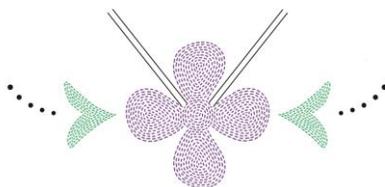


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls  
Truth-gathering process – Part I Public Hearings  
Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel  
Elmbridge Room  
Metro Vancouver, British Columbia**



***Public***

**Wednesday April 4, 2018**

**Public Volume 83:  
Lori Davis, In relation to Carol Ruby Davis**

**Heard by Commissioner Michèle Audette  
Commission Counsel: Christa Big Canoe**

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**INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.**  
41-5450 Canotek Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K1J 9G2  
E-mail: info@irri.net – Phone: 613-748-6043 – Fax: 613-748-8246

## II

### APPEARANCES

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

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Registrar: Bryan Zandberg	

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<b>Exhibits (code: P01P15P0106)</b>		
1	Single digital image displayed during the public testimony of Lori Davis.	39
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Lori Davis,  
In relation to Carol Ruby Davis

1 Metro Vancouver, British Columbia

2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 11:35

3 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Good morning. Good  
4 morning, Commissioner Audette. I would like to introduce  
5 you to our next participant, Lori Davis.

6 Lori will be sharing the story of her sister  
7 Carol Ruby Davis.

8 Before we begin, I would ask that the  
9 registrar promise Lori in.

10 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Good morning, Lori.  
11 Lori, do you promise to tell your truth in a good way  
12 today?

13 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** I do.

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

15 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, Lori, I know  
16 today that you're going to be talking to us about Carol  
17 Ruby Davis, but before we start into her story, can I just  
18 ask you a couple of questions about your background and who  
19 you are?

20 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Okay. (Speaking in Haida  
21 language).

22 My name is Lori Davis and I'm a citizen of  
23 the Haida Nation, and I'm here to speak my sister's name,  
24 Carol Ruby Davis.

25 Most of my adult life I spent working for

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1 First Nations' organizations in B.C. for the First Nations  
2 Summit and Assembly of First Nations and the Treaty  
3 Commission, and I travelled all over B.C. doing work in  
4 that area.

5 Then I left that a few years back and I  
6 became an artist -- starving artist -- but started an  
7 artists' program. And returned to school a few years back  
8 to become a programmer, web designer, technical support  
9 person.

10 And then recently to bring a lot of my  
11 visions of what I see, I went back to school again and  
12 returned to become a pattern maker. So I spend a lot of  
13 time trying to teach our youth and our -- their parents on  
14 how to make Haida designs. So I do a lot of arts stuff.

15 But I've been living in Vancouver for a  
16 number of years now. I left when -- I was born and raised  
17 in Haida Gwaii and raised by my grandparents, Carey and Joe  
18 Weir (Ph.), and my great grandparents.

19 I didn't really spend a lot of -- I spent  
20 one year out of my life with my mother and all of my  
21 siblings. So I have three brothers and four more sisters.

22 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So you had mentioned  
23 you were raised in Haida Gwaii -- born and raised in Haida  
24 Gwaii. Do you want to just tell us a little bit about  
25 Haida Gwaii? I know it sounds funny, but even the distance

1 it is from here to Haida Gwaii.

2 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Well it used to be called  
3 Queen Charlotte Island. So it's the island just below  
4 Alaska and my village is Old Massett Village. And I'm not  
5 sure why I was -- I'm not sure, but I was the middle child  
6 and my house -- at that house with my grandparents, and my  
7 mom had eight kids all together, and all of them -- I have  
8 another sister -- so family with my grandparents. So I  
9 always grew up with them.

10 My grandfather was blind. So we always grew  
11 up with our culture because they wanted to make sure that  
12 we knew it. So we always had a dance group. And growing  
13 up there -- was a small village, it's really big now.

14 I left -- my mom had left with all my  
15 siblings and -- at one point she had left with a couple of  
16 siblings at the beginning because they were too young, then  
17 left the other -- my other sisters with my grandparents,  
18 along with me.

19 And then at one point my mom had met a man  
20 and they lived together and all my siblings, she wanted  
21 them down here. So I think I was 15 when I came with the  
22 bunch.

23 And then I returned home a number of times  
24 to look after my grandma. And then she's been gone a while  
25 now, but -- sorry.

1                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So you mentioned  
2                   your three brothers and four sisters. In relation -- like,  
3                   you're the middle child, so Carol Ruby, was she the  
4                   youngest, was she oldest? What's the age difference  
5                   between the two of you?

6                   **MS. LORI DAVIS:** I was the middle child in  
7                   my grandparents' house. There were two older -- well, two  
8                   older cousins, and one other sister below me, and another  
9                   cousin below me.

10                   In my mom's house I'm the oldest and Carol  
11                   was number four. Her -- so when I came to Vancouver, her  
12                   and I shared a room, along with my youngest brother and my  
13                   other siblings across. So her and I were sharing a room  
14                   and she had been down here a couple years by the time I had  
15                   come down.

16                   So I'm the oldest, Carol's number four.

17                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So can you share  
18                   with the Commissioner any fond memories or some of Carol's  
19                   strengths?

20                   **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Carol -- I don't have a lot  
21                   of memories of her because we weren't raised together when  
22                   we were young. My memories have to do with when she became  
23                   -- when she got pregnant when she was 15. She had already  
24                   been living a pretty different lifestyle than I. And a lot  
25                   of my memories of Carol are to do with her after she became

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1 pregnant with her son and I got -- I raised her son and  
2 looked after him because he had -- he has Cerebral Palsy  
3 and he needed a lot of care and she could not do that, so I  
4 took on that.

