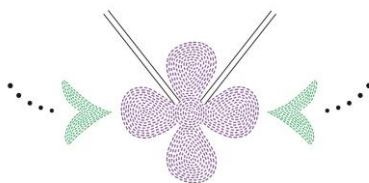


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Minoru C Room
Metro Vancouver, British Columbia**



Public

Friday April 6, 2018

**Public Volume 97:
Evelyn Youngchief, In relation to Georgina Papin**

**Heard by Chief Commissioner Marion Buller
Commission Counsel: Christa Big Canoe**

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II

APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations	No Appearance
Government of British Columbia	No Appearance
Government of Canada	Anne Turley (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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Clerk: Christian Rock	
Registrar: Bryan Zandberg	

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1 Metro Vancouver, British Columbia

2 --- Upon commencing on Friday, April 6, 2018 at 9:47

3 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Good morning, Chief
4 Commissioner. I would like to introduce you to Evelyn
5 Youngchief. Evelyn will be actually sharing a bunch of her
6 life experience and her knowledge of the Vancouver area and
7 a number of issues that Indigenous women experience in day-
8 to-day life. It's a great pleasure to introduce her to
9 you. She will be at some point today also talking about
10 the Pickton trial, for which she was a witness in. But
11 there's so many other issues that she can address and speak
12 to, so that's going to be our starting point today.

13 I kindly ask that the Registrar promise
14 Evelyn in?

15 **MR. CHRISTIAN ROCK:** Good morning.

16 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** Good morning.

17 **MR. CHRISTIAN ROCK:** My name is Christian
18 Rock and I'm the Registrar for this morning. Evelyn, do
19 you promise to tell the truth in a good way today?

20 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** I will.

21 **MR. CHRISTIAN ROCK:** Thank you.

22 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, I understand,
23 you know, it's -- you had a -- it's very nerve-wracking,
24 testifying. And so, the first thing I want to say to you
25 is, thank you for coming; thank you for sharing. I know

1 it's not easy and we appreciate you taking the time to
2 share with us.

3 So, I know, where we wanted to start really,
4 was just for you to introduce yourself and maybe your
5 supports.

6 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** You want me to
7 introduce my supports? In this corner is Juanita
8 Desjarlais, a long, long time sister from Downtown
9 Eastside, and elsewhere. This is Sheila Nyman, she's our
10 Elder, my support, but she has been working in the Downtown
11 Eastside since the '90s at the Women's Centre, like drug
12 and alcohol counselling and BWSS. And Terry Geena (phon),
13 my support since September when I did my testimony in
14 Edmonton, since I came back, she's from FILU.
15 This is Carol Martin, a really, like a best friend since
16 '93, since I first came up from Montreal. We worked
17 together at the Coalition, at Sister Watch, the Memorial
18 March Committee. So, does Juanita, run the Coalition too,
19 for MMIWG for B.C.

20 This is Rebel, this is Carol's daughter.
21 She's a student of [indiscernible] at Langara. One of her
22 daughters. It's really nice to have you here, Rebel.

23 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you all for
24 coming. Now Evelyn, I want you to be able to just
25 introduce yourself and to explain to the Commissioner some

1 of your personal background, as a starting point.

2 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** Oh, my goodness,
3 where do I start? My name is Evelyn Josephine Youngchief.
4 I come from Kehewin Cree Nation, it's north from Edmonton.
5 My dad's family is from north of Bonnyville, it was called
6 Wolf Lake Metis Settlement, but it was closed in '70. So,
7 my dad's family have settled in Chiconome Settlement in
8 Wappabish (phon). But I'm related to, like, everybody,
9 like Treaty 6 Territory, so I've got family all in northern
10 Alberta, we're spread out, got lots of family. Extended
11 family as well.

12 I grew up in -- I was on a rez, but mostly
13 in Edmonton I spent most of my life. I left Edmonton in
14 1998. I went to Montreal for five years and came straight
15 here. I went home for three months and then came back
16 here, and I've been here since '93. I was in -- I liked it
17 in Montreal, but you know, everything was fine until Oka
18 happened. Getting attacked on the street, not being safe;
19 a lot of racism; I couldn't get a job; daycare was really
20 hard to come by. And then my son got sick, he had a -- but
21 I managed, I did go to class. I took school, as much as I
22 could. I worked at the Friendship Centre for a bit, they
23 really helped me a lot.

24 I came back here -- I was here in the summer
25 of '85; I came here with a friend of mine, Nicky Pelletier.

1 And we hitchhiked from Edmonton in April 1985. We just,
2 she asked me, she says, "I'm gonna go see my mom, do you
3 want to come with me?" And I had been here a couple of
4 times in '84 and I didn't like it. Well, we came and at
5 the time, I didn't like the rain, it was too cold. We had
6 driven here twice to come and find some friends on
7 Hastings, Downtown Eastside. The first time, one came back
8 home with us; the second time we came to a friend of hers
9 to stay, and then we went home, we drove home.

10 And then in '85, that was when I came here
11 with Nicky, we had gotten a ride -- a friend of ours, Marg
12 Caddie gave us a ride to Highway 16 West and we got a short
13 ride to Edson and then from Edson we caught a ride with
14 these truckers. And I remember that we stayed awake till
15 we got to Cache Creek. And it was cold, it was April. And
16 I only had a jean jacket on and those black jelly sandals,
17 because I was with my boyfriend, that's all I grabbed was
18 my jean jacket and my status card, I didn't have nothing
19 else.

20 So, when we got out of that truck -- well,
21 the reason why we got out of the truck was, my friend had
22 crawled into the back and the guy was getting -- he was
23 being rude. He was complaining about all this, and she
24 said, "We don't need to be here, we can leave." But
25 anyways, we left, we got out of the truck, and they just

1 left.

2 So, we walked and walked and walked, all
3 night, freezing cold. And it was like maybe a couple of
4 hours later we finally got a ride. So, we were getting
5 short rides. And when we got out at New West and it was
6 daylight. And I was like, wow, it was April, it was real
7 nice. We ended up walking from New West and there was no
8 SkyTrain yet, and I remember my friend telling me, "Oh yeah
9 look, there's Oakalla." And I went, "Oh, I get to see the
10 famous Oakalla."

11 And we walked from there all the way to
12 Pandeera Belle, which is at Hastings -- no, Commercial
13 Drive and Pender, to her mom's. From that spring, I stayed
14 here for eight months. My friend lived a different
15 lifestyle than I did. Like her mom helped us get an
16 apartment and Alcord (phon) and Lukard (phon), at 3rd, on
17 Commercial, and she just lived a different lifestyle than
18 me.

19 Like, I would play baseball, I got to know a
20 lot of people, I had my own friends. And our apartment was
21 empty. It was like, it had a small black and white TV, and
22 we hardly seen each other. So, I got involved with -- I'd
23 go play baseball, I'd go to the beach. And I remember I
24 met John Turvey; and John Turvey is the guy that opened up
25 the first needle exchange in North America. And he used to

1 hand out condoms and needles, and that was it. And
2 chocolate bars.

3 And I got to know him, thought they were
4 street workers, they were front-line street workers. And I
5 remember this one day, I was going to Strathcona Park, we
6 were going to a baseball game. And John calls me and he
7 goes, "Come Evelyn, I've got to show you something." And
8 he takes me to the corner of Columbia and Cordova, which is
9 across the street from the Women's Centre now, but it used
10 to be -- before it was Crabtree it was just a building and
11 he had an office space in there.

12 And I go in, and I'm drinking my Pepsi and
13 I'm sitting in this room. And I see this great big poster
14 board, and I'm looking and, woo. So, he tells me, he
15 goes, "This is what I wanted to show you." And I'm
16 looking, and he's explaining to me that it was in
17 Washington, the greener vertillas (phon) and I'm looking at
18 all these pictures and the names.

