

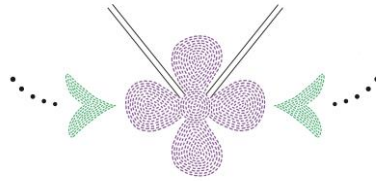
National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

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**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls  
Truth-Gathering Process –Part 1 Public Hearings  
Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, South Ballroom  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**



**PUBLIC**

**November 22, 2017**

**Public transcript Volume 29:**

**Maxine Goforth & Shayleen Goforth,  
In relation to Kelly Goforth & Baby June Goforth**

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**Royal Reporting Services Ltd.**

**APPEARANCES**

**Advocate for Children and Youth Saskatchewan**

Non-appearance

**Assembly of First Nations**

Non-appearance

**Government of Canada**

Tania Tooke (Paralegal)

**Government of Saskatchewan**

Barbara Mysko (Legal Counsel)

**Iskwewuk Ewichiwitochik (Women Walking Together)**

Darlene R. Okemaysim-Sicotte (Representative)

**Kawacatoose First Nation**

Non-appearance

**Native Women's Association of Canada**

Neegann Aaswaakshin (Legal Counsel)

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik, AnânuKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women's Association Inc., Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre, Manitoba Inuit Association

Non-appearance

**Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Circle Corporation**

Virginia Lomax (Legal Counsel)

**Women of Metis Nation/Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak**

Non-appearance

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**INDEX OF EXHIBITS**

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**Exhibit No.**

**(Code P01P06P0204)**

- 1 "Preliminary hearing for Kelly Goforth, Richele Bear's alleged killer to begin in Regina" by Roxana Woloshyn, CBC News posted November 2, 2015, 5:30 AM CT, last updated November 2, 2015, 6:03 AM CT, (two pages).
- 2 "'I miss everything about her': Goforth, Bear families share victim impact statements" CBC News posted September 20, 2016, 8:27 PM CT, last updated September 20, 2016, 8:27 PM CT, (three pages).
- 3 "No chance of parole for 20 years for Sask. man who murdered Kelly Goforth, Richele Bear" by Kevin O'Connor, CBC News posted September 20, 2016, 9:34 AM CT, last updated September 20, 2016, 4:42 PM CT.
- 4 Digital folder containing 14 images displayed during public testimony of the witnesses.

**WITNESSES: MAXINE GOFORTH AND SHAYLEEN GOFORTH  
IN RELATION TO KELLY GOFORTH AND BABY JUNE GOFORTH  
HEARD BY: COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON  
COMMISSION COUNSEL: CHRISTA BIG CANOE  
COURT REPORTER: SHAWN HURD  
REGISTRAR: BRYAN ZANDBERG**

5 (Commenced at 9:32 a.m.)

6 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Good morning,  
7 Commissioner Eyolfson. I would like to  
8 introduce you to the next family that will be  
9 testifying. Right beside me is Maxine  
10 Goforth, and beside her is Shayleen. They  
11 will be talking today about Kelly Goforth and  
12 Baby June.

13 Before we actually have  
14 them affirm in, I'm asking if they could just  
15 tell us who's with them in support.

16 MS. MAXINE GOFORTH: I brought my brother  
17 Aubrey Junior Goforth for my support --  
18 that's my brother -- and Erica Goldwin and  
19 Judy Hughes.

20 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER EYOLFSON: Good morning, everybody.

22 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And, Commissioner, they  
23 would like to affirm on an eagle feather, so  
24 I ask that you please affirm them in. Just  
25 give me a moment to give them the feather.

1                   And this is Maxine.

2           **MAXINE GOFORTH, affirmed:**

3           COMMISSIONER EYOLFSON:           Thank you.

4           **SHAYLEEN GOFORTH, affirmed:**

5           COMMISSIONER EYOLFSON:           Thank you.

6           MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:           Just -- just so that

7                   you're aware, we are going to be discussing

8                   and hearing testimony in relation to two

9                   deaths, and so the first death we'll be

10                  focusing on the loss of is Kelly Goforth, and

11                  actually please feel free to both answer this

12                  question. Can you please share with us a

13                  fond memory or some of Kelly's strengths?

14           MS. MAXINE GOFORTH:           Okay. I'll start with

15                  saying the day my baby was born, I never

16                  forgot that day because I knew my baby was

17                  going to be something spectacular right from

18                  birth because I was told that she was going

19                  to have something wrong with her spine, and

20                  it wasn't so. She gave me such a hard time

21                  at birth, and I was telling the doctors to

22                  pull him out, pull him out. I thought she

23                  was a he, and they -- it was all over, and --

24                  and I wanted to know my baby was okay, and

25                  they put her in my arms, and I was looking at

1 her arms, and she looked so buff like and  
2 muscled and a bunch of curly hair, and she  
3 was perfect, and so from that point on, that  
4 was -- you know, I knew she was special. All  
5 my children are special, but Kelly gave me  
6 such a hard time at birth, and yet she ended  
7 up being the smallest baby through her life,  
8 like smallest daughter and -- but Kelly was a  
9 natural-born leader right from her -- her  
10 younger years.

11 She always wanted to be  
12 around adults, and whenever me and her uncles  
13 and my sister be sitting around, there was  
14 Kelly. She always wanted to be involved, to  
15 listen, and she was so cute because she had  
16 so many curls, and she was so amazing and  
17 deep dimples, and she was a joy to have  
18 around everybody, and her uncle would call  
19 her (speaks in native language) for  
20 troublemaker because she was a little  
21 tattletale 'cause she was the baby, and he'd  
22 say, Okay, my (speaks in native language).  
23 So, you know, Kelly was a very determined  
24 girl, very smart, very protective.

25 She was very -- you know,

1 she -- there was something -- if Kelly set  
2 her heart on something, she -- she would do  
3 it. There wasn't a doubt in my mind my  
4 daughter would achieve what she wanted to  
5 achieve.

6 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Shayleen, can you also  
7 tell us a bit about Kelly and some of her  
8 strengths?

9 MS. SHAYLEEN GOFORTH: Kelly had a positive  
10 mind-set that I admired. There was nothing  
11 negative anyone can say about her. To me her  
12 strength was she had the ability to make a  
13 bad situation into a good one. She would  
14 make my sad face turn into a happy face by  
15 making me laugh. I felt she had the right  
16 words, answers for any situation. I know  
17 she's my baby sister and I'm the one who's  
18 supposed to make her feel this way, but she  
19 made me feel safe. Kelly had that loving  
20 touch like my mama that made me feel so loved  
21 and safe, and it breaks my heart knowing she  
22 had high hopes and dreams she couldn't  
23 fulfill. She had goals and ambition. She  
24 was full of life. She dreamt of becoming a  
25 model, hoped and prayed for a great future



1 for her and her baby. She wanted the best  
2 for her baby and for all of us.

3 And I know me speaking  
4 about her for the first time in public will  
5 help me deal with the situation. Nobody  
6 could ever heal my heart, but I know speaking  
7 about her just might.

8 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you. And so the  
9 next -- the next thing I'm asking you to  
10 share with the commissioner is not easy.  
11 It's not an easy part of the story, so I'm  
12 going to ask you to share to the best of your  
13 ability what you can with what happened to  
14 Kelly.

