places I went.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Great. Stephanie,
13 I'm going to go back to some of these things you've talked
14 about. They're really important.

15 The last one is do you think that a
16 individual who, from time to time goes missing because of
17 their addiction, is a sign of vulnerability?

18 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Yes. I myself have
19 gone missing. It was actually Bernie Williams right here
20 that put up posters for me across the entire lower
21 mainland. And I had people on the sky train approach me to
22 tell me, "Call your mother or call Bernie." It wasn't
23 until three days later that the police actually found me.
24 They found me first.

25 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So right now you

1 are clean and sober and you're ---

2 MS. STEPHANIE RADEK: Yes.

3 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- living away
4 from Vancouver?

5 MS. STEPHANIE RADEK: Yes.

6 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And I understand
7 that your addiction years took place when you were living
8 in Vancouver?

9 MS. STEPHANIE RADEK: Yes.

10 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And recently you've
11 moved back home?

12 MS. STEPHANIE RADEK: Yes.

13 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay, to get away
14 from all that?

15 MS. STEPHANIE RADEK: Not just to get away
16 from all that. As I had mentioned earlier, we grew up a
17 very close family and I did not have that there. And to me
18 and in my way of being I need my family.

19 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So let's go
20 through each one of those and I know that people are --
21 were sort of assessing and balancing priorities here
22 because dinner is at 6:00 and it's quarter to but I don't
23 want to take away from your prime time, okay? So but let's
24 go through this.

25 So you were in foster care?

1 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Repeatedly as a
2 teenager, yes.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And what can you
4 tell us about that in terms of how you were taken care of?

5 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** I really wasn't. They
6 put me from foster home to foster home to foster home. And
7 I liked -- I'm a bit of a firecracker. I did not learn.
8 My personal story, I did not learn to communicate
9 efficiently. I had a lot of emotions. I didn't know what
10 was going on so I acted out.

11 I was put from foster home to foster home to
12 foster home until literally no foster home in Terrace would
13 take me and I was sent to Kitimat into a group home where I
14 ran away and actually hitchhiked that highway numerous
15 times myself. Tamara and I have also hitchhiked together
16 as younger teenagers quite often.

17 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, and you know,
18 I know that this is really complicated and people have
19 spent years and years and years trying to figure it out but
20 I like your wisdom. What would have helped in your foster
21 homes so you weren't running away all the time?

22 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Counselling,
23 stability, understanding, some form of counselling. I do
24 know in that time I -- my son right now is going through
25 similar behaviours and I'm trying to get him into

1 counselling. And if only that support was more easily
2 available within the school system itself and even outside
3 of the school system I really feel that could make an
4 impact within society.

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Thank you. And you
6 indicated that there have been times that the police have
7 been violent with you. And was that in connection to
8 something related to your addictions, you being on the
9 street or something? Like, what was the context?

10 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** I was sitting
11 somewhere in an underground parking lot where I wasn't
12 supposed to be and I got into an argument with somebody and
13 the police were called. I did not vandalize, I did not --
14 I was sitting there to isolate. And the police were
15 called. I had gotten into an argument and the police came.

16 And the gentleman I was with, they got up
17 into his face. They were extremely intimidating, spitting
18 in his face, attempted to throw him onto the ground for
19 just trying to walk away. We -- there was nothing
20 physical, there was nothing -- anything like that. We were
21 just trying to walk away, understanding, you know, I didn't
22 grow up as a little girl thinking I am going to be an
23 addict. Those were not my hopes and dreams. And when I'm
24 just trying to walk away we were victimized.

25 There was another incident in New

1 Westminster. I was actually sober at the time and I was
2 the designated driver that night. And I went back to the
3 bar we were at to get the keys. And because the cop was on
4 a power trip he said, "You cannot go back in there."

5 I said, "I'm driving my friends home who are
6 drunk."

7 He said, "You can't go in there."

8 And me being me, I went anyway. Like, I am
9 getting my friends home. And I got thrown into the drunk
10 tank that night dead sober, my head smashed against the
11 police car and thrown in and dragged into the drunk tank.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Now, when we met at
13 lunch you also told me some really positive stories about
14 the police and you wanted to make sure that you got to
15 cover those too.