5 When he was born, she had him baptized and  
6 she made me God Mother to him so I took that role pretty  
7 seriously, as his God Mother. And he was my first nephew.  
8 And he had a daughter.

9 So most of my memories of her are to do with  
10 her as a mother and my raising her son. I don't have a lot  
11 of memories of her as a young girl or anything because we  
12 were raised in different houses.

13 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** You had mentioned  
14 that at one point, when you were about 15, you went down  
15 with a whole bunch of your siblings to Vancouver to live  
16 with your mother and her husband at the time. Can you tell  
17 me a little bit about her husband?

18 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** He was a non-native guy.  
19 My mom had two children with him, my youngest brother and  
20 my youngest sister. And so we -- she didn't marry him  
21 right away, she married him a number of years later and  
22 lost her status through that process.

23 There was a lot of alcohol involved in that  
24 house. And I had left when I was -- I lived with my mom  
25 for a year until I was 16, then I was put in a foster home.

1 And then during that time period Carol also left and then  
2 she started living a different lifestyle and got addicted  
3 to drugs and stuff.

4 So after that period, I just -- my mother's  
5 still alive. He was very abusive to my mother, and abusive  
6 to us as well. So I was only there for a year because my  
7 grandparents had come down to get me.

8 And Carol left but she didn't stay in the  
9 foster home. She left and was in the downtown east side  
10 for the rest of her life.

11 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So you had mentioned  
12 that your mom's husband wasn't very nice to her and was  
13 abusive. How was he -- how did you treat you and Lori  
14 based on your appearance or your skin colour?

15 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** In my family, my sister and  
16 I, Carol, both -- we were darker skinned than the rest of  
17 our siblings and he always made fun of us because he didn't  
18 want anybody to know that we were native.

19 So he used to treat my sister, Carol, really  
20 terrible and say really mean things to us about the colour  
21 of our skin. And I just recall one of my biggest memories  
22 that I had of her was she felt so bad about the colour of  
23 her skin she started -- she would bath in bleach so her  
24 skin would get fair so we wouldn't be made fun of by him.

25 And I don't know, just one of the memories I

1 have of her. And she had a really hard time in her life,  
2 living.

3 (SHORT PAUSE)

4 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So it was difficult  
5 for her to live in that house to the point where she lost  
6 some of her own self-confidence and the ability to feel  
7 beautiful. But you know she was beautiful; right?

8 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Yeah.

9 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So you had then been  
10 explaining to the commissioner that, you know, when you  
11 left that house and Carol Ruby left that house, you know,  
12 you went one place in kind of one direction, and your  
13 sister went another and she found herself in the downtown  
14 east side. Can you tell me a little bit about that?

15 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** She got pregnant really  
16 young in age, she was 15 years old and she had her son.  
17 And I always knew that he really needed a lot of attention  
18 and so I spent a lot of time with her. So anytime she made  
19 money --- I didn't even know where she lived, that's the  
20 kind of life she lived. Because she was just place to  
21 place.

22 So whenever she made money, she would just  
23 show up to bring BJ to Playland or whatever and buy him  
24 what he needed. So the more money she made, the more often  
25 we would see her.

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1           And because she was a drug addict, a lot of  
2           the visits tended to be her sleeping. So she would stay by  
3           us. Then she would take B.J. out. So I would let that go  
4           because BJ didn't know what was going on with all her  
5           sleeping and stuff like that. So I allowed that -- all her  
6           visits to happen because they needed to have that relation  
7           as a mother and son.

8           So a lot of my -- a lot of her -- even as  
9           out of it as she used to be, she would always try to make  
10          sure that he always had what he needed or what he wished  
11          for. She was a good mom. When she took BJ she was a good  
12          mom.

13                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Did Carol have any  
14          other children?

15                   **MS. LORI DAVIS:** She had a daughter that was  
16          a couple years younger than BJ, and her name is Crystal.  
17          But the dad, he's Nisga'a, took her and he raised her up  
18          north. And so her -- I really don't know her, and I've not  
19          had much contact with her through the years. She's --  
20          they're both older now. But she's a mother -- I'm not sure  
21          if she's a grandmother herself, but they're all grown and  
22          everything.

23                   But Crystal lived up north for -- up in  
24          Nu'y'ant (Ph.) for most of her -- and she was with her --  
25          her dad died a few years ago and she moved down to

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In relation to Carol Ruby Davis

1 Vancouver so I don't see her often. But she's a mother  
2 herself.

3 She's never asked me about her mom, other  
4 than one of the problems I ran into with her was back in  
5 those days what they used to have was a thing called victim  
6 services and there was money involved in that process. And  
7 when I buried my sister, I paid for everything. I --  
8 nobody helped me out or -- none of my brothers, my sisters,  
9 my mom, nobody, or her -- well, their dad.

10 But -- so we he -- her, Crystal, she's  
11 phoned me a couple times because somebody had told her I  
12 got a lot of money because she was murdered. So she thinks  
13 I inherited a lot of money for -- and I spent it from these  
14 -- and did not work. The only reason -- I got very little  
15 money, and the only reason that was is because I was  
16 raising her son who has special needs. He has Cerebral  
17 Palsy, he needs a lot of attention and care. And that was  
18 the only reason they even considered my application at the  
19 time. And no matter what I told her daughter, she believes  
20 that I took a lot of money from something that happened to  
21 her mother.