15 MS. MAXINE GOFORTH: Okay. Prior to Kelly  
16 going missing, we -- we all gathered at my  
17 girl Shayleen's house, and that wasn't  
18 unusual for all of us to go and, you know,  
19 sleep over at one another's house, and it was  
20 always her house, and -- and Kelly was in the  
21 bathtub, and before she jumped in, she said,  
22 Mommy, can you watch Casey for a few minutes?  
23 And I came out of the porch and I seen my  
24 daughter at the door, and she looked so  
25 beautiful, her hair down. She hardly ever

1           wore her hair down, and it was so beautiful,  
2           long and curly, and she was standing at the  
3           door, and I said, Oh, my baby, you're so  
4           beautiful, and she was putting on her  
5           sandals, and she said, Mommy, I'll be right  
6           back, and she had this Big Gulp cup. I said,  
7           Okay, and she went.

8                                Anyway, I went to bed.  
9           It was about 10:30. I think it was about  
10          10:30. I went to bed. I had a TV in my  
11          room, and I went -- and I woke up. It was  
12          2:00, and I asked -- I asked my common-law at  
13          the time, Did Kelly get home? He said, No.  
14          I said, No? He said, No. 4:00 again I woke  
15          up, said, Kel home now? He said, No, she  
16          didn't get home yet, I've been waiting for  
17          her. I said, What the heck? And then so  
18          7:00 now my little grandson woke me up  
19          crying, which was unusual 'cause Kelly would  
20          get up all the time. She was a good mom.  
21          She was the best mom to Casey, and he was  
22          crying, and I got up and went in the room,  
23          and no Kelly. So I took him and I went to  
24          the window facing the sun. The sun shone in  
25          that window, and I was standing by the

1 kitchen with my grandson, and I -- I said,  
2 Jesus, please bring my baby home safe, and I  
3 was holding Casey, and so the day went on and  
4 no Kelly, and I was so worried, and I wrote  
5 in my journal nine times, Jesus, where's my  
6 baby, and I told my common-law that time,  
7 Something's wrong, I said, because Kelly  
8 promised me she'd never worry me. She made  
9 that promise to me 'cause she scared me  
10 before, and she promised me she'd never put  
11 me through that ever again, and I knew she  
12 wouldn't, and he said, Don't say that, and  
13 sure enough, she didn't come home.

14 And Daffy, Shayleen, she  
15 goes, Mom, I'm going to put a missing report  
16 out for her, Kelly wouldn't leave Casey, and  
17 we all knew that, and so she did. She did  
18 that right away, and the police, they were so  
19 amazing to us. You know, they came right  
20 away and they told us we didn't have to wait  
21 24 hours to put her -- a report out.

22 So Tuesday still no  
23 Kelly. I was going crazy, and Wednesday now,  
24 I -- I couldn't handle it. I couldn't stay  
25 home and wait for her. I told my girl, my

1 baby girl here, I said, My girl, mommy's  
2 going to go walk around Regina, I'm going to  
3 go find this girl. I said, I don't feel her  
4 anymore. I said, Something's wrong, 'cause  
5 me and Kelly could feel each other.

6 I went all over the  
7 downtown area asking, asking people. Oh,  
8 yeah, we seen her at this house. I go to  
9 that house. No, we didn't see her since.  
10 This would be like two or three days before,  
11 and, oh, went through casino. People were  
12 saying, Oh, yeah, she was here last night,  
13 and I -- I said, Oh, good, my girl is okay.  
14 That's what I was thinking. I went  
15 everywhere through the hood. My search ended  
16 on 7 block Elphinstone. I didn't realize I  
17 was searching that long. It must have been  
18 about 1:00.

19 Then I went walking back  
20 to my niece's on 8th block Athol, and this --  
21 my daughter had been phoning my niece.  
22 Already the police had phoned my daughter,  
23 and she told my daughter Shayleen -- they  
24 told Shayleen that Kelly was found, and I  
25 didn't know yet, so I don't know what I did.

1 I -- I wouldn't even -- I  
2 didn't want to face it or whatever you call  
3 it. My -- my older sister took us in a cab  
4 to my daughter's here, and we got there, and  
5 there was so many police there. Ah, all my  
6 kids are all crying, and I knew. I knew  
7 something, you know -- my -- this one  
8 wouldn't be crying like that. She come  
9 screaming, Mommy, mommy, Kelly's dead,  
10 Kelly's dead, and so from then on, you know,  
11 we didn't know, you know, that she was killed  
12 Tuesday and -- and her body was thrown away.  
13 They found her Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. in  
14 the garbage in a hockey bag.

15 We didn't know all -- you  
16 know, everything, and some things we found  
17 out through the Leader-Post, like that she  
18 was actually in the garbage. We didn't know  
19 that, but we seen it in the newspaper, and I  
20 phoned those detectives, and they apologized  
21 for that, for not telling me, but they said,  
22 Yeah, she was, so that didn't help it any,  
23 you know, make it any better, but the  
24 newspaper said my daughter was found sick or  
25 injured, so that made me think my daughter

1 was alive, that she was suffering or  
2 something, and I thought that for four years.  
3 I thought my daughter was alive when they  
4 found her because of what it said in the  
5 paper, and it wasn't 'til this year that me  
6 and Shayleen went to the police in June that  
7 we actually got to find out what happened to  
8 my girl, and she didn't suffer, you know. I  
9 carried that all these years. She wasn't  
10 suffering, you know. She didn't suffer too  
11 long, but that's what the newspaper had told  
12 us, eh, so went through all that for nothing,  
13 but, yeah, she was -- we didn't find out she  
14 was -- she died the -- the day before they  
15 found her until it came time to write her  
16 obituary, and I asked the detectives, and  
17 they said, No, she died on the 24th.

18 A lot of things in that  
19 regard, I appreciate my daughter Shayleen  
20 because once I found out my baby girl had --  
21 you know, was deceased, it -- it -- I was too  
22 consumed with my loss. It was me, my baby.  
23 She was taken from -- it was all me, you  
24 know. I didn't think of her or Casey or my  
25 other kids that were there. It was her,

1           Shayleen, that took charge. It was her that,  
2           you know, took the role of mom, and she --  
3           she did a lot of talking with the -- with the  
4           police and the reporters. I couldn't even  
5           talk. I couldn't even talk, so, you know, my  
6           girl held it together for all of us, and over  
7           the years, you know, she -- she was the one  
8           to help us come back, to get out of that dark  
9           place, Shayleen. To this day I rely on her  
10          and my sons 'cause we were very close to  
11          Kelly. There's a big part of us gone. So we  
12          just had to learn, you know, to live without  
13          her.

14        MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:        Shayleen, did you want to  
15    also talk a bit about what you can share  
16    about Kelly's death or about the trial, about  
17    the murder, any information you can share?