16 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** I do. There are
17 police in -- specifically, in my experience in Burnaby,
18 British Columbia that are kind and caring. They have
19 actually pulled me over while I was sitting in places I
20 shouldn't have been, doing what I shouldn't have been doing
21 and just asked me if I wanted a cigarette or if I was okay.
22 If I was hungry he actually went and got me food.

23 There was another incident in another alley.
24 I had cut myself but again, didn't want to seek medical
25 attention. I was too focused on my addiction. And he

1 stopped and pulled out his first aid kit to help me,
2 completely off the record.

3 And I really feel that it is these police
4 officers that need to be brought into leadership to show
5 the world that not all of them are bad. But instead they
6 are being left behind the scenes.

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Great, thank you.
8 Now, in terms of the addiction, it was a
9 cocaine addiction?

10 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Cocaine, yes.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And you at lunch
12 suggested that there your recommendations related to more
13 places people could go for detox and counselling treatment
14 and access.

15 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Detox and treatment.
16 I have a very close person in my life right now that is
17 struggling in active addiction that does not have previous
18 treatment experience which thankfully I have had. I've
19 been clean before without my family present. I was able to
20 do it for almost a year.

21 In Terrace, when I sought help, there is one
22 A&D counsellor, only one in the city of Terrace. And he --
23 I almost felt judged. I did feel judged when I went in
24 there. I was judged because he had worked on the downtown
25 east side and in his mind an addict, when you walk down

1 East Hastings, those are addicts. And the systemic
2 discrimination against addicts was what was going on in his
3 mind and that is my perception.

4 And because I come from Vancouver and that's
5 where I actively used, he was discriminatory against me, I
6 felt. And I will not go back. And I -- maybe he may work
7 for other people but if that was somebody's first exposure
8 to seeking help, anybody -- if one of our women, one of our
9 children even, that was their first exposure they would
10 never go back. I will never go back to this particular
11 person.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Right, and that
13 makes a big difference, right?

14 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Yes.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so I just
16 want to tell you what a pleasure it was to have lunch with
17 you.

18 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Thank you.

19 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And you told me
20 that you didn't -- when you were younger you didn't
21 consider and sit there and think, I know when I grow up I'm
22 going to be a drug addict.

23 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** No.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And you told me
25 that what you really want to do is to have a meaningful

1 job, meaningful work where you're helping other people?

2 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Absolutely. Always.

3 It's -- and (inaudible) as a Chipman, it's in our blood.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

5 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** It's the Chipman

6 blood, Grandma.

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I think it is. So
8 I have no doubt that you will help many people in your life
9 and I wish you the best.

10 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Thank you.

11 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Thank you so much.

12 Is there anyone else who needs to -- wants
13 to say something?

14 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** I do want to address what
15 Stephanie mentioned about there being one addictions
16 counsellor in Terrace. I work at Canada's First Nations
17 Radio and we service 42 communities throughout the
18 northwest, so we're talking from Haida Gwaii, Terrace,
19 Kitimat, Prince Rupert. Those are the bigger centres so we
20 have a lot of people that come in from those communities.

21 And there's -- that is not enough people to
22 be helping that many First Nations people, 42 communities
23 that are surrounding the northwest. One counsellor?
24 That's absurd.

25 Like, it's -- so we need that help. And I

1 know this is something that I addressed with you when we
2 spoke a couple of months ago, that the funding -- after the
3 apology was made by Prime Minister Harper at the time to
4 Aboriginal people, the funding was all taken away for
5 people that need the help. Like, that need is very real
6 and we all have been hearing about the fentanyl crisis now
7 that's out there. And the very fact that we have one
8 counsellor is, just like I said, absurd.

9 So that's something that I see we need. And
10 that's something we have -- we're the second-highest
11 population of First Nation people in northern B.C. is --
12 and all of Canada -- is in northern B.C.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Thank you, Lorna.
14 So [name redacted pursuant to Rule 55], I haven't forgotten
15 you. You're not talking? Okay. Maybe next time? Okay,
16 thank you very much for coming.