19 And it just hit me, I thought, "Oh, wow,
20 these women are missing and murdered." And John's telling
21 me that he was driving into Vancouver a lot, but at that
22 time, because it was '85, they were just slowly working on
23 it. So, that's when I started -- I was 24, that's when I
24 said, that's when I was more aware of -- more aware of my
25 surroundings. And I thought, wow, I'm in a city where you

1 don't even know half the people -- half the people you meet
2 don't even come from this city, right? You don't know
3 where they come from, you don't know anything about their
4 background. You've got to be careful who you talk to.

5 So, I was, I just kept my circle small. I
6 stayed there for eight months. I ended up getting sick in
7 the wintertime; I got pneumonia, and I got so sick. So, a
8 manager at the Regent comes from my hometown, Bonnyville.
9 I was in the lobby one day and I was getting a pop and I
10 was in there talking to somebody -- at that time it used to
11 be nice, not like it is now. And I told him, I said, "I
12 don't get welfare, I don't got a job, and I'm really sick."
13 And I says, "I'm not going to call them for money." So, he
14 says, "I'm going to help you out." He says, "Here's a key,
15 you can stay in this room, get welfare; get better, go to
16 the doctor, and then when it's time for you and you want to
17 go home, go home." And I said okay, so that's what he did.

18 I was in that room for about a week. I was
19 so sick. I had to eat at Carnegie and some friends would
20 bring me towels. I got better, and I went home. I met a
21 friend of mine and we went to Regina. And I didn't like
22 Regina. And it started snowing. It was because -- he
23 lived by the golf course and he lived in this big house,
24 and I don't know, I just felt out of place. They were
25 white.

1 So, I was going to take a bus to Saskatoon
2 and from Saskatoon home, to Edmonton. And he goes, I'm
3 such an impatient person, I said, I've got to go to
4 Saskatoon. And I could have went to families, but I know
5 I've got to go home.

6 So, again I went to the highway; I got a
7 ride to the highway. And I hiked home, and it was night
8 time. I was walking and it was getting late. And of
9 course, the side of the road has got lots of snow, right.
10 So, I carefully -- if I don't feel safe and something's
11 coming, I can't just hide, right? So, I was -- what I did
12 was, I went to the other side of the highway, so this way,
13 when cars were coming, they'd be coming this way and not
14 right towards me.

15 So, I went to the other side of the road,
16 and when I seen somebody coming, I remember seeing the big
17 truck, it was the only one coming. So, he gave me a ride,
18 and he was really, really nice. And he dropped me off at
19 the Husky just outside Edmonton. And he gave me -- he
20 actually was going inside to eat, and I said, "No, I got to
21 go, I got to go home." And it was -- I had just enough
22 time to catch a bus from the south side. And it was way
23 out there on the Calgary Trail, but I made it home. I went
24 to my friend's. And I always kept that John Turvey thing.

25 So, I stayed home for the year of '85, '86,

1 '87. And in '88, because I was on Boyle Street all those
2 years, it was time for me to leave. I had to go. So, a
3 friend of mine, a Korean friend of mine -- they were going
4 to Montreal. And I said, "Okay, I'll go to Ottawa. I want
5 to visit Ottawa. I'll leave for a while," I thought. So,
6 the day that we were leaving, I didn't say goodbye to
7 anybody, I used to be like that, I'd just go.

8 And we left and -- we had to get his car,
9 register his insurance, and I kept thinking, should I do
10 this, should I do this? So, we left, and we went to
11 Montreal. And when we got there, I didn't want to come
12 back. I thought, no, I like it here. I ended up -- my
13 boyfriend was white, he was adopted and lived in Dorval.
14 So, our friend Seto that was Korean was coming back to
15 Edmonton, he was coming out West. I missed my ride with
16 him, because my boyfriend did that. He kind of, like, he
17 didn't tell me that he was somewhere, so I kind of like got
18 abandoned. I felt like that. But I always make it
19 anyways. So, I was really mad at my boyfriend, I was like,
20 "Oh my God, I can't believe you did that."

21 So, we went to his dad's house. And he was
22 adopted and his sister let us in, so we were there for the
23 weekend. And we were there for one night, his dad came
24 home from the beach or something, and he asked us to leave.
25 And he said, "You guys can stay tonight because of her, but

1 you have to leave tomorrow." And I was like, I'd leave
2 right now if could, if I knew where I was going. But I
3 said okay, so we spent the night and in the morning got
4 ready.

5 And we're sitting at this nice kitchen table
6 and he's not talking to us. And he gives us each one bus
7 ticket and gives us a ride in the car and drops us off at
8 Atwater Park, across from the Forum. And my boyfriend was
9 freaking out, and I said, "What are you freaking out about?
10 You have family and friends here." So, I was, oh, I guess
11 I've got to find a Friendship Centre or something, but I
12 wanted to walk.

13 And he was complaining all day, it was a hot
14 August day. So, I made him walk. So, we were walking, I
15 said we've got to find a phone book. And I managed to find
16 a Friendship Centre phone number, I wrote it down; but I
17 still wanted to walk. I thought, it's closed at 5:00, so
18 we go walking first. And I walked on St. Catherine Street
19 from Atwater all the way up to St. Laurent, I don't even
20 know why I chose St. Laurent, it's the most horrible place
21 ever. But we walked all the way there, because I wanted to
22 get to know the area.

23 And then I said, okay, now we're going to go
24 up a hill and walk all the way back down, and then we're
25 going to walk up another hill to the Friendship Centre.

1 And when I got to the Friendship Centre, I didn't know I
2 had to go to the front door. There was a door, the kitchen
3 door. And I knocked on a door and I peeked in, and there
4 was this guy at the kitchen sink. And he was my new friend
5 Miles, he was from Saskatchewan. And he says, "Come on
6 in!" and he gives us coffee. And I was like, "Wow," I go,
7 "I'm okay now."

8 So, we ended up staying in different
9 shelters. It was like, I was like -- I ended up getting a
10 job there. I ended up -- they wouldn't accept my status
11 card at the welfare office, they said it wasn't Canadian
12 ID. So, I let it go, and I thought, okay, I'll wait three
13 months. And so, I went back to the Friendship Centre and
14 one of the people that worked there was named Doreen
15 Stevens, she goes to Miawaki (phon). And she says, I'm
16 going away if you want to house-sit. So, I said sure, so
17 we house-sat for two weeks. And then, I needed to go off
18 on my own. So, I went to go stay at the Salvation Army by
19 myself. I needed to get on my own.

20 And I went to the Salvation Army and from
21 there I started doing stuff with the Friendship Centre, I
22 got a job, I started doing this. And I didn't want to come
23 home. And then I started meeting people that were from
24 Calgary, from Edmonton.

25 Then I met my dad, my son's dad, and to

1 Verdun. Still worked at the Friendship Centre, Verdun is
2 like 15 minutes by Metro from downtown Montreal. So, I
3 lived in Verdun. Then I met a neighbour, babysat for her;
4 she was Mohawk and Irish. And that's how I met people in
5 Kahnawake, so I had some really good friends. I would take
6 a cab out there, I'd send for a cab and then I'd go to the
7 reserve and spend a weekend playing Mohawk bingo and
8 getting to know my friend's family.

9 It was really nice, actually, she lived
10 right under the Mercier Bridge, a little bit over. And
11 when we drove in a cab, we had to go through the warrior
12 check-stop and stuff, I thought it was actually cool. And
13 I went to the -- they had some kind of learning centre
14 there, a Mohawk learning centre. I really liked it, and it
15 was nice to get away from the city to go there, it was my
16 getaway.

17 I stayed in Montreal for five years, in
18 Verdun, and I had such a hard time after the Oka crisis.
19 Always getting attacked, always getting called a Mohawk and
20 -- and I would ignore it, because it's just better to walk
21 away. A lot of violent things happened to a lot of my
22 friends. Like, Doreen got her hair cut; she has long hair
23 down past, like, really long, and someone came and took the
24 middle of her hair and cut it, on a platform.

25 For me, in Verdun, I felt safe because I

1 knew all the people in my area where I lived. I was
2 careful where to travel, where to go.