18        MS. SHAYLEEN GOFORTH:        Okay. When Kelly died,  
19    the police came to my house, and I think it  
20    was like midnight. I had my door open  
21    because it was calm. Like it was warm  
22    outside, and me and my boyfriend left the  
23    door open just hoping she'll come walking  
24    through that door, and we heard a knock at  
25    the door, and we thought it was one of our

1 friends 'cause it was a loud knock and they  
2 usually lock -- like I mean knock loud, but  
3 it was the police, and they told me -- well,  
4 they said, Is your mom home, Maxine? And I  
5 said, No. And I said, Did you guys find my  
6 sister Kelly? We can't answer that. Can you  
7 just tell Maxine to call us immediately. And  
8 I knew something was wrong why he wouldn't  
9 tell me, and then I just -- I kind of got mad  
10 at the police officer, and I said, Could you  
11 please tell me if my sister is okay, I'm the  
12 one who reported her missing. I said, My  
13 mom's out there right now looking for her,  
14 and one cop looked at the other cop, and he  
15 put his hand on my shoulder, and he said,  
16 We're sorry, and I said, What do you mean? I  
17 was like, Is she okay? And I started crying,  
18 and then that's when he just told me. He's  
19 like, No, we're sorry, your sister is  
20 deceased, she's at the hospital right now,  
21 and I just freaked out.

22 My heart dropped. It was  
23 like something was taken out of my chest, and  
24 I knew it was my heart, so I -- I begged the  
25 police. I was like, Can you please take me



1           there, I want to see her to make sure it's  
2           her. They're like, It's her, and I was like,  
3           How do you know? And then I just freaked  
4           out, and I said, Did you guys see her  
5           tattoos? Was it her hair? They're like, You  
6           described her to us this evening. That's  
7           when we called to make sure. 'Cause I forgot  
8           they called me around 7, 7:30 the time she  
9           was found, and they asked me, Did you hear  
10          anything from your sister? And I said, No.  
11          They're like, Could you describe her to us  
12          one more time? So I did, and that's when  
13          they showed up. It took them like about five  
14          hours to let us know.

15                                So when they told me, I  
16          was just crying, and I remember my little  
17          brother Elijah, he was -- he had curfew that  
18          time, and what broke my heart is he hid  
19          behind my house on the side from the police.  
20          He was like, I'm scared they're going to take  
21          me, arrest me 'cause of my curfew, and then I  
22          was, Okay, go wait on the side, maybe they  
23          found Kelly, so he was hiding, and then as  
24          soon as the cop said she was deceased, my  
25          poor brother wouldn't come out still, and I

1 was like, Elijah, Elijah. I was just crying.  
2 Finally Elijah come running out from the side  
3 of the house holding his mouth crying, and I  
4 just held him, and I never heard him cry like  
5 a little baby before.

6 So I got on the phone.  
7 The police let me use the phone to call my  
8 mom. She was at my auntie's I think, but I  
9 told my auntie, Please tell my mom they found  
10 Kelly, and I heard her in the background.  
11 She said, Molly, they found Kelly. I was  
12 like, Auntie, I was like, but she died, and  
13 she was like, What? So then the police asked  
14 me where she was. So they tried to go pick  
15 up my mom, and my mom wouldn't come with  
16 them, so they came back in a cab, and that's  
17 when my mom cried too like a little baby, and  
18 I couldn't believe -- couldn't believe Kelly  
19 was gone, and all of us were in disbelief.

20 We stayed up for a couple  
21 days that time. My mom didn't get sleep.  
22 None of us got sleep at all. We stayed up  
23 'til about seven or eight. All my uncles  
24 came over from the reserve, and the police  
25 came about eight, nine. They took me and my

1 mom and my boyfriend to the police station.  
2 They were asking us all these questions, and  
3 I was trying to be cooperative with them  
4 without crying, and I said, I have my  
5 cellphone. I was like, Can you guys look on  
6 there for anybody, like whether she texted  
7 someone and went with them? They took my  
8 phone and they kept it for a while, but I  
9 don't know if they found anything on my  
10 phone.

11 So then after that I  
12 cried, and I asked the police, Can we go see  
13 her just to make sure that's really her?  
14 They told us it was her, and I asked how come  
15 we couldn't see them (sic). They said her  
16 body was already going to Saskatoon for an  
17 autopsy. So we didn't get to see her for a  
18 good week after we found out she passed away.

19 When we went to go see  
20 her in a little town -- I'm not too sure what  
21 that town was called -- Wolseley I believe --  
22 at the funeral home, she had like a  
23 diamond-shaped bruise on her forehead and a  
24 handprint on her arm where her tattoo was.  
25 It's like somebody squeezed her or hit her on

1 the arm, and it looked like somebody hit her  
2 with something on the head, and her hair, it  
3 was like layered -- layered hair like mine,  
4 and it was like a brownish colour, and when  
5 we seen her in the funeral home, she had her  
6 hair cut. I think the funeral home cut her  
7 hair 'cause it was up to her shoulders. It  
8 was just straight across her curls, and there  
9 was blood in her hair, blood on her toes, and  
10 my mom was asking her, What happened, what  
11 did they do to her? And my little brother  
12 Ezekiel came with us too that time, and I  
13 remember he had a hard time looking at her.  
14 He couldn't believe that was her. It was  
15 hard seeing her on that funeral home.

16 We couldn't dress her.  
17 We couldn't do her makeup, her hair. That's  
18 how weak we felt. So we let the lady at the  
19 funeral home do it for her, and I sacrificed  
20 all my makeup to that funeral home lady  
21 because Kelly, she always loved my makeup,  
22 and she would take my makeup without asking,  
23 and when I was in her bedroom when we found  
24 her -- well, the time we found out she passed  
25 away, I found my makeup in her room by the TV

1 stand, and I started crying. I was like, You  
2 can have my makeup 'cause she knew I'd get  
3 mad at her, and I regret that, even though  
4 it's just makeup. So I told that funeral  
5 lady, You can use all my makeup she would use  
6 and put it on her face, and I told her --  
7 gave her an idea how to put the makeup on,  
8 same with her hair.

9 And that time I -- I  
10 think I just cried twice and I never cried  
11 again just except when we were viewing her  
12 body at her wake on the reserve. It was the  
13 last time I ever cried that hard. I was  
14 never able to cry. Sometimes when I do cry,  
15 it's just when my kids are sleeping.

16 My son, he's starting to  
17 ask me now what happened, and I told him,  
18 Your auntie was killed, and he keeps asking  
19 how and who did it, and I can't tell him that  
20 yet. He's six. He was supposed to be with  
21 me today, but he didn't want to come. It  
22 wouldn't be a good idea, so that's the day I  
23 told him. I was like, Your auntie was killed  
24 by a man she didn't know. He said, How? I  
25 said, I can't tell you that, and then he

1           said, How, mom, tell me, I'm grown up. I  
2           said, I'll tell you this week sometime, okay?  
3           And then he says, Okay, mom. He's like, When  
4           you tell me, he's like, can I tell my  
5           teacher? He's like, My teacher asked who my  
6           auntie was. I said, Oh, she's asking you  
7           questions? He said, Yeah. I was like, Okay.  
8           I was like, oh, that's good that he's  
9           mentioning his Auntie Kelly to his teacher  
10          because he has a shirt with Kelly's name -- I  
11          mean picture, and he wore that, so that's  
12          probably why they asked questions, but my boy  
13          really wants to know what happened, and I  
14          don't think it's good to tell him.