17 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** I'd also like to
18 address the treatment options in northern British Columbia,
19 not just A&D counselling. There is Round Lake. I know for
20 a short period of time they did lose funding and regained
21 it. I think that there needs to be more readily available
22 even into a detox and from detox into treatment. Like,
23 there needs to be an entire program put into place from
24 detox to treatment to housing to support. It all ties in
25 together.

1 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Thank you,
2 Stephanie.

3 So Tom, you've got some beautiful pictures
4 with you. What would you like to do with that? Would you
5 like to show us some? I can take the mic and describe and
6 I can hand them to the Commissioners. Just say what it is.
7 And these are going back with you tonight, right? That's
8 the idea? They're just for us to look at today?

9 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** Yeah.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Yeah.

11 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** These are actually -- this
12 is one of the -- this one? Okay. These are Florence and
13 this one's one of Lorna's pictures. And oh, she would have
14 been there probably Grade 8. Yeah. That would be Tamara
15 in Grade 8.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Thank you. I'm
17 handing it to Bernie Williams.

18 Is there anything you'd like to show us in
19 the album? Oh, is this ---

20 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** Yeah, this is Florence.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- is the theme
22 Highway of Tears?

23 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** Yes.

24 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Oh. And could we
25 borrow this and photograph it? Okay.

1 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** That would be okay with
2 you, Florence? Florence is nodding yes.

3 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** She's nodding yes?

4 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** Yeah.

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Where are you,
6 Florence? Hi. Thank you so much. Okay.

7 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** This is on the ---

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So you think it's
9 okay if we keep it for -- you saw them all? Okay. Okay,
10 great. How long do you think we need it, five days? Can
11 we have it for five days? Oh, we're going to take
12 snapshots. Okay, great. You'll have it back today after
13 dinner. Okay, thank you.

14 **MR. TOM CHIPMAN:** This is just one. She's
15 got a bunch of them.

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay, so we've got
17 a project. Thank you so much. Is there anything else that
18 anyone would like to say?

19 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** As you heard my daughter
20 speaking about her addiction, up in the north there's
21 extreme rates of poverty and there is a serious need for
22 health, healing, and wellness centres everywhere, not just
23 in the north but across Canada.

24 And the one thing that bothers me the most
25 about the need for all these things is that when the

1 government decides that they're going to give it to us then
2 they give it to us for two years.

3 What happens after that two years? That's
4 the same with the shuttlebus service. What happens after
5 that two years? The government pulls their funding and
6 then we're done. Then we have to start from rock bottom
7 again and start all over again.

8 When we put in these health, healing, and
9 wellness programs they need to be permanent process to
10 protect women and children.

11 We also need programs for the kids that are
12 left behind. Because you know what? They're tired of
13 being "that" kid, "that" kid of the missing mother. We
14 need to let those kids know that they're not alone either.

15 So the health, healing and -- when you --
16 when the government offers funding, I don't care if it's
17 two years, they can do it for life because these cycles are
18 ongoing. These cycles are ongoing. They're going to be --
19 we need permanent fix for this, not part-time. Band-Aid
20 fixes haven't worked thus far so we need it. We need it
21 permanent.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** That's a
23 Commissioner.

24 Okay, anybody else?

25 Madam Commissioner, do you have any

1 questions?

2 **COMMISSIONER AUDETTE:** Merci beaucoup,
3 Maître Wendy. Many question but I think in your -- not I
4 think, I know in your truth sharing, your testimonies, you
5 taught us, we've learned. We learn a lot, that you witness
6 or you went through systemic discrimination or injustice or
7 you lived through some solutions.

8 And I want to start by saying to Tom how
9 beautiful it was to listen to the relationship you had with
10 your daughter and now your grandson. This is beautiful.
11 This is amazing because we hear through the news that we're
12 -- this -- our families are dysfunctional.

13 And I can say since Friday I was walking
14 with you, listening, watching. Not watching like this but
15 witnessing this unity that you have in this great family.
16 So we can tell the world that no, our families are not
17 dysfunctional. They're strong, regardless.

18 So it was very, very beautiful. It was
19 beautiful also to see that they're not cousins, they're
20 sisters. I was confused during the walk. Whose daughter
21 is that?

22 But I felt that we were welcome, that we
23 became sometimes your sisters, sometimes your Commissioners
24 which I accept.