22 So I don't see her often, but she sure is a  
23 splitting image of her mother.

24 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** The -- did you --  
25 could you explain to us about when Crystal -- sorry, not

1       when Crystal -- when Carol first was missing or when it  
2       came to your attention that she hadn't come to visit BJ for  
3       a while? Do you recall what happened in that time frame?

4                   **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Yeah, my grandparents were  
5       still alive at the time and I used to spend a lot of time  
6       with my grandparents until she died a few years ago. I  
7       moved home a number of times.

8                   So what happened was I was having -- I had -  
9       - BJ and I had been renting a house out in east end  
10      Vancouver and some of my friends were over so we decided to  
11      have a barbeque in the backyard. I remember it was June,  
12      in late June. And we heard a knock at the door and it was  
13      the police. And police had come to tell me that they found  
14      my sister and that she was murdered or she had died.

15                  So I went through quite a process. They  
16      didn't give me any information. And because of where she  
17      was found and dumped, was on Marine Drive between the  
18      Vancouver side and Burnaby side. Because she was found on  
19      the Burnaby side, it was the RCMP that I had to deal with.  
20      So through the years that's who I've been dealing with, is  
21      the RCMP.

22                  So when they found her, my -- I called my  
23      grandma and my grandma wanted me to bring her home to bury  
24      her on our homeland and amongst our ancestors, so that's  
25      what I did.

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1 I went shopping for her. And I didn't know  
2 the details of what had happened until the police told me  
3 what happened. What I was doing, I went shopping so I  
4 could go dress her, because I thought we were going to have  
5 an open casket and I wanted to dress her. So I went and  
6 bought all her clothes and shoes and everything so she  
7 would look nice on her journey.

8 And it was at that point -- sorry, I'm about  
9 to cry.

10 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** It's okay.

11 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** So it was at that point the  
12 police had told me the only way they knew who she was by  
13 her teeth. I guess she'd been there for a while.

14 And we hadn't heard from her. And because  
15 she lived a different lifestyle than I did, I didn't even  
16 know where to go look for her other than downtown. And so  
17 I phoned my grandma and told her. And most of the decision  
18 to bury her -- because my mom is still alive today -- most  
19 of the decision fell on me to do it, because of my grandma  
20 and my grandpa. So when I told them, because we were going  
21 to do an open casket, I had no idea -- other than the bones  
22 and teeth was really what was left of her. So that's what  
23 I did.

24 We had a ceremony for her before left,  
25 because where she lived downtown, a lot of people showed up

1 for it. And then we got ready and, you know, so we all got  
2 ready. And BJ would have been 12 years old at the time,  
3 and I think his sister was nine or so. So they all came  
4 down and flew over to Haida Gwaii to come for the funeral -  
5 - her dad and her.

6 And anyway -- sorry.

7 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Can I ask you one  
8 question?

9 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Yeah.

10 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I know that the  
11 first time you found out that you wouldn't be able to send  
12 her on her journey in new clothes was when the police  
13 explained that they could only identify her by her dental  
14 record, what did you do with the clothes anyways?

15 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** I went to the funeral home  
16 and I asked them to put it in her casket so -- no matter  
17 what she's going to go on a journey and I know she wanted  
18 to look nice. So I put everything -- I asked them to put  
19 everything in the casket for her for her journey. As long  
20 as there was something in there with her.

21 And I remember I put some -- BJ wanted to  
22 put some stuff in there too. I know he didn't know at the  
23 time what had happened, but I don't recall this, but I  
24 remember he wanted me to put something in there special,  
25 but he didn't even realize what had happened.

1                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So it's fair to say  
2 that BJ didn't quite understand and ---

3                   **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Yeah.

4                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Because when he had  
5 seen his mom from time to time when she came to visit you  
6 guys, and she'd take him out and they'd have a fun day.  
7 But he didn't see her regularly enough to understand why  
8 she wasn't coming back? Is that fair to say? Or can you  
9 explain to us?

10                   **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Yeah, she would just show  
11 up whenever she had money. And we didn't know when or  
12 anything she would show up to. Because it all depended on  
13 how much money she made. So it was ---

14                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So when you were  
15 able to take Carol Ruby back to Haida Gwaii, so you'd done  
16 ceremony done here, and she had friends and people that  
17 showed up. And then what happened when you took her up to  
18 bury her in Haida Gwaii?

19                   **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Before I left, but I won't  
20 get into that until probably when I -- end of this. I  
21 spoke to a really nice lady and then we flew home and --  
22 well, all of us flew home.

23                   And I recall, I remember I didn't call him  
24 dad, Donald was his name because I didn't know him myself.  
25 But he didn't stay for the funeral, he had to leave.

1                   And my grandparents, we had -- my  
2                   grandparents were -- I mean, she died a few years ago but  
3                   she would have been about 80, then. So they were kind of  
4                   old and stuff. So we had a really big ceremony and then I  
5                   -- in the community there with her because everybody kind  
6                   of remembered us growing up. But I was always at home with  
7                   my grandparents. They didn't -- they never really returned  
8                   after they had left. And I always brought BJ home so he  
9                   knew where he came from.

10                   And my nonny, or my grandma, really loved to  
11                   BJ a lot and so we spent a lot of time together. And so  
12                   when we got home, my grandma and her older brother, his  
13                   name was Ernest Hailtaxi (Ph.), made sure all the protocol  
14                   was in place for us to bury her in a proper burial ground  
15                   in the village.