15                                But, yeah, I haven't  
16          cried hard for her, and I'm glad that -- I  
17          think she's with me right now because I was  
18          having a smoke outside, and I said, Kelly,  
19          please be with me today. I said, I don't  
20          want to cry. I said, Just give me the right  
21          words to say. I was like, Tell me what you  
22          want me to tell them, and I asked God to be  
23          with me as well, and I'm glad I had a good  
24          smudge. Thank you.

25          MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:           Can I ask a couple more

1            questions? And I know, again, it's -- it's  
2            difficult, so just answer to the best of your  
3            ability because we've been talking about the  
4            stranger that -- that murdered Kelly. It was  
5            Clayton Eichler. Yeah, and I know that your  
6            family doesn't want to give a lot of airtime  
7            to a serial killer, but if we could just talk  
8            a little bit about the fact that Clayton  
9            murdered your sister and someone else and  
10           that you folks had to go experience the trial  
11           and him pleading guilty. Some information  
12           about that would help the commissioner, so  
13           please share what you can.

14        MS. SHAYLEEN GOFORTH:            About the trial?

15        MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:            About the trial or the  
16           fact -- you know, about Clayton and --

17        MS. SHAYLEEN GOFORTH:            Okay. The trial was last  
18           September, and we were all prepared for it,  
19           and my mom, she was very worried about the  
20           details coming out and me and my sister and  
21           brothers hearing it, and me and my mom know  
22           what happened. I want -- I wanted to know  
23           what happened. My mom didn't think it was  
24           like okay for us to find out 'cause she'd  
25           think it would traumatize us, but as a big

1 sister, I wanted to know what happened to my  
2 sister, so that's why I would ask those  
3 detectives to tell me what happened, and I  
4 would always want to be with my mom to find  
5 out what happened.

6 So the trial, it was last  
7 year, and we were all prepared for it. We  
8 were praying, hoping he'll be honest and tell  
9 us what he did to her. The first day I'm  
10 pretty sure court adjourned because he was  
11 injured and he had to go to the hospital. So  
12 they adjourned it 'til the next day. We come  
13 back the next day and -- or I think it was  
14 the first day he pleaded guilty. Yeah, he  
15 went to the hospital, and then he come back  
16 and he pled guilty. So that kind of saved my  
17 brothers from going through that scary moment  
18 of how she died, and then we found out in  
19 trial there, after he pled guilty, he looked  
20 at my mom and he mentioned her name, and he  
21 apologized to her, and I don't know how it  
22 made us feel, but he apologized to my mom,  
23 and I'm -- and after we found out what he did  
24 to her.

25 Like he strangled her



1           and -- he strangled her, and he had a bag  
2           over her head. That's how she died, and,  
3           yeah, he -- she hit her head on the ground --  
4           well, the floor in his bedroom, I guess.  
5           That's why she was bloody from the mouth and  
6           nose, and I kind of think he might have hit  
7           her in the head because she had that diamond,  
8           looked like maybe a board, a corner of a  
9           board or something, but he was saying he hit  
10          her -- she hit her head.

11                           And I -- I know he did  
12          more stuff because he wasn't really like  
13          telling it. Like he was just telling us what  
14          we wanted to know, I think. He apologized to  
15          my mom, though, and I'm very grateful for  
16          that, but that -- that apology wouldn't bring  
17          back Kelly.

18    MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:           And I also understand  
19          that he was charged and convicted of another  
20          death at the same time, and I know that --  
21          I'm not asking your family to go into that  
22          family's details, but at the same time he was  
23          also convicted in the murder of Richele Bear?

24    MS. SHAYLEEN GOFORTH:           Yes.

25    MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:           And the sentencing

1           happened together? Did you guys watch or  
2           listen to the sentencing?

3       MS. MAXINE GOFORTH:           I honour the late Richele  
4           Bear today right now because her too, she was  
5           somebody's daughter, you know, and the thing  
6           is when Kelly was found, they didn't know who  
7           killed her for three months, and as a family,  
8           you know, your mind goes through everything.  
9           You make up your own investigation and you  
10          have your own suspects, and that's what we  
11          were doing, and there was a non-Indian guy  
12          that kept driving around our house, eh, and  
13          like he was watching us, and they just -- I  
14          truly believe that was Clayton. We told the  
15          detectives about that afterwards, but they  
16          even posted detectives behind our house --  
17          well, her house. I call it our house because  
18          we were all there all the time after Kelly,  
19          and they wouldn't have known that he took  
20          Richele had they not found my baby.

21                                   And because of -- when --  
22          when Shayleen mentioned we wanted to go see  
23          Kelly because, you know, when -- when a loved  
24          one dies, we have that opportunity to go and,  
25          you know, love them and, you know, say our

1 goodbyes and pay our respects before they  
2 take them, and the most devastating thing to  
3 us is we weren't allowed that opportunity  
4 because it was explained to us about the  
5 evidence, and it took so long it seemed, but  
6 we were allowed to go, and -- you know, at  
7 the funeral home the day of her wake, which  
8 was ugly, but it was explained to us later  
9 that -- through the detectives, and they were  
10 so amazing because I'd tell Shayleen, Ask  
11 them this, ask them that, and she would text  
12 them even at nighttime, and they would text  
13 us back, and they never did withhold  
14 information, but they were very sensitive in  
15 how they explained it to us, eh, my girl?

16 And the one thing we took  
17 out of this whole loss and, you know, even  
18 though my grandson has no mom is Kelly, we  
19 believe like -- when I said she was born a  
20 natural-born leader, she -- I believe she  
21 sacrificed her life to get that man off the  
22 street and so, you know, Richele's mom could  
23 know what happened to her daughter, but the  
24 most devastating thing is he didn't have that  
25 respect to tell Michele -- Richele's mom

1           where her baby girl is, so she couldn't put  
2           her baby to rest yet, and that -- that breaks  
3           my heart because I sat in the courtroom with  
4           that family, with that other mommy, and when  
5           we read our victim impact statements, as soon  
6           as my baby boy Ezekiel got up, he made that  
7           killer cry because I brought my children up  
8           to forgive no matter what, you know, and even  
9           a murderer can cry out to God and be  
10          forgiven, and, you know, as hard as that is,  
11          some day I will have to forgive him, and he  
12          looked at me, and he said, Maxine, I'm sorry,  
13          I'm sorry; if I could take it back, I would,  
14          but that meant nothing because of that mommy.

15                         She said, Well, tell me  
16          where's my baby? Tell me. I want to bury  
17          her. He just like disregarded her, and he  
18          said, I'm sorry, I can't help you with that.  
19          He walked out. That was the end of it, and,  
20          you know, it -- it was meaningless because he  
21          could have helped that mom, but the thing was  
22          they wouldn't have known he took Richele if  
23          they didn't find Kelly.

24                         They found things in his  
25          house, on his phone, on his computer, and he



1           suspected of taking this other lady, he was  
2           her friend, and there's not enough evidence  
3           to charge him, and, you know, when they're  
4           missing, you don't -- you know, you don't  
5           ever say in past tense. I'm really cautious  
6           of that.