3 I remember when I had to come home. Hang
4 on. When I had to come home, it was 1993, I finally came
5 home, I had enough. I said, "I finally had enough, I can't
6 take this no more, I got to go, I got to go home." And I
7 came home, came with some friends, all French. I went to
8 say goodbye to my friend in Kahnawake; came driving all the
9 way to -- it was a long ride, but it was so nice to come,
10 just to come home.

11 And we stopped at -- we got stuck outside of
12 Winnipeg, between Carberry and Winnipeg the van broke down.
13 So, some passers-by stopped and the tow truck came. We got
14 towed into this small town, and the whole town came out to
15 see us. Like, we're at the gas station. And all these
16 people came to look at us, like there was something wrong
17 with us. My friend is French and Newfie, she's got red
18 hair and freckles, she's tall; and then these two white
19 Acadian friends.

20 And I remember, it's Manitoba, right? So,
21 I'm like, isn't there any Indians coming by the gas
22 station, I was thinking, right? Because we got stuck there
23 and we had to wait for the bus. And people were like, kept
24 looking at us and stuff. So, I thought, wow. So, I said,
25 "Come on, let's unload the van, take what we can take."

1 And that's what we did, we just left everything there.

2 And we got on a bus, finally, and we got to
3 Brandon. And I got off the bus and made a phone call. And
4 they said no, they couldn't help us, because I admitted
5 that I had money. And I said, "Well gee, I should have
6 lied," but I didn't. And that's what the police told me.
7 And my son was sick and we had -- I have an aunt that has
8 family outside of Brandon. But it was late, maybe nine
9 o'clock, ten o'clock at night. And I thought, if I can't
10 get in touch with them, there'll be nowhere for us to go.
11 So, I thought, let's just keep going.

12 So, we made it to Regina. And it was so
13 nice to get home to the Prairies. And we got to the bus
14 depot and I went to the pay phone right away and I called
15 the number that was on the wall and some really nice ladies
16 from some shelter, a Native shelter in the North End, I
17 forget the name. But they came to get us. So, the two
18 guys went to Salvation Army; me and my friend and my son
19 went to the shelter, and the ladies picked us up. So, we
20 stayed at the shelter for the weekend. And it was, like, I
21 could relax and listen to the doctor.

22 Then it was a couple days later, I had a
23 choice. I go, "I can call home to Alberta and get someone
24 to come pick me up, or, I can keep going with these guys to
25 Vancouver." But I didn't want to stay in Alberta.

1 Alberta's a very racist province; that's one of the reasons
2 why I left, and that's why I didn't raise my son there.

3 So, we got to Calgary. I was at the Calgary
4 bus station and I was pacing, I was pacing. I was going
5 back and forth outside the bus, "Okay, should I go home,
6 should I go to Vancouver, should I go home?" And something
7 told me, just go to Vancouver, you'll be better off going
8 to Vancouver. So, I got back on that bus and we came to
9 Vancouver. But when we got to our friends' friends on East
10 Van, at East 5th by -- across the street from Mt. Pleasant
11 School -- and it so happened that it was a French,
12 everybody was French.

13 Nathalie still got an apartment right away,
14 but that first night I didn't want to stay there, because I
15 didn't like the people, because they were drinking and I
16 just wanted to rest. I said, I don't want to be here. So,
17 we made a phone call and they put us at Vi Fine Day in the
18 West End on 12th.

19 So, me and my friend grabbed my son, we took
20 off in a cab. We went over there, and we were sleeping --
21 my friend was sleeping in the bed, my duffel bags were
22 between our bed, and I was sleeping with my son. And four
23 o'clock in the morning, these women come in our room, and
24 they start digging through our bags. So, I wake up and I
25 go, "What are you doing?" And she says, "Well, we gotta

1 look through your bags." "Why didn't you look through our
2 bags when we first got here, why do you got to do it while
3 we're sleeping?"

4 And so, she left and I thought, what were
5 they looking for anyway? So, from there, the next day, we
6 went, paid our rent. Anna didn't like Vancouver, so she
7 went on to, that French guy she met on the bus, she went
8 off with him to Saanich, and I thought, geez, you don't
9 even know the guy. I says, "You better keep in touch."
10 But they eventually went home to Quebec. Everybody went
11 back to Quebec.

12 So, when I first stayed here, I had that
13 apartment on East 5th, and right away it was like, the only
14 resources I'm going to get is Downtown Eastside. So, I
15 went to Downtown Eastside and I found Crabtree, and that's
16 the day that I met Carol, she worked at Crabtree before the
17 Women's Centre.

18 And Crabtree is -- it's for families.
19 Crabtree Corner has the daycare for children up to six
20 years old; and they had programs; the transgendered were
21 allowed to be in there, which was, you know, it was really
22 nice when they used to be there, because they had so much
23 respect. And somebody eventually locked the door on them.

24 There was all kinds of programs, they had a
25 respite program, they had the daycare, they had outings.

1 So, it was good for me, I had daycare, I was able to get a
2 place. I worked with -- there was this one man, his name
3 is Doug Kellam, he was from DERA at the time -- he's the
4 one who helped me get my place. He just helped me along so
5 much. So, eventually I moved -- where did I move first....

6 That East 5th, and then we moved to
7 Commercial Drive. And I remember, that was the year, when
8 we first came here was February 6th, 1993. And so, in July,
9 all those months, I was moving around. But, finally, I was
10 at this one place, I was in Salisbury and -- it's East Van
11 -- and I was living at this apartment. And I started going
12 to school, I was taking classes, put my son in daycare.

13 And it was just at the beginning, this was
14 '93; and yes, there was a lot of crazy stuff happening, but
15 it wasn't -- I don't even know how to explain it, but it's
16 just like, stuff was happening, but we weren't really sure
17 what was going on. We were just going on with our lives,
18 right, like Downtown Eastside is so busy. It used to be
19 safe where we could actually take our kids to Carnegie,
20 right at the Community Centre, kids could play, kids could
21 eat there, play at the basketball court. It was safe. It
22 used to be where you'd see a lot doing needles outside, it
23 wasn't like that. And Oppenheimer Park used to be safe,
24 the parks were safe.

25 It was about -- when we moved to Strathcona

1 it was '94; I lived there for five years. My son was a
2 latchkey kid, at Ray-Cam. My son was a latchkey kid at
3 Ray-Cam; he got picked on, he got picked up from school,
4 and he got dropped off from a van every day.

5 Many of the sisters came to stay at my
6 house, often, and most of them are gone. I wasn't even
7 going to get into that yet, I'm gonna save that for later,
8 I want to come back to that.

9 I'm going to go back to -- I just found out
10 on Monday, last Monday, I just finished talking to Project
11 Even-Handed, and I had asked them in February about -- in
12 '87, they're saying '86, but I'm pretty sure it's '87 -- in
13 Edmonton, I was living at 9209 Jasper Avenue. And my aunt
14 stopped in to pick me and my boyfriend up. And we were
15 going out to her reserve, at Cold Lake First Nations. And
16 we usually stopped at the reserve, but my aunt had to go.
17 So, nobody knew that I was going in my van.

18 So, the next morning, this RCMP pulls up in
19 the yard. And he told me that -- he asked my aunt to come
20 over, to confirm who I was. So, I went over and I said,
21 yeah, that's me. And he had my status card and a
22 clipboard. And he starts telling me, I said, "Why do you
23 have my status card?" And he says, "They found a girl --
24 they found a dead girl in a field in Saskatchewan." Just
25 like that. And I thought, what does that have to do with

1 me, right? And he says, "We found your status card on
2 her." And he wouldn't look at me.

3 So, I started asking questions right away.
4 I go, "Well, who was she, how old was she, where did she
5 come from?" Like in my head, who did she leave behind?
6 And he wouldn't give me that information, he wouldn't tell
7 me anything. And so, I asked him if I could have my status
8 card back and he said no. And I said, why? And he said "I
9 can't." And that was it. Nothing was, I've never ever
10 asked about it, it's always been there.