16                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So at the time, did  
17                   anybody help you pay for any of the taking Carol Ruby home,  
18                   or the burial, or the headstone or anything?

19                   **MS. LORI DAVIS:** No. Nobody offered. None  
20                   of my brothers or my siblings or my mom or anything. But  
21                   it took me a few years to pay off her casket and stuff.  
22                   But one of the -- throughout the following years, while my  
23                   grandmother was alive, one of the problems, and I hope that  
24                   -- I think I'll do it as a recommendation at the end, but  
25                   was in my culture, you do -- you say goodbye and you have a

1 headstone, and you have a headstone move-in and all that.  
2 That never happened with my sister. But my grandmother  
3 would phone me and say your sister needs a headstone. And  
4 I felt, on my part, I had done more than my share to show  
5 my respects to my sister. So I didn't. And I said her mom  
6 is still alive and she has brothers and sisters.

7 So what ended up happening, I returned home  
8 a number of times, and I always go down and visit her grave  
9 and clean it and make sure she didn't get lost. But I  
10 haven't returned home since my grandmother died, and I have  
11 -- because she doesn't have a headstone, my cousin goes  
12 home on a regular basis, and she -- I always ask her to go  
13 please say hi to my sister for me and check on her. And  
14 because she doesn't have a headstone, they can't find her  
15 anymore.

16 So I try to describe where she is, but I  
17 think what has happened is a lot of the weeds and stuff has  
18 grown over because there's no sign of her being there.

19 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I know that at the  
20 time of Carol Ruby's murder, you described to the  
21 Commissioner that she was found just on the border side of  
22 Burnaby instead of Vancouver. Was there ever any theories,  
23 or did people have an idea of what might have happened to  
24 her? Did you see clips in the media, pictures in  
25 magazines, or articles ever?

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1           **MS. LORI DAVIS:** After she died, there was a  
2 lot of articles of -- written about Carol. At the time  
3 they believed she was number four. They had connected her  
4 to the -- at the time, was the Green River Murders. And  
5 that guy killed a lot of people. So they had thought that  
6 she was connected to that. That's down in Washington  
7 State, so they thought he had come up here and she might  
8 have been victim to him. But that turned out not to be the  
9 case.

10                           And then throughout the years, I only had  
11 one picture of Carol, because we didn't -- and that was  
12 that picture. So normally whenever they would do a story  
13 about her, they always used that picture of her. It was  
14 the one that's before you. And then when the pig farm  
15 thing happened, they thought, well maybe they'd find her  
16 there. But they already found her, but maybe she was  
17 connected to that person somehow.

18                           And, because at the time they thought she  
19 was attached to the Green River, and Maclean's magazine and  
20 those types of articles at the time had written quite a few  
21 stories about her because the Green River murder was such a  
22 big story in the United States that they kept writing  
23 stories about Carol.

24                           And I used to -- I had all of them, but I've  
25 moved a few times throughout my life and I kind of lost a

1 lot of them. So I've been trying to find them again just  
2 for keepsake and stuff.

3 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So over the years,  
4 because it's been a number of years now since you've lost  
5 Carol Ruby, what is some of the advocacy or the work you've  
6 done? At the beginning you explained to the Commissioner  
7 that you've worked with a number of First Nation  
8 organizations and other organizations. Have you tried to  
9 sort of raise issues of missing and murdered Indigenous  
10 women or your sister in any of your work capacity?

11 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Yeah. I used to work at  
12 the First Nations Summit. My whole adult life was based on  
13 politics. When -- after my sister was found murdered, I  
14 went to -- because I was working at the First Nations  
15 Summit, I approached all our leaders and it took me two  
16 years to ask them to put a resolution on the floor to do an  
17 inquiry because these women are all part of your nation,  
18 they belong -- they come from your communities and you need  
19 -- something's happening to our women and there needs to be  
20 an inquiry.

21 So the First Nations Summit did pass a  
22 resolution 25 years ago and know -- they know -- and the  
23 same people that were leaders then are still leaders today  
24 and had done nothing with that resolution. For sure didn't  
25 ever call me and ask me or talk to me about it.

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1           I was there for quite a few years after that  
2 resolution was passed and tried to bring it to the  
3 attention of other groups and stuff like that.

4           Then with the Assembly of First Nations, I  
5 worked for the B.C. region office with Satsan and we would  
6 talk about it, but I don't know why it just never, nothing  
7 ever became of that resolution that we passed at the First  
8 Nations Summit all those years ago.

9           And at that time, she was number four. And  
10 -- according to them, we don't know that for sure. So I'm  
11 not sure why or -- well I guess why nothing ever became of  
12 it, and I, you know, would bring it up. Once in a while I  
13 would phone the communications guy at the Summit and see if  
14 they're going to do an update or whatever. But I don't --  
15 I'm not aware of anything ever happening with that  
16 resolution.

17           But we have an inquiry today, so maybe.

18           **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So I understand that  
19 you did make some notes because you wanted to make sure  
20 that you didn't forget anything that you wanted to share  
21 with the Commissioner. Can I ask if you have anything you  
22 want to read to the Commissioner that you've prepared?

23           **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Yeah. I came here today as  
24 I have in all of your gatherings, to speak my sister's  
25 name. Her name is Carol Ruby Davis. She was a -- she's a

1 citizen of the Haida Nation from Haida Gwaii. We are  
2 Yuklaanas.