7                           And this other mom, she  
8           told me -- we had a fourth-year community  
9           feed, and this mom came. She told me that  
10          she accepted her daughter was gone and  
11          that -- she was always crying, you know, and  
12          she was talking to me, but she said, You  
13          know, if Kelly, you know, wasn't gone, they  
14          wouldn't have got that far, you know, to find  
15          out all this other stuff, and -- and then I  
16          feel -- I feel for those other moms because  
17          it's not over for them. They weren't able to  
18          put their daughters in the ground and lay  
19          them to rest. I was, but in that sense, I  
20          believe God gave me something back because my  
21          girl gave her life for them and to keep other  
22          girls safe, you know, like these other young  
23          girls that are still out there, and they're  
24          still alive because when they found out it  
25          was him, then no more girls, you know, went

1 missing.

2 And the thing is for  
3 three months they didn't find out, and the  
4 most beautiful call I got since Kelly died  
5 was December 31st, and it had such a  
6 significance for me because I raised my kids  
7 up how you end your New Year, that's how your  
8 year will be, you know, like how you go into  
9 your New Year, so every New Year's Eve, I  
10 went in with my kids and I'd pray just before  
11 midnight. I'd ask God to let me have my  
12 children, good health, you know, whatever,  
13 and we didn't have Kelly to end the year  
14 with, and these detectives called me 7 a.m.  
15 that morning. They said, Maxine, pray we  
16 might make an arrest within the next 24 to 48  
17 hours.

18 I got up right away and I  
19 went to her house, and, sure enough, the  
20 police came for me that evening. They told  
21 me they arrested him, and the thing is when  
22 they arrested him, he didn't cry because he  
23 was sorry he killed my daughter. He was  
24 sorry 'cause he got caught and no -- no  
25 heart. He had no heart.

1                   So we endured a whole  
2                   three-year process of going to see him in  
3                   that courtroom, to have to sit there and  
4                   endure it, and we went through that and it  
5                   was hard, and I would try my best to be  
6                   strong for my kids, and it was hard, and he  
7                   would not look at us, and then they'd say,  
8                   Oh, the prelim's this day, so there we would  
9                   be as a family losing sleep, you know,  
10                  staying up, getting prepared for the prelim.  
11                  Then it would be postponed. So it went on  
12                  like that and, oh, it was so turmoil.

13                  Now it came time for the  
14                  actual trial 'cause he kept changing lawyers  
15                  and whatever they do, and they wouldn't tell  
16                  me what happened to my daughter. That was  
17                  the most devastating thing for me because  
18                  they felt I wasn't strong enough. We went  
19                  about two, three times. I took my girl with  
20                  me, and they told me to get more counselling,  
21                  and that angered me then, but when it came  
22                  time for the actual trial, we were so mixed  
23                  up, so -- you know, we were -- we were -- we  
24                  were getting lost again in our -- in our  
25                  emotions and how far we came, and it seemed



1           like we'd go back, you know, I would go back,  
2           and I thank God for Erica, the -- my -- one  
3           of my supports here. We would reach out to  
4           her and her -- her staff, Patty and tell them  
5           everything, and they would, you know, come  
6           send us for coffee or whatever, and, you  
7           know, because it is court distress, and then  
8           now when the actual time came for the trial,  
9           that prosecutor didn't even tell me what I  
10          thought, nothing.

11                           He was charged for two  
12          first-degree murders because he sat out there  
13          and watched my baby. She was pretty. He  
14          said she was pretty. I knew that, and he --  
15          he had it in his mind, you know, what he's  
16          going to do, but yet they accepted a plea,  
17          and they -- he -- it was second-degree murder  
18          for two of them, two lives, which I don't  
19          agree with whatsoever. He got one life  
20          sentence, eligible parole in 17 years, but  
21          yet he still didn't tell where that other  
22          baby girl is and where is that other woman,  
23          you know.

24                           What I'm praying for is  
25          for him, for his mind, for the Lord to change

1 his heart, you know, 'cause I know the Lord  
2 can do anything to help those other moms.  
3 That's my prayer. You know, they deserve it,  
4 to be sitting here to tell, you know.

5 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: There's -- there's a  
6 newspaper article, and it's talking about the  
7 prelim, so, you know, you were saying how you  
8 went three years, and the article references  
9 the charges in relation to Richele, but it  
10 also talks about charges for aggravated  
11 sexual assault of yet another Aboriginal  
12 woman, and it's understood that this serial  
13 killer maybe has other victims that aren't  
14 found or aren't aware of, and so you had just  
15 said -- and this in the binder, but I'm just  
16 going to ask that we put this article in --

17 MS. MAXINE GOFORTH: Sure.

18 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: -- as part of the  
19 informations and documents.

20 MS. MAXINE GOFORTH: Yes. I'd just like to  
21 add to that that because of the aggravated  
22 sexual assault he was charged with, it was  
23 prior to my daughter being found and killed  
24 and the late Richele. The detectives would  
25 always contact us prior to any kind of media

1 release, and that was one of them, and I --  
2 I'd say, Well, why didn't this woman come  
3 forward before? But they did. The woman  
4 detective, because of their -- you know,  
5 their hard work, she went back in her file  
6 and looked at one case that really sounded  
7 like Kelly and, you know, Richele, and sure  
8 enough, the DNA matched him, so that's why I  
9 was saying my daughter's death brought good  
10 too. You know, I have to say. You know,  
11 that's why I don't want her to be gone for  
12 nothing, you know.

13 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And you had mentioned to  
14 the commissioner that he was sentenced to 17  
15 years for both murders.

16 MS. MAXINE GOFORTH: Life and --

17 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Life.

18 MS. MAXINE GOFORTH: -- eligible for parole.

19 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And eligible for --

20 MS. MAXINE GOFORTH: Yeah.

21 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: -- parole for both  
22 murders. Thank you for sharing a  
23 difficult -- I know that was difficult for  
24 you guys. I just want to make sure I'm not  
25 missing anything before we move on. Was

1           there anything you wanted to add in relation  
2           to the circumstance or what you went through  
3           to see justice done in this case?

4       MS. MAXINE GOFORTH:           And like they say that  
5           through this process my grandson Casey wasn't  
6           even one years old when his mommy died, and  
7           his daddy died about three months before,  
8           four months, and this baby, he was -- he gave  
9           us the hint that Kelly was gone already  
10          because he went to her room and burst out  
11          crying, said, Mommy? And this was the night  
12          she was already passed on, hey, so -- yeah,  
13          at the time she was found, that's when he  
14          cried out for his mommy, and now this boy is  
15          five years old, and so, you know, I just, you  
16          know, wanted to -- to let it be known that  
17          Kelly, you know, is living on within him, and  
18          it's a blessing to me, and, you know, I --  
19          I'm very fortunate to have him with me, and  
20          I'd like to say that God has sent so many  
21          helpers to help me with that baby, you know,  
22          and that proves a lot of good come out of  
23          Kelly's passing, you know.

24       MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:       In that way, though, one  
25          of the things is often the children left

1                   behind, and so you're his grandma, his kokum?

2       MS. MAXINE GOFORTH:               Yeah.

3       MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:           Now, you take care of  
4                   him, and I -- I hear you saying it's a gift,  
5                   but what does that mean in terms of now you  
6                   have some new responsibilities, and what  
7                   resources and help do you get for that?