11 So, now, I get a call last Monday and I got
12 told. So, now, for me, I know who she is. She got killed
13 -- this is it, he won't tell me if it's in Saskatoon or if
14 it's out of Saskatoon. So, I don't know if it's RCMP or
15 city cops, but I will find out. And her name was Laura
16 Henekue (phon). I have no idea who she is, where she comes
17 from, but the Henekue name is a Saskatchewan name, a
18 northern Saskatchewan name.

19 And what gets me is, the ID found on this
20 Laura Henekue, the killer was charged and convicted -- I
21 don't know who that person's name is, because they won't
22 give it to me; I'll find out anyway. And I guess, like, it
23 tees me off, because here's my name, my ID, my status card;
24 my name is mentioned at a murder trial in 1987 and I'm only
25 finding out 31 years later. And now I know who she is,

1 right? Like, I'll let it go for now, but I'd like to know
2 who this person is who did it. And why they couldn't just
3 give me back my status card. They could have told me more,
4 right?

5 So, that's one thing out of the way. My
6 goodness. Ask me something.

7 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Before you told that
8 story about Laura, you were telling us about being in
9 Vancouver and some of the organizations and stuff. And so,
10 I was wondering if you'd carry on a little bit from there.
11 Because I know that you've introduced with your supports,
12 you've done a lot of work, or have worked with a number of
13 the community organizations. So, it's really good for you
14 to give us that context.

15 But what were some of the other issues that
16 were happening in the Downtown Eastside around that time,
17 that you're aware of? I know that you want to talk to us a
18 bit about some of the issues that come up on the streets,
19 such as drugs and fentanyl, but I want you to be able to
20 tell your narrative in your way. So, maybe if we can go
21 back to your time in Vancouver? Because you were telling
22 us about all the great things you were able to access. But
23 what were some of the key issues at that time?

24 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** From when?

25 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** From the time period

1 when you were first here, and you were telling us, back
2 into the '90s. I think you were around '94, the last part?
3 Yeah, 1994, you were around 1994 you were talking about.

4 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** Okay. There's so
5 many. In '93 when I first got here, the Barber Killer from
6 the Regent Hotel, he lived there. There are some of the
7 women, and some from the Prairies that lived there. He
8 would drink with them and usually used to use vodka. And
9 he would -- he would drink with them.

10 He would drink with them until they died.
11 He forced them to drink. Of course, they'd be sitting up,
12 they'd be drinking. And he would take that whole bottle of
13 vodka and he would just pour it down their throats, till
14 they were dead. And it was -- you know, just because it's
15 so many of them, I can't even say all the names. It's just
16 -- there's a few. And you know, he died in jail, but there
17 are so many. I know I can't, I can't go upstairs in the
18 Regent, there are so many women that we lost, just in that
19 hotel.

20 And then we have a sadistic man named Morris
21 -- I hope he never gets, no, Malcolm. I hope he never gets
22 out. He was very abusive. Very, like, confinement, you
23 name it. I don't know any of the women he did that to, but
24 it was one of my friends, Micelle, that was coming out of
25 the -- it was the Regal or the Crown Hotel, it's up near

1 Cambie. And she was coming out of the hotel and she heard
2 this really loud screaming, like, crazy screaming. And it
3 really bothered her.

4 So, she came running out, she was running
5 down the street, because she heard that. You know, that
6 cry, right? And screaming. So, she came running down the
7 street, she was looking. And of all the cops that she came
8 across, there were the Hitler Boys, I don't know their real
9 names, we just know them as the Hitler Boys -- and she went
10 running up to them and she says, "Guys, you gotta go up
11 there, guys, go check!" And so, they went up there and
12 they kicked the door down, and she was chained. Whoever
13 this person was, was chained to the -- old bathtubs, iron,
14 you know, the ones at the bottom, that's where she was
15 chained to.

16 So, they saved her. So, he's been gone
17 since, I don't know, 2003 he's been inside? So, I hope he
18 never gets out.

19 I have a friend of mine from home. When I
20 lived at 251 Union Street, Apartment 506. It was Christmas
21 Eve, 1995. I'm the type of person that, because I live
22 four blocks from Hastings, shotgun from Chinatown -- I used
23 to go to the bars to give everybody hugs and kisses, okay,
24 I'm staying home today, it's Christmas Eve, I'm going to be
25 with my son. And I remember walking, going to the Regent,

1 Merry Christmas and all that, and I ran into my friend
2 Pearl Bline (phon), and she comes from Buffalo Lake Metis
3 Colony. And she had been there because her sister -- and
4 it was the life.

5 She was in a coma and someone pulled the
6 plug on her and she was upset, because she was not there,
7 and she was in a bar. And so, I said, "You can't stay here
8 by yourself, you got to come home with me." So, she did.
9 So, we went. She was drinking, I was wrapping presents, we
10 were having a really good night. And I don't have a phone.
11 There's an Elder that's in my building, he's a veteran; he
12 still lives there. She says, "I'm going to go say Merry
13 Christmas and have a beer with him." I said okay. And I
14 had to sleep. And so, I went to bed.

15 I said, "I'm going to leave the door
16 unlocked for you." And so, I went to bed, and it was about
17 eight o'clock she came down in the morning, Christmas
18 morning. Christmas Day, 1995, and she says to me, "I'm
19 going to go across to Alnie (phon), a block over to the
20 Pacific Hotel. I'm going to go up to my sister's room and
21 start packing my stuff to take home now." So, I said
22 "okay, you know where I live now. I'll see you later." She
23 says, "Yeah, I'll come and see you before I go."

24 And that's the last time I seen her, because
25 someone kicked her to death in a stairwell. And I didn't

1 find out till August '98, I was in Lac La Biche, which is
2 by Kikino where my dad and them live. I was walking down
3 the street, I was walking by the laundromat, and one of my
4 friend's that has gone now, too -- but I grew up with her,
5 I grew up with her with that family in the city, in
6 Edmonton -- her and her little sister were in there. I was
7 so happy to see them, because it had been years.

8 So, she told me this, she said that's what
9 happened to Pearl. And this was three years after, I found
10 out. So, because I always wondered, she didn't come by to
11 say bye. Because our friends, our sisters, anybody -- when
12 they come from the Prairies, they always leave word with
13 someone. Always, it doesn't matter if it's a home, the
14 bar, the street -- they will tell you where they are going,
15 who they're going to be with. You know, if they're going
16 to hitchhike home, or if they're going to get a ride or
17 taking the bus, right?

18 So, you always keep that, okay, why didn't
19 she say goodbye, where is she? Because Pearl, when I was
20 here in '85, that same summer I'm talking about, we had a
21 big crowd of people, like, they were all roofers.
22 Everybody worked, right, everybody had jobs and we all hung
23 out at the Columbia. It wasn't about drugs; it was
24 drinking and having fun, you know. So, I was around a lot
25 of people from home. And Pearl was one of those people, in

1 '85. And I took it really hard when I found that out,
2 because it happened, you know, I'm living here, just kitty-
3 corner, just over by the alley. So, I didn't know it had
4 happened so close to home, right?

5 New Year's Eve in 2000 -- wait a minute; New
6 Year's Eve 2001 -- I wanted to run from -- it was just
7 before I went on a run that night. Actually, that was
8 Christmas. I was at these blue buildings, at the welfare
9 office, at Powell and Main Street. I was with my boyfriend
10 at that time and some other people. I don't even know why
11 I was going there, but I had to go over there, he was going
12 in to see someone. And I was standing on the street. And
13 I was standing there, waiting, because I had to go to the
14 SkyTrain.

15 And I remember seeing -- I'm not even sure
16 of her name, because she has such a long last name. She
17 was from Saskatchewan. I'm pretty sure her first name is
18 Crystal; she was a really beautiful young girl. She was
19 standing there with all these people and there was a bunch
20 of boards in front of me, and I remember saying Merry
21 Christmas to everybody. But you know, nobody was really
22 paying attention, so I was standing there watching all
23 these people. Everybody's talking, people going inside, so
24 my boyfriend and a friend of ours left, and I remember
25 turning around and saying, I was waving at them, she was

1 saying bye to me. And it was that same week, that same
2 week they found her in a duffle bag, in Strathcona.