3 I've travelled this road since -- all by  
4 myself. I have had no support from family or friends so  
5 it's been really hard because I'm here, but I don't know  
6 why I'm here. I'm here because I don't -- because I -- I'm  
7 not even sure in my head. All I know is that I'm here  
8 because we have young people coming up, and future  
9 generations that need to feel safe in our communities, and  
10 that nothing is going to happen to them.

11 I have a niece in our culture, she's my  
12 niece through the clan system. And she told me she knows  
13 my sister was murdered, and she had told me she was scared  
14 to go out at night because she was scared something was  
15 going to happen, and you don't want your next generation to  
16 be afraid to go out.

17 So I've travelled this road, and it's been a  
18 very long and lonely road, so I can speak her name. And  
19 one of the things, throughout all these years, because she  
20 was found in Burnaby, nobody's ever asked me about Carol.  
21 Nobody's for sure never asked me about BJ. But the only  
22 people who have ever called me about her is the RCMP to  
23 tell me they have not forgotten her. They want to bring me  
24 up to date about -- I mean, nothing's going to change, you  
25 know, but that they've added her to the new data or



1 survive I was forced to understand this society normalizes  
2 its injustices against women like me.

3 With that being, I do believe that this is  
4 not just an Aboriginal problem, but global problem. In  
5 regards to recommendations, I believe that the missing and  
6 murdered Aboriginal women should be globally recognized as  
7 an epidemic and treated with the same severity. Also, for  
8 Canadian leaders to teach our history from our Aboriginal  
9 perspective.

10 Social justice plays a factor in moving  
11 forward and ensuring that history is not repeated.

12 Thank you."

13 That is Vanessa. She's a strong, young  
14 woman.

15 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And sorry, you just  
16 explained earlier that Vanessa is, like within your  
17 culture, she's your niece.

18 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Yeah.

19 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Can you just explain  
20 a little more about that? Because it was great to hear her  
21 strong words, but maybe the context would help a little.

22 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** She's -- I'm part of a  
23 dance group called Rainbow Creek Dancers headed up by  
24 Robert Davidson and Vanessa is also a part of our dance  
25 group, along with her mom.

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1 Her mom, Vanessa's -- we're all Yuklaanas.  
2 We are one of the four daughters of Charles Edinsaw (Ph.)  
3 descendant. Her great grandmother and my grand mother --  
4 great grandmother were sisters and one of the two daughters  
5 of Charles Edinsaw.

6 She participates in our dance group and  
7 she's been with our dance group since she was just a little  
8 kid. And now she, you know, she's driving around and  
9 everything, but. And her mom and as well. So we're  
10 cousins through our great grandparents and who are  
11 relatives are. And in our way, I am her auntie because  
12 she's from my clan.

13 I see Rodney -- I am his auntie in our  
14 culture because his grandparents are in my clan. I come  
15 from the biggest clan in my nature. So I have many, many,  
16 many in that way.

17 She's not a niece from any of my brothers or  
18 any of my sisters, or any of my mom's brothers and sisters.  
19 It goes to my great great grandparents from the clan  
20 system.

21 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And the clan system,  
22 and that kinship gives you an obligation, though, to treat  
23 you like a niece ---

24 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Yeah.

25 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** --- because she sees

1       you as an auntie?

2                   **MS. LORI DAVIS:** We don't have cousins in  
3       Haida culture, that doesn't exist. We're either an auntie,  
4       or a mother, or a grandmother, or a sister.

5                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** You had mentioned to  
6       Commissioner Audette that one of your big concerns, or some  
7       of the things you want to speak about is, you know, with  
8       the next generation of strong women and your nieces, that  
9       you're concerned about their safety and wellness. Is there  
10      anything you wanted to add to that?

11                  **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Yeah. Can I just tell you  
12      about the experiences I've had with all of your  
13      commissions? I would rather talk about that. That's  
14      mostly my problem.

15                  I've travelled this road for so long all by  
16      myself and it's just been really hard getting here, getting  
17      to this point today. I'm going to tell you, there's just  
18      been so many -- I've been treated so terribly by all of  
19      these places.

20                  But the one I'm going to tell you about,  
21      because you need to know and you need to fix this. I was  
22      asked to participate in Prince George meeting. Before -- I  
23      won't talk about the getting to Prince George, what I'll  
24      talk to you about is after I returned.

25                  Before I left, I saw that they were having a

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1 quilt program for names of the murdered, missing women. So  
2 I contacted the project and I said, "Are you going to add  
3 my sister's name to that?" And they said, "Well, we'll  
4 have a room in Prince George for you, so make sure to do it  
5 in there."

6 So that's what I did. I participated, I did  
7 everything. I went into the room, I spent the day there.  
8 I made a patch with her name on there. And I put on there  
9 -- so nobody ever mistook her for anybody else because on  
10 the downtown east side banners, they had been spelling her  
11 name wrong all these years. It took me 25 years to get  
12 them to change her name properly.

13 So I put on her banner, her little patch for  
14 the quilt, "Carol Ruby Davis, citizen of the Haida Nation.  
15 December 23<sup>rd</sup>, '58 to June 1987. Haida Gwaii." And did  
16 some stuff on there. And I really wasn't sure what was  
17 going -- I think this was last year now we're into.

18 So after I returned, I wasn't sure what was  
19 going to happen with this quilt, or the patches that --  
20 when I left Prince George, I left the patch with a picture  
21 of my sister.