8       MS. MAXINE GOFORTH:           Well, I say that it's a  
9                   gift because he -- his personality was -- is  
10                  so much like how his mom was when she was  
11                  small, like curious mind and so smart, and  
12                  he's so concerned about me. If I'm sitting  
13                  at the table crying, he said, Oh, mom, what's  
14                  wrong? Come here, mommy, and he'll give me  
15                  hug, and that's what his mom would do, and  
16                  he'd be walking. Mom, I love you with all my  
17                  heart, you know, just out of the blue, and  
18                  he'll keep walking or, Mom, you're so  
19                  beautiful, like you know, and that's how his  
20                  mom was. That's why I say that's my gift,  
21                  and I'll hug him and cuddle him, you know,  
22                  and then -- but at the beginning it was --  
23                                        I didn't think of not  
24                  taking him. I didn't. It was natural, and I  
25                  had mentioned that the Ministry of Social

1 Services had come the day -- a day or two  
2 after her dying, eh, and they asked us, Do  
3 you want us to take him or are you going to  
4 keep him, just like that, and it blew us  
5 away, me and my girl here, because we  
6 couldn't believe that they would say it like  
7 that, and I said, Are you kidding? That's my  
8 baby's baby, you know. Of course we're going  
9 to keep him, but the thing that bothered me  
10 the most after, what if we were drinking in  
11 that house? What if we had not one thing of  
12 food for that kid? What if it was the most  
13 awfulest environment for him? They didn't  
14 come and check. They didn't come and make  
15 sure he had a bed or anything. They just,  
16 Okay, keep him, whatever, and that's how it's  
17 been.

18 Now, for -- as for  
19 benefits and stuff, he -- because I'm on  
20 social assistance, I get his child tax, but  
21 this baby is not status. I don't get  
22 nothing, no special whatever, but in the  
23 future I hope these -- these children are  
24 thought of in his circumstance, you know, and  
25 I hate to say, but it is reality. There will

1           be other kids that are going to be left, for  
2           them to be thought of, you know, not me, but  
3           them, that they can grow up having the same  
4           opportunities as the next child that has a  
5           mom and dad or a mom, and we try our best,  
6           you know, and it's hard, but that's why I say  
7           the Lord sent angels to him because when I  
8           can't, there's people out there that actually  
9           love us, and they will help me to get him  
10          stuff, and I'm very fortunate for that and --  
11          but that's what I'd like to see if in the  
12          future for grandkids like that that are left,  
13          and I'm his mom. He doesn't call me kokum or  
14          mom. He doesn't even know what kokum means,  
15          so I'm his mom, so, you know, in situations  
16          like that and for them not to be lost;  
17          because we're urban people, not to be lost,  
18          to be forgotten about. Like have something  
19          offered for these kids.

20        MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:        Do you mind if I ask you  
21    a question 'cause I understand that he's  
22    what's called registrable.

23        MS. MAXINE GOFORTH:            Yeah.

24        MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:        So Kelly was actually  
25    status.

1 MS. MAXINE GOFORTH: Yes.

2 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: But the process to get --  
3 the process to get status for him has been  
4 difficult, right?

5 MS. MAXINE GOFORTH: Yes.

6 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And they're requiring a  
7 parent's signature?

8 MS. MAXINE GOFORTH: Yes. That was about a  
9 year after Kelly died, not even that long, I  
10 had started the process to get him registered  
11 on -- on Kelly's band, home band and -- but I  
12 needed a birth certificate, so what I did is  
13 I had her death certificate, and we went down  
14 to vital -- you know, where the -- for birth  
15 certificates, and I paid the \$25. I gave the  
16 death certificate. I gave them all the  
17 required information and went home, and I  
18 figured it's going to take a few days, but  
19 instead it took like two weeks, and I finally  
20 get a letter, and it had highlighted, Get  
21 Kelly to sign here, and sent me back my \$25.  
22 I just threw that and I just cried. It broke  
23 my heart. How could my daughter sign that?  
24 And it just sent me over the top again.

25 So right from then, I



1 left it because that angered me, and I have  
2 spoken to different people to help me, and  
3 I'm not blaming anybody. I'm -- I'm the  
4 kokum. I'm the one that has to get this  
5 stuff done, but that traumatized me. How  
6 could they send me back a form and tell me to  
7 get Kelly to sign it, right? And I did  
8 provide the death certificate, so as a  
9 result, he still doesn't belong to  
10 Peepeekisis. He's still non-status. So  
11 we're still working on that, and it's been a  
12 long process for that part, you know, for  
13 him, so I hope that don't happen to other  
14 moms out there, you know. They shouldn't  
15 have to go through that.

16 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: No. Thank you. I want  
17 to ask if you guys have further  
18 recommendations in relation to your  
19 experiences going through Kelly's murder  
20 before we turn our attention to Baby June.

21 MS. MAXINE GOFORTH: I have a recommendation,  
22 but I give it after I speak on Baby June,  
23 so --

24 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: How about Shayleen? Do  
25 you want to wait 'til after? Wait? Okay.

1           So -- and then you can provide them. So  
2           just -- there's a couple more articles that  
3           speak to the trial and to the convictions,  
4           and I just want to make sure that the  
5           commissioner has them so that he can put  
6           them -- the documents with your story, and  
7           they're just -- one's called *I Miss*  
8           *Everything About Her, Goforth/Bear Family*  
9           *Share Victim Impact Statements*, and the other  
10          article is *No chance of parole for 20 years*  
11          *for Sask. man who murdered Kelly Goforth and*  
12          *Richele Bear.*

13       MS. MAXINE GOFORTH:           It was my mistake. I got  
14           it mixed up with the people who killed my  
15           granddaughter, 17 years. I apologize for  
16           that.

17       MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:        That's okay. So I know  
18           that today you actually want to share with  
19           the commissioner another story that has  
20           really impacted the family, and you want to  
21           start to tell the commissioner about Baby  
22           June, and maybe we'll do the same thing.  
23           Maybe you can tell us the strength and what  
24           Baby June -- the relationship and what she  
25           means to the family.

1 MS. MAXINE GOFORTH: Okay. First of all, I'd  
2 like to say that my granddaughter June was --  
3 was only here on earth for a short time. She  
4 was with our family 2 1/2 years -- 2 years  
5 maybe, and she got apprehended, and when she  
6 got apprehended, it was a long process,  
7 unnecessary process that I believe we could  
8 have had her home. I could have took her.  
9 I -- I was a foster parent. I have my  
10 degree. I have everything, and yet that  
11 social worker was like -- seemed hellbent on  
12 making it very difficult for my niece Natasha  
13 to ever get her kids back, and my late dad,  
14 Senator Robert Goforth, he was so  
15 heartbroken, me and him sitting at that table  
16 trying to get those kids out of care because  
17 that worker just seemed so racist, and she  
18 would not. She had no compassion.

19 Natasha went through  
20 every hoop there is to jump and then some,  
21 and she was getting frustrated and  
22 frustrated. Finally why are you going to try  
23 if there's just another hoop, you know, so  
24 that woman would not give her kids --  
25 Natasha's kids back.



1 MS. MAXINE GOFORTH: Yes. Okay. Baby June  
2 was -- speaking about the worker who -- she  
3 moved them to, I believe, 14 different homes,  
4 and before they -- they were placed with my  
5 own relatives who stepped up. Mind you,  
6 we're -- we weren't the kind of relatives  
7 like us like on a day-to-day basis, but  
8 they're Christians, so they stepped up as  
9 person with sufficient interest to take  
10 Natanis (phonetic) and June, and because they  
11 had this reputation of being Christians, who  
12 would think, right, that there's anything  
13 wrong? And why I say, that was the last time  
14 I seen Baby June.