3 And where they found her -- I didn't find
4 out right away, it was a few days, news travels fast -- but
5 because I wanted to run, I wasn't around everybody, I had
6 to hide and stuff. So, it was a couple days later, I found
7 out after New Year's. And I remember going, "Oh, my God, I
8 just seen her Christmas Eve, what the heck...."

9 And another time was Christmas Day, 2000,
10 the same thing happened to April Reoch. They found her
11 body in a duffle bag. It's either -- Pennsylvania's at the
12 corner, they've got the fire escape in the back. And then
13 there's Tellier Tower, so I don't know which one it is, but
14 I'm pretty sure it's the Pennsylvania. And that was a
15 really hard one to take, because the Odd Squad took really
16 good care of her. You know, she came there young, she
17 comes from Squamish.

18 And the trouble with a lot of the people
19 that get large amounts of Christmas bonuses, especially
20 around here -- when they come Downtown, they're very
21 vulnerable. So, us, we think that's what happened; she had
22 a lot of money on her at that time and we're able to
23 remember her through videos from Odd Squad. They took
24 really good care of her. One of my best friends, Jeff,
25 that was his first girlfriend. They come from Squamish; I

1 still see him, my buddy Jeff, I buy a pizza every now and
2 then when I see him. Because, like, me and him, it's like
3 a connection still. Because so many of the girls that are
4 April's age are gone, they're gone now.

5 So, many, so many I can talk about, but I
6 don't want to jump from year to year.

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

9 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** Ashley Machiskinic,
10 my friend, our friend. Cheryl's daughter -- but I'm close
11 friends with the grandma, Gladys. And in 2010 -- it's
12 either September, yeah, September 2010. It was on the
13 fifth floor of the Regent Hotel, in the back. Someone
14 threw her out the window. And I say that, we say that,
15 because she went out the window and then her shoes went
16 after her, right after her. And Carol was coming home from
17 work, from the Women's Centre and she was walking up the
18 street. And someone came and got her, she was the one that
19 seen her take her last breath.

20 And then a year later, 2011, a good friend
21 of ours, Verna Simard -- and Verna is -- with Ashley,
22 Ashley was like 21 or 22. I didn't get a chance to know
23 Ashley that much, because I wasn't around those years that
24 much Downtown, so I only got to meet her once or twice,
25 with her mom. But she was really good friends with a lot

1 of our little sisters, like a lot of our front-line workers
2 were really good friends with her.

3 With Verna Simard, Verna worked as a
4 waitress, a bar waitress, for many years. And she fell out
5 the window on the seventh floor, upstairs. You know, we
6 don't know if it was an accident, we just know it's tragic.
7 Because she took care of a lot of people, she was just
8 loved. And you know what, I never seen -- with Verna, it
9 was like -- she was always around, she had a lot of
10 friends.

11 This is why I created Families of the Heart.
12 It was a couple of years ago at our B.C. Missing Women
13 Coalition, when everyone was talking. I had said, no
14 disrespect to the families, but you know, we knew them even
15 more than their own families did. They got close to us,
16 they could tell us anything. You know, I understand what
17 it's like to be away from family. Just, you know, you do
18 your own thing. So, a couple years ago that's what I did,
19 I was, on my transcript -- I'm not going to talk about it
20 right now, though -- with my transcript, there's not just
21 Georgina on there from the Pickton thing. There's a lot of
22 names on there, but I'm not going to talk about that right
23 now, though.

24 So, that's what I was thinking about at the
25 table that day, I was going, "At some point I'm going to be

1 speaking about this, but because I'm not family -- like how
2 am I gonna do this?" So, that's what I said. I mentioned
3 it, I said, so that's how the Families at Heart became, and
4 it was Fay Blaney that kind of helped me along.

5 And so, with me, I can talk about any of my
6 friends that are still missing, that are murdered, the ones
7 that are incarcerated, the ones that are too shy to talk,
8 or are too afraid, right? So, this is what that is. And
9 then any one of them can do that, and it carries on.
10 That's -- I just thought that was the best way that we
11 could get it all out there. Because not all of us are able
12 to come here today to speak.

13 You know, some of our friends have given up.
14 It's hard, because you know, the registration is just too
15 much, I'm not going to get into it. And I wish they could
16 be here to share, because all of us at -- this is, you
17 know, we had it the worst. It's been a really, really,
18 really long -- 26 years? We have gone through so much
19 without anybody listening to us. Ignoring us. It's, like,
20 forget about them. Nobody ever asked us if we were okay.
21 And the work that we do, like on ourselves and people
22 around us -- nobody ever asks us if we're okay.

23 But we're used to it. I didn't think I was
24 going to cry today. I'm not a crier.

25 With the aging out of the kids out of care,

1 that's a really hard one. Because I just finished talking
2 about it at our Sister Watch Town Hall meeting, where you
3 know, there's three generations of family members out
4 there, where there's the grandmother; and then there's the
5 mother; and then a child ages out of care. Where do they
6 find their mom? They want to be with their mom, or family.
7 There's lots of families. And these kids end up and they
8 follow in their footsteps. And then there's nowhere for
9 them to go. Or then there's the ones that age out of care
10 and they get put into hotels.

11 I had a rough week there a couple of weeks
12 ago. I met a young person that just aged out of care. And
13 the first time he met his mom, she had a needle in her arm,
14 at InSite. And when these young ones tell you that they
15 spend their life in care, with the same people, and those
16 people will tell you the worst, horrible things about your
17 biological mother: to hate your family, to make them feel
18 really bad about them. That they never loved you, they
19 never cared about you. And so, you meet these kids and you
20 tell them that's not true, there's always someone there for
21 them, and they don't know, those people have no right to be
22 telling them that. There's always a family member that
23 will take someone in.

24 And now this person I'm talking about died.
25 Died alone. And that's what that does, so. That, for the

1 past two weeks, that's been really heavy. I only got to
2 meet this person three times and you know, in the work that
3 we do, we do get attached. There's no such thing as -- you
4 do get attached, right? Because that person gets close to
5 you and they trust you. And our kids are -- we're losing
6 our kids on Hastings and in Van City, like, they're getting
7 younger and younger and younger. And it's really hard to
8 watch, because they're out there killing each other.
9 They're killing each other.

10 And it's not cool that there's no housing
11 for them, there's no support for them, there's nothing.
12 They come out of care and there's nothing. There's the
13 street and that's it. They get, you know, they're 18,
14 they're 19, and they really need to extend that, they need
15 to get them some help. And people who run these groups and
16 try to keep everything in the Downtown Eastside, you know,
17 take it out of there. Why does it have to be down there?
18 Why do they gotta stay there and see all the misery? You
19 know, why do they want to put them there, close by? Why
20 can't they put them somewhere that's safe, and it's home?

21 And it seems like every time you go out
22 there and you walk in the street, the kids are getting
23 younger and younger. And they deteriorate so fast, they
24 age so fast. You see somebody three years ago and then you
25 look at them now, it's like holy smokes, they aged 20

1 years. The dope is so, it's killing them slowly, day by
2 day. And it's eating their minds.

3 I look at some of these people that I know
4 sometimes, these kids. I just seen him a month ago and now
5 a month later, it's just a big change. And it's really,
6 really hard to see that.

7 And it's also really hard to watch the
8 transgendered kids. They're really strong. And we love
9 them all, we take them as our own. I'm going to stop for a
10 minute.

11 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Chief Commissioner,
12 actually now's a really good time to take our 15-minute
13 break. So, can we please do that? Thank you.

14 --- Upon recessing at 10:50

15 --- Upon resuming at 11:19

16 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** We're about to get
17 started again.

18 Okay, so if we can recommence. Evelyn, I
19 just have a couple of clarification questions, if you
20 wouldn't mind helping me out. I know that you've spent so
21 many years here and you're so familiar with all the
22 services. But just so that other people know some of the
23 services you were talking about, I was wondering if I could
24 ask you, what's the "Odd Squad"?