22 Then I got an email last year, I think it  
23 was last year, after they had gone to the school and the  
24 students had put this quilt together and they send all of  
25 us -- so they obviously have my email, which is what I did,

1 I connected all the dots, gave my name an phone number to  
2 everybody. They emailed me a picture of the finished quilt  
3 that they were going to present to the Legislature in  
4 Victoria with all of the patches that all the families had  
5 made for their loved ones.

6 I went through every single patch and they  
7 didn't include my sister's.

8 I think -- I was pretty upset, pretty,  
9 pretty upset at that because they asked me to participate  
10 in this process, to come speak my sister's name. And to  
11 forget her again. So I contacted that person that sent me  
12 the email, and the picture of the quilt, and they told me  
13 they had a patch there, that all it said was Ruby, and they  
14 thought that was her. So they left her off because of  
15 that.

16 Then they phoned me back again, and I had  
17 contacted my really, really good friend and she's lawyer,  
18 and she specialized in that -- no, she's been my good  
19 friend for many years. So I contacted her, crying.

20 And then after I hung up with her, the phone  
21 rang and it was the province phoning me to apologize for  
22 doing that. And they said they remedied the problem  
23 because they had her patch in front of them and they made  
24 the assumption, without asking me, if that was okay, or  
25 even asking me if that was the same person. They just went

1 ahead and did it without ever asking me.

2 So they told me they kind of felt bad about  
3 what happened so they would like to send me a ticket to  
4 come to Victoria for the presentation. So that even made  
5 me more mad. Why did I have to go through all of that just  
6 to get an invitation? Like I'm not sure why all the same  
7 people are involved, or how you get on an invitation list  
8 or anything like that.

9 So I took them up on that offer and I went.  
10 And so what happened was because they used that original  
11 picture on all the news articles and stuff like that, it  
12 happens to be the one without her name on it.

13 And that's kind of how I've been dealt with  
14 throughout all these many processes while I come speak her  
15 name.

16 And I speak her name because we have young  
17 people, as I said, and future generations coming up.

18 You want us to participate to make it better  
19 for future generations, at least hear us and stop making us  
20 feel like we're invisible. And hear us speak their name  
21 and hear us -- stop treating -- well, that's kind of how I  
22 feel. I feel like I'm invisible because I -- you ask me to  
23 participate and then I'm not sure what happens after that,  
24 really.

25 I'm -- I try not to dwell on it too hard,

1 but the only way to make it better is to say something and  
2 make sure you tell your people that they're not doing their  
3 job and that they need to fix it. And it just -- you go  
4 through so much emotional turmoil just dealing with that  
5 aspect of being overlooked and being asked to participate  
6 in a process and then still be overlooked. So people are  
7 not doing their job along the way to make -- it just made  
8 me feel really -- I was -- so I got to Victoria for that  
9 part of the ceremony and I didn't stay very long, but --  
10 while they made the presentation and that was one -- that  
11 was the Prince George experience I had and there's a couple  
12 few other ones, but that's the one I think kind of sums up,  
13 really, how I've been treated.

14 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Can I ask just a  
15 couple clarification questions around that? You're not  
16 just talking about just any one particular process, you're  
17 talking about different processes ---

18 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Yeah.

19 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** --- that are -- that  
20 have been addressing, you know, missing and murdered  
21 Indigenous women. But is it fair to say even with this  
22 process you think there could be improvements?

23 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Big time, I think. Yeah.

24 In my mind's mind I can't come up with a  
25 recommendation until we get beyond that. If people aren't

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1       doing their job, what does it look like at the end?

2                   Like, I wasn't even sure about the quilting  
3       program. I see a lot of projects going on, and because my  
4       sister's name was spelled wrong on those banners for so  
5       many years, they used that spelling to -- that's not her.  
6       That's somebody else's name that they used. And because  
7       all the art projects that have come along in all these many  
8       years, that's what they based it on, was that spelling from  
9       that -- from those banners.

10                   And it was -- that process took me 25 years  
11       just to get them to correct her name. And I've had just a  
12       really hard time just trying to feel what these processes  
13       are supposed to be of -- like, I keep getting treated like  
14       the Prince George experience family -- or gathering or  
15       something.

16                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So that feeling of  
17       being invisible, like, with her name corrected, I know it's  
18       really important because you've said it so many times  
19       today, that you came here today to speak her name and you  
20       wanted to be clear that was her name is, and we saw it up  
21       on the picture that, you know, it's Carol Ruby Davis.

22                   And are you starting to feel a little more  
23       hurt, or do you still feel invisible?

24                   **MS. LORI DAVIS:** I think I feel a lot better  
25       because my niece, she wrote such a strong statement that

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1 she wanted you to hear how she feels. And that's why we're  
2 here. And I think her statement makes me feel a lot better  
3 because she -- because of that.

4 And so I think that gives me a little bit of  
5 hope that a young person like that would be that wise to  
6 make such recommendations to you about who she is and what  
7 she's -- her vision is as a young person.

8 Yeah, I feel better today. Sorry, I'm such  
9 a crybaby.

10 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** No, not at all. Not  
11 at all.

12 I know that you talked earlier about the  
13 fact that Carol Ruby showed up in a lot of media when they  
14 were trying to guess what was happening in her life, but is  
15 there a particular article or a piece of media that you  
16 want to talk about with us today?

17 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Something pretty amazing  
18 happened last week. I'm a computer programmer and a web  
19 designer and technical support person, so I did a lot of  
20 searches on my sister to make sure that things aren't  
21 missing and that I get stuff.