15 All that whole year we'd  
16 go to service. There's no Tammy. There's no  
17 kids in church, just Kevin. Okay. Where's  
18 the kids? We'd ask, Can we have a visit?  
19 Oh, you have to go through the worker. Oh,  
20 can we -- can we see them in church next  
21 Sunday? We have to get that cleared through  
22 the worker. There was always something, but  
23 we didn't know that they were starving these  
24 kids at home. They had them tied up like  
25 animals in the closet, locked in a closet

1 with a dresser.

2 And Baby June and her  
3 baby sister were placed with Kevin and Tammy  
4 Goforth, my first cousin Wayne's son and his  
5 wife, and right from the beginning, we  
6 believe that they were starting to get abused  
7 and starved because these were chunky little  
8 babies. I was proud of that, my grandkids  
9 were chunky, but it took a long time for  
10 those babies to be just little skeletons, and  
11 when that worker went to go see them, within  
12 the first week baby Natanis already had a big  
13 cut on her cheek, big bandage, and Tammy's  
14 story was, oh, she fell. Well, nobody, you  
15 know, thought then nothing, but had that  
16 worker made visits, which she didn't even  
17 visit once, not once. Those babies were  
18 locked immediately in their room.

19 The abuse started in  
20 August. I believe it was August. It was  
21 shortly after they -- they went with Kevin  
22 and Tammy. They were placed there November  
23 2012, and those babies would be so hungry,  
24 their -- every meat on their bones were gone,  
25 even on their buttocks.



1           said, Oh, my baby, I'm so sorry, and there's  
2           bumps all over her head from getting hit.

3                           And these little babies,  
4           they even grew hair on their body. There was  
5           nothing left of them, and Kevin and Tammy and  
6           their own children were all chunky, and here  
7           they had them locked in their rooms and  
8           wouldn't let them come and eat, and then when  
9           they got charged -- we're all family, right,  
10          me and the mother, Natasha, Sidney, who is  
11          Natasha's older brother, and we raised them  
12          'cause -- with my dad. We reached out to  
13          the -- Kevin and Tammy's mom -- Kevin's mom  
14          and dad, Wayne and Alice. Let's meet as a  
15          family in the church. Their church is right  
16          on 5th Avenue. Let's pray. Let's meet  
17          because that was their son and  
18          daughter-in-law that killed this baby. They  
19          said, No, we can't do that, and they hung up  
20          on us, and I said, We're all alone. We had  
21          nobody. Nobody wanted to come and sit with  
22          us, nobody. There was no ministers, nobody.

23                           And we went on. We  
24          didn't care. I told these kids. I said,  
25          Natasha, It's okay, we don't need nobody,



1           it's okay, and we -- my dad -- and my dad was  
2           always there for us. He sent me to make sure  
3           everything was okay, and here all our  
4           so-called Christian family -- we have a lot  
5           of preachers in our family. Nobody come sit  
6           with us. They were sitting with Wayne and  
7           Alice and not supporting us.

8                                So we went ahead. We  
9           found those detectives again were so awesome  
10          to us. Some of them that dealt with Kelly  
11          were dealing with this case, and then it's  
12          been a hard process to get to the trial part.

13                               When we did finally get  
14          to the trial part, they had big binders on  
15          Baby June. That poor baby was so black in  
16          her genitals, you couldn't even tell those  
17          were her -- and, you know, you can't -- you  
18          can't -- you couldn't imagine how a person's  
19          mind could get that sick to a baby. You  
20          know, God -- God gave us those kids, and they  
21          tied those little girls up from their ankles  
22          in their closet and put cardboards there for  
23          them to use the bathroom on, and there was  
24          metal bed frames for bunk beds -- bunk beds.  
25          They had them bolted onto the basement

1 ceiling and had those bungee cords, and  
2 they'd hang my grandkids like that, and they  
3 put plastic like that underneath them to  
4 catch their urine and stuff.

5 And Tammy, she had Baby  
6 June gagged with a big scarf. All her hair  
7 was still in that scarf, and there's Tammy at  
8 trial going through the binder like she's  
9 looking at a catalogue, and there was me and  
10 my niece, my girl, my sons supporting Tash.  
11 There was about two rows of us, and they had  
12 so many people supporting them, taunting us,  
13 telling us, Why are you crying? What you  
14 crying for? You're alcoholics, you're  
15 junkies, welfare recipients. They'd call us  
16 down, and they were trying to get us kicked  
17 out of the trial, and that's what we went  
18 through for three weeks every day. We were  
19 almost physically fighting with them because  
20 they were taunting us, and I'm not a person  
21 to be taunted.

22 Those are my grandkids,  
23 and it's a good thing we had some wonderful  
24 people to talk us down, you know, because I  
25 would have been charged. I chased Tammy's

1 mom out of there, you know, because she hid  
2 Natanis, the one who lived. She hid her,  
3 gave her a false name when the police went  
4 there, and that -- that makes me mad, you  
5 know, and then here's these little girls.  
6 They didn't even bother to feed them.  
7 They -- Baby June had scars around her wrist  
8 from tying mitts on her wrist and on their --  
9 their ankles. Those ropes wore right down to  
10 their bone. They had them tied up in the  
11 closet, and they taped them to cardboard.  
12 These babies had bedsores from being tied so  
13 long to that cardboard, and Tammy said it's  
14 because they -- they would pee through their  
15 diapers. No way. They were potty-trained  
16 when they went there.

17 And they -- the  
18 pathologist that was at trial told us when a  
19 person goes into starvation, the last thing  
20 to get -- take meat on you is your buttocks.  
21 Those babies had nothing left, and they grew  
22 hair on their chest and their back and their  
23 arms, and yet they -- they -- they were so  
24 chunky when they went there.

25 Every foster parent that

1 had those little babies, when they went  
2 there, they would -- they'd break down 'cause  
3 they couldn't believe that was the same child  
4 that they had, and they -- here's Kevin and  
5 Tammy, they wouldn't even, you know, feed  
6 these babies.

7 So we went through all  
8 that for three weeks, and I pitied the mom  
9 because to this day, my niece, she can't --  
10 she can't get it together, you know, and I  
11 feel bad because people are so quick to judge  
12 drug addicts, alcoholics but you don't know  
13 what's behind that, you know. Some people  
14 don't have that strength to reach out and  
15 keep on the path, the good path of healing.  
16 They -- they're stuck. I can see that 'cause  
17 I was there. Natasha lost a baby like that.  
18 She blames herself.

19 I wanted to honour my  
20 granddaughter by speaking about her publicly  
21 to let it know -- people know it's not okay  
22 to abuse kids, that the Ministry, I hold them  
23 100 percent responsible for this. If they  
24 checked on those kids, if they went, those  
25 kids would -- June would still be alive. She

1                   was four years old when she died. She just  
2                   turned four years old.