25 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** The Odd Squad

1 Productions came about with some officers. Toby, what's
2 Toby's last name, I know him forever and I can't remember
3 his last name today. Toby and there were a couple of
4 police officers that started filming in the '90s with just
5 stuff that was going on Downtown. And it helped. A lot of
6 people were against it, but at the same time, it helped us
7 along later on. A lot of the, some of the work that they
8 did, you know, awareness on drugs, especially on April
9 Reoch, like that's why they did that. She was able to do
10 that filming and stuff, from the start of her addiction
11 till she got really, really bad. And then her death,
12 right? So, the Odd Squad was a film crew out of VPD, and
13 they did this for many years. They did this for many, many
14 years. And you can find those online, like the most famous
15 one that they have is "Through a Blue Lens". So, all the
16 people in there, we know them.

17 But the work that, the most work that they
18 did -- April's in that one -- but they did one just with
19 April. When she was found murdered, they did a full march
20 for her on Hastings. Like, the whole police department
21 did. I wasn't there but I watched it on TV. So, that's
22 what the Odd Squad is.

23 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you. A lot of
24 the topics you were sharing this morning about your
25 personal story of travelling across the country, but also

1 the issues you were talking about, that occurred in
2 Vancouver or Downtown Eastside specifically, all seemed to
3 tie to poverty and lack of resources. And one of the
4 points you just made before the break, in relation to the
5 fentanyl crisis and kids timing out, aging out of care, was
6 "Gee, it would be good if there were more resources and
7 safe places for them." And you also said if there were
8 safe places outside of the Downtown Eastside. Can you
9 share a little more about what you think some of those
10 resources need to be?

11 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** Where they need to
12 be?

13 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Where or what they
14 need to be?

15 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** They need to set up
16 treatment centres outside the Downtown Eastside. You know,
17 there are many strong people that can do their recovery in
18 the Downtown Eastside. There's a couple of places, like
19 InSite and -- has a really good program. It's not right
20 Downtown Eastside, it's not right in the centre where
21 InSite is, but I've had some really good friends that did
22 the InSite or started the treatment program, and they were
23 able to still live in the neighbourhood.

24 So, it's good for some, but people give up
25 so fast, right? Because they're going to the treatment and

1 they live in an SRO; it does not work. It just does not
2 work. It's like, every -- and then each time -- they need
3 a treatment for the younger generation, and then they need
4 more treatment centres for women. There is one place, I'm
5 not saying where, but they have one; but it's not enough.
6 It's just that one place, right? So, they need to take the
7 women out of the Downtown Eastside to get clean, to get
8 well, to heal. And it's -- why does it have to be Downtown
9 Eastside, why does it have to be so close?

10 Why can't they -- I understand, it's really
11 hard to leave Downtown Eastside, because some of them have
12 been there for so many years, that's where their friends
13 are, that's where their doctors are. Like all that, so,
14 you take that away from them and they go away from
15 Downtown, then they gotta start all over again. So,
16 something has to be done, where they can go clean up and
17 stay clean, and not come back.

18 Because they just -- then we have recovery
19 centres, I think, which are just -- some work, some don't
20 -- in Surrey, B.C., across the river. They have many
21 recovery centres, recovery houses. And this is how I see
22 it, because I have many friends that live in these houses.
23 Many from the Downtown Eastside in Surrey have done so well
24 with their lives, they have lived in these recovery houses,
25 they went on, they come back to the Downtown Eastside with

1 these front-line workers. Do really well, still doing
2 really well; and then help the rest of everybody, which is
3 the best thing ever.

4 But then, there's those recovery houses that
5 just take people's welfare cheques, and they're still doing
6 dope. They're living in the house, and they're still doing
7 dope. And then you have the person next to them, in the
8 next room, working so hard on themselves, and then you
9 still have this one person. So, that's not working.

10 You know, that's not really working.

11 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And I know that when
12 you shared one of the stories, you talked about a
13 girlfriend from back home that you had to your home, and
14 before you lost her. But I heard from your supports too,
15 that you've kind of always had that big heart, where you'll
16 take people into your own home. And what compels you to do
17 that? Why do you do that?

18 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** We all do it. But
19 because, in my building, at 250 Union Street in Strathcona
20 -- I call it Strathcona because it's at the edge of
21 Chinatown, so Strathcona just sounds better, you know?

22 But I really like living there. I was
23 supposed to move into a building at Pender -- but it wasn't
24 built yet and I couldn't wait a year. And I was living in
25 a very tiny apartment, it had a lot of mould, which I -- I

1 come from Montreal, right, I had just moved here from
2 Montreal, so I wasn't thinking mould. And my son got
3 really, really sick. So, with Doug Kellam from DERA,
4 Downtown Eastside Residents' Association, he helped me get
5 an application into Native housing. I'm going to have to
6 wait 10 years to get in there, but I remember, he asked me,
7 he says, "There's a brand-new building, it's about a year
8 old. It's in Chinatown," he said. Then he said,
9 "Strathcona." And so, he took me there to apply at DERA,
10 and I got in. And I lived there five years. And what I
11 liked about it, it was -- nobody could come in. It was so
12 safe.

13 And I was not the only one that lived there.
14 I'm not -- in the front would be families, and in the back
15 would be one-bedrooms and bachelors for seniors. But there
16 was a lot of sisters, Native sisters that lived there. So,
17 you know, we did programs. Like, we'd have Christmas
18 parties, we'd have Halloween parties, we did a lot of stuff
19 for the kids.

20 When I first moved in there, her sister
21 Delilah lived on the eighth floor, I lived on the fifth. I
22 lived facing the front, and she lived on the top, in the
23 corner. And another friend of ours, Georgina, lived next
24 door to me. So, we were able to, with the kids, it was
25 always -- somebody else had a playground on the second

1 floor, so our kids played together. The park was nearby.

2 But, at the time, it was that first year
3 that I moved there -- because this was a viaduct in front
4 of us, there was a lot of drug use, a lot of drinking. You
5 know, I didn't look at it. I kept my blinds closed all the
6 time. And it got kind of -- it got really, really bad.
7 Lock was here, Main Street's here; this is Union and this
8 side is Gore. And that's the viaduct, the bridge. And on
9 this side of Gore, when you -- it was a lot of smashed
10 rice-wine bottles and in the alley behind me were all the
11 Vietnamese; and it was so bad. There was needles all over.

12 So, I started, a few of us, were like, this
13 is getting crazy, you know, somebody gets poked. So, the
14 building, the managers and stuff, they were cleaning the
15 alleys and stuff. And our schools, our Downtown Eastside
16 schools, they have someone picking up needles at 6:00
17 o'clock at the end of the day. So, our kids, at two, three
18 years old, were taught not to touch that needle that young.
19 That's how young they were, since they were two years old,
20 on the Downtown Eastside.

21 And I remember, we used to pick up the
22 glass, we used to pick up the needles and all that stuff.
23 And then it got to where it just got really bad. '95 it
24 was the China White crisis, this really deadly heroin;
25 people were O'D-ing outside, ambulances all the time. So,

1 I formed a group. I went to Shelter in the Community
2 Centre, Jonathan Lowry is the senior -- and I formed a
3 group with the Parks Board, Community Policing Centre of
4 Strathcona, that street nurses and I just cleaned up that
5 block. I got them to clean the bushes, I got them to trim,
6 I got them to plant flowers. And I did this for the
7 longest time.

8 We were actually supposed to design a park
9 with the turf, so people would think there would be no
10 needles in there. We were going to do that, but something
11 -- I think I gave up after a while. Because it was just
12 too much. It did move away from the alley, though, the
13 alley got cleaned up, because there was a lot more police
14 presence. The ODs were still happening right in front of
15 us. There's a park, right? So, we seen a lot of ODs.
16 People started fires, because they lived outside. So,
17 eventually the alley got cleaned up, but we couldn't do
18 anything about the viaduct. So, we just left it. But the
19 managers, the people that worked in the daytime, they kept
20 -- and the night staff, they were aware, they'd check the
21 alleys and stuff, and they would look around out front, so
22 they always did that. So, it got less and less.