22 The day before I was returning home to bury  
23 my sister, this lady, this reporter from the Vancouver Sun  
24 had called me, I spoke of her earlier. Her name is Frances  
25 Bula. She was a young reporter at the time for the

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1 Vancouver Sun. We were going to leave the next day and she  
2 had called me and asked me if she could go and do a story  
3 for my sister. It would be 31 years ago this June.

4 And after I spoke with Crystal last week, I  
5 hadn't searched for my sister -- I hadn't done a search for  
6 her for about a year. After I spoke to Crystal on the  
7 phone, she sent me an email, she said, "Have you seen  
8 this?"

9 And this -- Frances, she doesn't work with  
10 the Vancouver Sun anymore, she has her own media group  
11 thing going now. She had written an article last year, on  
12 July -- because I would have met her in the beginning of  
13 July before I brought my sister home, so she had spent the  
14 whole day with us because we had -- we were -- I was doing  
15 the casket and everything like that. She had spent the  
16 whole day with us at my home. She wanted to do a story  
17 about Carol.

18 Last July she wrote a story and it's titled,  
19 "Carol Ruby Davis: A Heartbreaking Death, 30 Years Ago  
20 Now". And she included the original story she had written  
21 about me, and my family, and BJ on that day we returned.  
22 And when -- before I left -- sorry. So she had -- she  
23 wrote in her -- she included the original story, and she  
24 wrote:

25 "Thirty years ago, I was a rookie reporter

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1 at the Vancouver Sun. I got sent out to cover the funeral  
2 of a sex-trade worker – something we actually did back in  
3 those days when we covered so much more in the city. It  
4 was a searing experience for me. I've never forgotten it  
5 or the way Carol's family allowed me to enter their lives  
6 briefly. In Carol's honour, here it is again."

7 And she included the whole story in that  
8 write up. And she talked -- she covered the story, where  
9 we're from, and BJ and my grandparents and everything. It  
10 was just a lovely story.

11 So I tweeted her that night on Twitter. I  
12 found her story on her Twitter feed, and I tweeted her and  
13 I told her, her name is Frances, and I said, "Frances, I  
14 raise my hands to you, it's been a very long and lonely  
15 road for me, but I recall you very vividly. Thank you so  
16 much for not forgetting my sister."

17 And she got back to me within an hour and I  
18 didn't take her Twitter feed, I put it on my schedule for  
19 the next morning.

20 For over five years now I've been sending  
21 this out to Justin Trudeau, Judy, and the Inquiry, and  
22 UBCIC, all those people, National Women's Group, APTN, and  
23 all I say is I speak her name. And to all those people,  
24 Carol Ruby Davis, Haida and then my hashtag, MIW and MIWG.  
25 Not one person has ever -- except for UBC once, no one ever

1 responds.

2 So what I did was -- and I send that out  
3 everyday at 9:49 everyday.

4 And so the next morning I -- before that  
5 time, I tweeted out her handle with that original story and  
6 sent it to those people. And then she got back to me again  
7 right away and she said, "Thank you very much for that."  
8 She said, "I never, ever, ever forgot your sister. It was  
9 a story that stuck with me all these years." And I said,  
10 "Really, truly, I want to thank you for not forgetting her.  
11 I'm going to speak my sister's name next week."

12 So this morning, when I was leaving, I said  
13 -- I told her -- I said, "I again want to thank you for not  
14 forgetting my sister. I'm on my way to go speak her name  
15 and you will be part of my little story."

16 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** One of the things in  
17 the article, and if you're okay with me ---

18 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Yeah.

19 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** --- just reading  
20 this part in? That she said, and this was -- remember, she  
21 wrote this that many years ago:

22 "To Vancouver police, Carol Davis was a 'known prostitute  
23 and drug user.'

24

25 To her large family and many friends, Carol was a mother

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1       who loved to spoil her children, someone who could laugh so  
2       hard she'd just about cry, and a daughter and sister who  
3       defended and gave to her family generously."

4                She then goes on to talk about some of her  
5       artistic skills and the talent she had. And I know in the  
6       conversations you're having about feeling invisible, is it  
7       fair to say that Frances Bula, her article made you and  
8       Carol feel less invisible?

9                **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Oh, I'm a Cancer so I cried  
10       for two days after I saw this. She really touched my heart  
11       that my sister touched her and she remembered it all these  
12       years later. She made me realize that maybe we're not so  
13       alone. That somebody is out there thinking about you too.

14               So yeah, she really touched me and I don't  
15       think I'll ever forget her.

16               **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** You talk about your  
17       use of Twitter because you're a techie. When we were first  
18       talking and your explained that to me I was quite surprised  
19       because you're way more technologically advanced than me.

20               But you just also shared the fact that you  
21       put out your sister's name on Twitter. So -- but because  
22       that's one of the ways that you get to say her name  
23       everyday.

24               **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Yeah.

25               **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Would it be great if

1 more people were retweeting or tweeting that particular  
2 tweet so that her name would -- putting her name out there,  
3 saying her name I know is important to you, but is it  
4 important that other people do it too?

5 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** That's my way, yeah. I  
6 think everybody has to find their way. But tomorrow on  
7 Twitter I'm going to change that for the day, or two days  
8 maybe. I spoke her name. I spoke her name at Murdered,  
9 Missing Women Inquiry and keep it like that for a while and  
10 see how I feel along the way.