3                                 And now Kevin and Tammy,  
4                   the night they were -- the jury was  
5                   deliberating. It was nighttime on Victoria.  
6                   Me and Tash and Sid, my kids, they were  
7                   standing up there. Ha, we're not going to  
8                   spend a day of life in jail. They'd say  
9                   those kind of things to us, and they're  
10                  treating us like we're the ones that killed  
11                  the baby. I'm ashamed to say I have the same  
12                  blood as them. I'm ashamed of that because  
13                  that was their relative too.

14                                 And when I had Natasha  
15                  over at my house two days before we came  
16                  here, the day we left, that's when she left.  
17                  She gave me permission to get this on public  
18                  record because she could not come on her own.  
19                  You know, she couldn't make it, and I -- you  
20                  know, I -- I honoured her, and all she did  
21                  was sleep and sleep at my house, cried to me,  
22                  and I don't -- that means a lot because  
23                  that's my sister's baby. She went through so  
24                  much. She has no mom to hug her. I don't  
25                  try to be her mom, but I buried my girl. I

1 know what she goes through.

2 And right after baby  
3 June's trial was Kelly's trial, and I wanted  
4 somebody to be there like that, but here in  
5 my family, people think I'm the strong one.  
6 I'm not strong. I had to go through it on my  
7 own, and -- but I thank God that I have such  
8 good people that are behind us, you know,  
9 because we endured Kelly and Baby June's  
10 death and their trial. That's why we wanted  
11 to put it out there, that they -- to honour  
12 them in that sense. Thank you for listening  
13 for that.

14 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: I just have one  
15 clarification question. After the trial end  
16 was someone convicted of the neglect or the  
17 death --

18 MS. MAXINE GOFORTH: Yes.

19 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: -- of Baby June?

20 MS. MAXINE GOFORTH: Both Kevin and Tammy.

21 Because Kevin didn't let -- report his own  
22 wife, he got 15 years for manslaughter, and  
23 Tammy got life and no parole for 17 years,  
24 right? And then when they were sentenced,  
25 their -- his sister kept trying to fight us

1 and stuff, but that's nothing. You know, we  
2 wanted justice for June, and whether or not  
3 they accepted it, we got it for that baby.  
4 You know, that's what we wanted, and it tore  
5 our family apart.

6 That was devastating,  
7 very devastating because after they -- Kevin  
8 and Tammy killed June, I asked my cousin  
9 Wayne to bury Kelly because Kelly was his  
10 favourite. I was trying to get our family  
11 to, you know, heal. It didn't work, so I'm  
12 not even going to worry about other people's  
13 healing, but I'm going to be here for my  
14 niece Natasha.

15 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Can -- can we please  
16 request -- actually, no, we're going to  
17 continue, please. I know -- and thank you  
18 for sharing, and I know that wasn't easy.  
19 Based on both the loss of Kelly and the loss  
20 of Baby June, I know you have some  
21 recommendations that you'd like to share with  
22 the commissioner. If you could please share  
23 those with us now, we'd appreciate it.

24 MS. MAXINE GOFORTH: I -- I'd like to say  
25 based on Kelly and -- with Casey and with the

1           circumstances with my grandchildren, I ask  
2           that it be mandatory for all child-care  
3           agencies to make sure any child is safe, any  
4           child is not going to be -- I know you can't  
5           prevent the actions of a person, but for --  
6           for them to be responsible for the children  
7           that they're placing like in her home. Let's  
8           say make sure you're going to check on those  
9           children. Make sure they're provided for.  
10          Make sure those kids are safe because they  
11          failed us. They failed me. They failed  
12          Casey. I'm -- I'm raising him. I love that,  
13          but, you know, they could have -- it could  
14          have turned out bad, you know. I want them  
15          to make sure that these babies are left in  
16          good hands, and I don't care if it's weekly,  
17          two weeks. I don't care. Just make sure any  
18          child is safe, and like in June and Natanis's  
19          case, checked on once, and look at all those  
20          months those poor babies were starved and  
21          neglected and who knows what else, but  
22          they -- there's lots, but I -- I don't want  
23          that to happen to any more children. Make  
24          sure these workers are educated on our  
25          history, our background, intergenerational



1 effects that happened, you know, down the  
2 line.

3 My dad was residential.  
4 I am right down the line, and whether or not  
5 we know it or want to admit it, it affects  
6 our kids, our grandkids. Make sure the  
7 workers understand that. Don't just, you  
8 know, look at us as poor Indians and -- or  
9 they're addicts. Get to the background. Why  
10 are those kids in care? Reunify the  
11 families, not keep them apart. You know,  
12 why -- why don't they spend more time  
13 unifying, you know, the families? Don't --  
14 don't keep them apart.

15 Make sure these workers  
16 have those degrees, that they are registered  
17 with the social worker association. That  
18 worker wasn't even registered. She didn't  
19 even have her degree, and she's not held  
20 accountable? What -- you know why is that?  
21 Why -- or why are the workers allowed like  
22 that, and yet they're playing with the lives  
23 of so many children, and then you see all  
24 these children that are dying that are in  
25 care. What's that saying to the parents?

1           You know, they're not important? Their  
2           children aren't important? You know, that --  
3           that's what I'd like to see. That's my  
4           recommendation for the Ministry, and then,  
5           you know, in regards to the children like  
6           that or Casey, and that's all I have to say,  
7           and I thank you all for giving me the  
8           opportunity to share about my two precious  
9           babies that are in heaven, and I believe  
10          Kelly's here, and I thank you for everybody  
11          that come to sit with us and support us, and  
12          I -- I want to thank the commissioner and you  
13          ladies for the great job that you've done.

14                        I just want to say that  
15          it's time to move on, and it will never bring  
16          Kelly back. It won't bring June back. I  
17          didn't intend for that to happen, you know,  
18          after this, but I do know that hopefully my  
19          story of them will empower somebody to reach  
20          out for healing, you know. You know, it's  
21          okay to reach out, and also for the services  
22          that are involved with -- we've been  
23          fortunate in that area, and a lot of people  
24          haven't received the help or the resources  
25          that we did.



1           you shared with us is sacred, there are eagle  
2           feathers, and the matriarchs, the  
3           grandmothers in Haida Gwaii had sat in  
4           council and decided that each family member  
5           that shares this type of story needs to have  
6           a feather for strength, for courage and the  
7           sacredness of sharing your story, and, of  
8           course, they started harvesting and preparing  
9           the feathers, but, as you can guess, we've  
10          had a number of families share their story,  
11          and they made a call out, so we continue to  
12          receive feathers on behalf of families, and  
13          they're gifted to you in this way, and then  
14          there's also seeds just as a gift of  
15          reciprocity, and we just want -- the  
16          commissioners and the commission and the  
17          staff and the matriarchs, they all just  
18          wanted to thank you for sharing with us. I  
19          ask that we take the adjournment that's  
20          required until the next hearing starts, and I  
21          believe 15 minutes.

22          COMMISSIONER EYOLFSON:           Thank you. Let's adjourn  
23          this session, then, and we'll resume in 15  
24          minutes.

25          (Adjourned at 10:51 a.m.)

**CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE**

I, Shawn Hurd, CSR, Certified Court Reporter, hereby certify that the foregoing pages contain a true and correct transcription of my stenograph notes taken herein to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.



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Shawn Hurd, CSR

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