23 That was a year, it was '95, it got really,
24 really bad. First it was Pearl who got killed in the
25 alley, in the Pacific, in the stairwell. And then I

1 remember it was in the papers and on TV where the cops were
2 chasing a pig. There was a pig that was let loose over
3 that way by, I'd say up by Alexander and Princess, way up
4 that way. And you don't think nothing of it, right? You
5 don't think nothing of it, but it was odd.

6 And then -- we had just finished dealing
7 with the Barber; and then the China White crisis in '95;
8 and then '96 was -- and '97 -- in the years of '94, it was
9 '94. It was the first time I'd seen Georgina happy.

10 I left home in '88 from Edmonton, I came
11 back to Montreal in '93; I didn't see her until probably --
12 maybe the end of '93, maybe the beginning of '94, because
13 it was March 4, '94, we celebrated her birthday. We
14 celebrated her birthday at the Balmoral, I have that
15 picture of me and her.

16 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I can pull that up
17 for you, if you like. (*If we could please call up the*
18 *picture of Georgina.*)

19 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** That picture was
20 taken on my balcony, August '98. It was August '98, I was
21 going out to Alberta for a couple of weeks. She came by
22 with a friend of ours. She was talking about work at the
23 flea market at Clarke and Kingsway, and it was a very hot
24 day. And she was trying to make me go out. I do not like
25 heat, I actually, I'm one of those people who stay inside a

1 lot in summer. And so, that day when she came over, she
2 was trying to get me to go out. And I said, "No, I don't
3 feel like going to the flea market, I'm going to stay
4 home."

5 And so, there was actually -- one, two,
6 three pictures taken from that day, but I accidentally lost
7 a bunch of negatives. So, that picture there, and there's
8 two more -- there's one where she's sitting, but she's got
9 sunglasses on -- on the rooftop, there's eight floors and
10 there's two suites on the top. There's a rooftop garden.
11 And that's where we hung out. That was our safe place.

12 At night time, we'd party up there, because
13 there's no kids. And because, to our left, it was Asian
14 elders, they were very old and they didn't hear, we were
15 very respectful. We didn't leave no beer cans or
16 cigarettes or anything up there. We cleaned up, very
17 quiet.

18 And it was Georgina, actually, and a few
19 others -- like I remember that we didn't have a spot,
20 because they have planters. And one of the Asian leaders,
21 one time we were up there having a smoke and we were having
22 coffee and we were sitting there. We were picking weeds
23 out of the planter box. And one of the Asian ladies, she
24 was talking to us, and she asked me if I wanted to plant
25 some stuff. And I said, yeah, it was like, wow. Because

1 Strathcona is like way, a couple blocks away. And so, I
2 said okay. And I don't know, I went out and got some
3 seeds. And it ended up, it was geraniums.

4 So, our thing is red geraniums and pink
5 geraniums, that's when that picture -- those are the pink
6 ones, you can't see them, they're kind of faded. And that
7 was our thing. It didn't matter if it was night time or
8 daytime, we'd be up there picking weeds. We were night
9 hawks.

10 We were the type of people that would have
11 Christmas dinners at four o'clock in the morning, or --
12 that's how it was. But, you know -- my rooftop was safe.
13 Like, some nights we'd be drinking and daytime it'd be
14 coffee and taking pictures. Actually, I think I lost all
15 the negatives of the pictures from the rooftop, but we got
16 a lot of pictures of the kids' birthday parties and
17 cooking, but I lost a lot of albums and I lost a lot of
18 negatives.

19 So, that's what that picture is of. That is
20 one of the most special, because it was August '98, and
21 then the last time we seen her was '99. I had moved from
22 this apartment in Chinatown to South Van, but I kept the
23 same phone number. So, I left this place November 1st, '98.
24 I kept the same phone number.

25 I seen her at the end of January '99, in the

1 Balmoral. You walk in to the bar, and it was the first
2 bench or table. We were sitting there, just me and her,
3 and she was having a smoke. And she said she had to go. I
4 said, okay, see you later. And I didn't even ask, she
5 didn't ask, I gave her 10 bucks. I said, here. So, she
6 takes it and she walks, and she says, "I'll probably see
7 you later, I'll see you later." So, I said, "Okay, so I'll
8 see you later." And that's the last time I seen her.

9 And so, when she was walking down to go, she
10 was wearing size 5 heels, and she had really tiny feet,
11 size 5, 5-and-a-half. I bought those, because I didn't
12 wear heels, but I was in Army & Navy one day and I seen
13 these heels, I just spotted them on a shelf. And I
14 thought, "Oh my God, they're so cute," so I thought, I'm
15 going to get these for Georgina. And I mean, I kept them
16 for two months before I did see her. And she laughed at
17 me, she goes, oh -- because when you walk with Georgina,
18 she's short, right? And so, she had these stilettos. And
19 they were so cute. And so, those were the ones she was
20 wearing the last time I seen her. I never did see her
21 again.

22 But see, when I was being questioned, when I
23 got questioned, that's what I gave. It was the end of
24 January, '99. I lived in South Van for that whole year, I
25 had that same phone number. So, you know, you just assume,

1 a lot of us -- okay, she went home to Alberta. She's got
2 family all over, oh she was going to see her daughter in
3 Vegas. You don't know, right?

4 But friends always call, they always call,
5 they'll leave messages with somebody Downtown. And that
6 was not happening. Let's see, what month was that? It was
7 the end of January, and then it was way later that I found
8 -- it was way later that I found out that she was at St.
9 Paul's Hospital. And she was smoking on the 4th floor
10 outside, having a smoke, and she pulled out her ID and she
11 left, she left the hospital.

12 And then, she has friends in Mission, very
13 good friends, they're guardians to some of her kids. I
14 didn't know about this, because I didn't go online or
15 nothing, but I didn't know about them yet. So, they shared
16 a story about her. And I didn't know about them yet, so
17 their story was when they last seen her and all that stuff.

18 So, it took all that year, 1999, you know,
19 there was no phone call and stuff, and I thought, well,
20 okay, I guess she's home in Mission. But she calls, right?
21 Like when she used to go home, she'd call or she'd tell
22 somebody, "tell them I went home, I'll call." We kept that
23 same phone number for as long as we could, I did anyways.
24 And 2000, no -- November 11, 1999, it was Remembrance Day,
25 I got arrested with my friend. From the Hitler Boys, we

1 got arrested at the bridge on Commercial Drive. Right by
2 the SkyTrain. And I stayed in the cells downstairs for six
3 days.

4 And I had to go to BCCW. And you know, it
5 may sound weird, but I'm kind of glad I went there, because
6 I found out so much. I've never been, I've never done
7 time. Like, that was like the first time. Like, a couple
8 of times for jaywalking, nothing minor, in Edmonton.

9 But this one was, they made me stay there
10 for a month. And I thought, what's a month? I was like
11 visiting all my friends. And I went in there and it was
12 just -- I found out so much in that one month. You know,
13 all our best friends are there, like Bonnie Swan, she's a
14 sister of ours that done 20 years. And then she got out
15 she had a stroke, like what a way to go.

16 So, when I got in there, I stayed in seg for
17 a couple of days, I actually like it; get me a book, I just
18 want to be alone. And, Bonnie was down there with me. And
19 I get moved up to Unit C, which is crazy, because from
20 there they take you to another Unit, it was just packed, I
21 hated it. It was just, ahhh. I didn't have my own space,
22 and it's just like I had to deal with it, because you know,
23 I had to deal with it.

24 But I was also watching who was who, and
25 people were warning me about, don't stay with none, figure

1 it out myself. And so, I finally got to Unit E. Bonnie
2 tells me, "We gotta talk." So, we go to the track. And
3 she's yelling at people, she says, "Get out of here, don't
4 come being nosy." So, we're walking and walking. And
5 she's asking me, "What is going on?" And I says, "You know
6 what? If I could tell you, I would tell you, but I don't
7 know what's going on." And I says, "I haven't heard from
8 Georgina since I last seen her in January. And I don't
9 know what's going on."