25 So merci beaucoup, beaucoup, beaucoup for

1 this teaching.

2 And Gladys, Gladys, you started something
3 with your cousins who are sitting in this room who we ask
4 them to bring their pictures of all the walks, the
5 newsletter clips (inaudible) the newspaper clip and
6 pictures of many women missing or going to the spirit
7 world.

8 So I thought about you. Here is some proof.
9 Here is some fact. But here is some passionate people that
10 are educating, advocating. Advocating or educating or
11 look, I am learning with you.

12 And the beauty of your work, because I'm
13 sure there's days that we're frustrated, we're crying,
14 we're screaming -- but your voice was heard, not only in
15 Canada but around the world. In French, Germany, I -- we -
16 - they know you exist. They know.

17 It is sad it's that type of stories that we
18 have to share around the world, but merci beaucoup. Thank
19 you as a mother, as a woman. Thank you for what you did
20 and what you're still doing, you do.

21 And in your truth sharing there's probably
22 60 recommendations. I took a load of notes. I know we
23 did. There's people behind the scene that are taking
24 notes. Everything you said, there's lots of
25 recommendations that will make us stronger.

1 The famous tool you're talking about, when
2 we will present to the federal government, other
3 governments, and our own government, these are
4 recommendations coming from survivors, family members who
5 are advocating for a change. So I owe you so much. Merci
6 beaucoup. Thank you.

7 But that, ask them over there. That kind of
8 tool doesn't have the (inaudible).

9 But permanent and permanent recommendation
10 action and solution, it's needed. You're so right. So
11 merci.

12 Oui, I'll ask the elder, Madam Rosso, to do
13 something beautiful.

14 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** Yes, I just want to say
15 thank you to Michèle for listening to our family. She
16 stopped and joined our walk, for those of you that don't
17 know, just about Shames Mountain outside of Terrace and she
18 walked with us and listened to us. And we really do feel
19 like you're a part of our family.

20 And when we reached our home community in
21 Moricetown there were some elders that needed a room and
22 she just so quickly gave up her room. And it was pouring
23 rain. She had no shampoo or clothes packed or anything and
24 she totally just said, "Yes, I'm camping with you guys."

25 And she came and joined us. We had a

1 campfire and she really put her mouth where -- or put her -
2 - what is that? Not only did she speak but she -- with her
3 actions she showed her love to us and we just love you. We
4 just love you and we thank you that you shared in our
5 stories and you listened. Thank you.

6 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** She walked her talk.

7 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So now I think it's
8 a time when some gifts are shared.

9 (Bernie Poitras Williams, Commissioner Audette, Doris Rosso
10 present fireweed seeds and three eagle feathers
11 to the family)

12 **CHIEF DORIS ROSSO:** (Speaking Wet'suwet'en).
13 So you know, I'd just like to thank this group that is
14 doing the Inquiry for missing and murdered women.

15 We came back from Vancouver and I was
16 reading my message. And I don't think I met Penny. There
17 was this woman named Penny. She left a message for me.
18 And she asked me to sit on this board committee that's
19 coming to Smithers.

20 And I phoned her back. I said, "Penny, this
21 is Doris calling. You left a message for me and I just
22 want to let you know that in our community there's a lot of
23 womens that are a lot older than me. I'm just a mini-
24 elder," I told her.

25 She says, "Oh, no. You've been the chosen."

1 So I was been chosen all the way from
2 Vancouver. I don't know who gave the name.

3 But anyways, let's just pray for all what
4 happens. So we all stand.

5 -- Closing prayer

6 **MS. BERNIE POITRAS WILLIAMS:** The
7 translation is "Michèle, I love you," she said.

8 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And it's supper
9 time.

10 **MS. BERNIE POITRAS WILLIAMS:** Yeah, it's
11 supper time. It's true. And I understood for real supper
12 time.

13 Okay, for the family members, your dinner is
14 in the family room at the college I guess next door here,
15 next building. (Speaking in Native language). Next door.

16 Nine o'clock they're starting it at 8:30
17 (Speaking in Native language). Nine o'clock sharp.

18 --- Upon adjourning at 6:21 p.m.

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LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Karen Noganosh, 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.



Karen Noganosh

October 15, 2017