11 But for me it's been -- I'm not big on  
12 Facebook. I never -- I've not used -- I don't use it very  
13 often, but that was -- that's my thing because people are  
14 kind of really nice on Twitter. Because a lot of people  
15 around the whole world are kind of aware what has happened  
16 here. So I'm always surprised when someone from England or  
17 something sends me a tweet about it or mentions it or  
18 something. So yeah.

19 I'll continue to do that. But tomorrow I  
20 will change that context to, "I spoke." And so that's my  
21 one way to do it. So everybody has their own.

22 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I just want to make  
23 sure that we haven't missed anything before you actually --  
24 if you have anymore recommendations or anything else that  
25 you want to share with Commissioner Audette?

1                   **MS. LORI DAVIS:** I mean, I'm pretty much  
2                   done. I'm sitting here way too long. I really basically  
3                   wanted to speak my sister's name and let her know that, you  
4                   know, I'll continue to speak her name and tell -- well,  
5                   I'll speak her name because nobody else is going to. And  
6                   that she's not forgotten. Yeah, because she has a son and  
7                   a daughter. And I have a niece that -- her voice was heard  
8                   today. So I'm -- no, I'm good. I think everything -- I'm  
9                   good with that.

10                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.

11                   Commissioner Audette, do you have any  
12                   questions or comments?

13                   **COMMISSIONER AUDETTE:** Merci beaucoup,  
14                   Maître Big Canoe.

15                   Not really. Question you cover very well,  
16                   the question I was probably will -- I was going to ask.  
17                   But you did an amazing -- a bon travail. Merci beaucoup.

18                   But I knew I saw you before. And I'm glad  
19                   that we found out where it was. And it was my first,  
20                   first, first day with families. Yeah, a year and a half  
21                   ago. Yeah, yeah, yeah. September 8<sup>th</sup>.

22                   **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Yeah.

23                   **COMMISSIONER AUDETTE:** Yeah. So, and very  
24                   humble also. We never know, eh? Who's going to be sitting  
25                   with who. And I always believe there's a reason why, and

1       it was meant to be. And here I was, receiving your truth  
2       and also being able to finally put a face to, not a name,  
3       but to a -- in Quebec I educate a lot about missing and  
4       murdered Indigenous women and girls and survivors. And I  
5       always said many years ago, women went to see the Chief for  
6       a resolution because one of your sisters from here told me  
7       some advocate pushed a lot but the leadership didn't move  
8       that much, and it's you.

9                   And that for me is very, very, very  
10       important because you're part of the history that I'm  
11       sharing in the east. And now I can see a face of the  
12       person I was talking about.

13                   So I was impressed by that woman, without  
14       knowing that it was you. So I'm very, very humbled that  
15       you stood up and pushed for that resolution. Even though  
16       if it didn't go somewhere, you put that seed. You put that  
17       seed like many other women across Canada, or men did. So  
18       I'm always thankful for people like you. And you're a  
19       mentor.

20                   What is beautiful, also, in this journey, we  
21       have a place to put the name of nieces, our cousins, or our  
22       sisters. So if we can, we can officially put the right  
23       name of your sister, if you want. One day we will give,  
24       present a report. Like I said this morning, we're just a  
25       tool to make this happen. And if it's okay for you, we

1       could continue the commemoration that you're doing today  
2       for your sister, by putting Carol Ruby Davis -- Davis, in  
3       English, and her nation. And impress to here also that you  
4       took care of her son.

5                 Our men and boys are so important. They  
6       need us, I know that. I know that for a fact. And we're  
7       always nervous to see what happened to the children there.  
8       You're there for him. You were there. That's huge. Very  
9       important.

10                And not really a question, but do you feel  
11       that because the RCMP or the police is calling you to let  
12       you know where they're at, it's helping a family?

13                **MS. LORI DAVIS:** It helps me. I think I'm  
14       the only one in my family that they really call because I  
15       think on -- the only number that's pretty consistent and  
16       hasn't -- I don't change my phone number because -- there  
17       used to be one RCMP guy that never forgot the case, so he  
18       used to phone me on the reg, but I think he's retired long  
19       time ago now.

20                So there's been a couple of new ones along  
21       the way now. So it's not -- but they've not forgotten.

22                So at least at some point they do call and  
23       let me know that they've not forgotten.

24                And I know there's nothing they can do about  
25       it, but it's just the fact that they even phone to tell me

1 that they've added her to some data that's new or whatever.

2 So yeah, no, it's been an important contact  
3 for me, yeah.

4 **COMMISSIONER AUDETTE:** I noticed that in  
5 Yellowknife, or other places, when the police stay in touch  
6 with the families, or the survivor, it's -- for the healing  
7 process it's -- we see a difference, so I -- it's important  
8 what you're sharing with us. And merci. Merci beaucoup.

9 I was trying to find you on Twitter. I  
10 couldn't find you, so I'll need your help later.

11 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** HaidaPrincess.

12 **COMMISSIONER AUDETTE:** HaidaPrincess? Oh.  
13 I was under Lori Davis. There's so many Lori Davis.

14 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** I'm too old to be a  
15 princess anymore, but I'm going to keep it.

16 **COMMISSIONER AUDETTE:** Okay, okay. Bien.  
17 Merci. Merci beaucoup.

18 Merci Maître Big Canoe.

19 (Speaking in Innu language). Thank you, so  
20 much.

21 **MS. LORI DAVIS:** Howa for letting me speak  
22 my sister's name and coming before you to do that. Howa.

23 I'm sorry I'm just a bad speaker. I'm such  
24 a crybaby. I try to get over it.

25 Howa. Thank you.