10 And this is already that November, so, I
11 remember going to the sister who trailed her. I thought,
12 I'm going to go check the sister who trailed her. So, I
13 went over there, and sure enough, there was, you know, the
14 binders of people that write stuff. So, I found a lot of
15 Georgina's work, like a lot of it, all the stuff she
16 writes, she's a really good writer. I didn't find any of
17 her art, I didn't find any of her [indiscernible] and
18 stuff. So, I just sat against the wall or the floor, and I
19 read, and I read.

20 But it wasn't -- I wasn't thinking anything
21 about it yet, about her missing or anything yet. I was
22 just like, "Wow, holy smokes, this is awesome." It was
23 only -- I had to go, I got transferred to -- anyways, I got
24 out, it was in 2000. I had to go to Indian Homemakers',
25 it's a program and stuff, counselling, you name it. And I

1 worked with a lady named Marie Vayant (phon). My son was
2 in a group home -- not a group home, foster care, but he
3 was well taken care of, because Marie picked him up and
4 stuff, you know, we did things with him.

5 And I got a place in the hood, 2121 Wall
6 Street. And it was crazy. First time I signed a lease in
7 Vancouver. So, I had to stay there for a year. And it was
8 horrible. I mean, my apartment was okay, but just the
9 building -- the one side of the building was -- it was at
10 the time when Riverview Hospital had just kicked everybody
11 out. So, you'd see people that had issues, right? But
12 then, you'd see people that had issues on top of issues
13 that are on medication and on drugs, and are drinking, and
14 are dangerous. And the Riot Squad's coming, and you walk
15 into your lobby, and the Riot Squad, all the time. It was
16 crazy. And I couldn't leave, because I had to sign a lease
17 and I don't like to pull my son out of school in the middle
18 of the year, so we toughed it out.

19 By this time, it was 2000, there had already
20 been Sarah de Vries. I'm not going to get into the names
21 right now, I'm just going to talk about the 2000 part,
22 because when I was living on Wall Street, all that year, I
23 didn't want -- I was thinking, I am not going to think it,
24 I'm not going to mention it, I'm not going to talk about
25 it. Because I thought I might jinx it. I know she's

1 somewhere, I don't know where, but she'll show up, or
2 somebody will tell us something, right? That's all I kept
3 thinking, that's how I'm going to make it.

4 Because -- I stayed at that place for that
5 one year. Then a friend of mine called. My boyfriend was
6 actually in jail with this guy. And this guy was my first
7 love. He comes from Saskatchewan. But he -- I'm gonna say
8 his name, his name is Quentin Beagle, he's an actor, and he
9 never helped me on this, so, this is it, this is for him.
10 His name is Buffalo Child, he's an actor. They're friends.
11 And they lived out in Mission.

12 And he called my house to talk to my
13 boyfriend, which is strange, because I was watching the
14 movie "The Perfect Storm" and my dog was beside me, and I
15 was getting right into this movie. And he was talking to
16 somebody, and all of a sudden, he says, "Oh, someone wants
17 to talk to you." I'm grabbing the phone because I'm
18 watching this movie, and all of a sudden, I hear this
19 voice, I went, "What the heck?" But because -- I don't
20 know, Georgina's name came up because he told me he was
21 living in Mission. And he says, yeah, because that's Pow
22 Wow, they dance Pow Wow, but they kind of also sing, right,
23 she played the guitar, she also sang.

24 And he starts telling me about their time in
25 Mission and I was sitting there listening, trying not to

1 cry. And he says to me, I don't know, he starts singing,
2 he starts singing, "Storms Never Last." And he's singing
3 it, and I go, "stop, stop it." And he goes, "That's the
4 song I was singing with her." I goes, "Do you ever see
5 her?" I'm just -- "I didn't even know that you were living
6 out in Mission." Everybody else from home, they'll come
7 and they'll live -- the ones who are in recovery and stuff,
8 they always live in Mission and they all work in treatment
9 centres and the jails and stuff, right?

10 So, that's when Georgina was -- she was the
11 executive director at the Friendship Centre. I used to see
12 her at the Friendship Centre in Vancouver, I seen her a
13 couple of times with her kids and her ex. And she'd wear a
14 buckskin dress. And she used to dance Pow Wow in Mission.

15 It was, that was November 2000, I remember
16 that. And so, I never talked to him ever again after that.
17 So, I moved at the end of the school year, 2001. I
18 couldn't find a place, I was giving up. I just wanted to
19 leave now. I said, "You know what? We're going to put our
20 stuff in storage and I'm going to go home to Alberta and
21 then we'll come back and find a place. I just got to go."

22 But it ended up where, just when that
23 happened, when I was doing Indian Homemakers' programs for
24 so long, they changed locations. It was about June 2001, I
25 get a phone call that she didn't have my new number, so she

1 happened to run into a neighbour of mine. So, she was
2 walking by with the kids and I was on the balcony, and she
3 says, "Oh my God, Evelyn, you better call Marie." I go,
4 "Why?" And she goes, "You got a place at Indian, at Native
5 Housing." I go, 10 years? Right?

6 So, I ran. I didn't have any minutes on my
7 cell, so I ran down to a pay phone at the Dairy Queen on
8 Hastings and Lakewood. And I called her at Indian
9 Homemakers and she goes, "Yeah, you better get down there."
10 So, we moved to East Van at 7th Avenue and Clarke. And as
11 time progressed -- it was one spring morning, I had the TV
12 on in the bedroom and I was having a coffee. And I broke
13 down, I just broke down. I felt, it was a really strange
14 feeling. I didn't know what it was, and I was just
15 bawling.

16 And my boyfriend comes in the bedroom and he
17 says, "What's wrong?" And I go, "I don't know." And he
18 goes, "What are you crying for?" I go, "I don't know.
19 There's something that, I don't know, I just feel like -- I
20 don't know. I don't want to jinx it, I don't want to jinx
21 it." He says, "Okay, I won't try to get it out of you, but
22 you gotta eat. Maybe go downstairs."

23 And then that day went on. So, I put that
24 out of my mind. And then it was, that whole year. You
25 know, because we're always Downtown, there was -- Dixie

1 Purcell, she's gone now. She used to sit in the Regent,
2 and she's the mother of Tanya Holyk, another victim at the
3 barn. And Dixie was our backbone, Dixie was our glue. And
4 names were coming out.

5 We were in the Regent one day and she had
6 left. There was a pull-tab machine that I always sat at,
7 and I had just got there. And my friend Lisa Dumas, she's
8 married to, she was married to Georgina's cousin before.
9 And she came running in the bar, she goes, "You gotta do
10 something." And she had the 'Missing' poster of Georgina.
11 And I looked, now I see it, right? And I'm holding it, and
12 I'm like, "Oh, my God."

13 So, I jumped up and I ran down the street,
14 run down towards Columbia. And I took it one more block
15 over to the Neighbourhood Safety Office. And Dave happened
16 to be standing there, talking to someone; Dave Dickson's a
17 cop, right? I grabbed him, and I said, "See?" And I'm
18 holding it and I'm trying to get a hold of myself. Because
19 he was always telling us, he had told us a couple of times,
20 "Oh, they're on vacation, they went on vacation." And I
21 said, "See? Now this poster's out."

22 And from there, it just seemed like, boom,
23 they were coming. It got to where, when we were in a bar,
24 we didn't let people turn the TVs on. We just didn't -- we
25 were living it, we were living it, we didn't need to see

1 it. We had to gather a lot in the bars, because you can't
2 trust, you don't know who's there, you can't trust anybody.
3 So, we always gathered, like at the Women's Centre, Freda
4 En's office, when they were at the storefront across from
5 the courthouse, it's not there anymore. We'd gather there.
6 So, now I had this poster. And at some point after the
7 farm was found out, I started -- instead of just going to
8 the storefront and Dave and all them, I just started
9 talking to the Task Force. I just got right to the point,
10 talked to the Task Force.

11 And I used to hate it, because they'd pull
12 up and act like they were my friends, right? There was
13 this one, his name was Wayne Seto (phon). He's actually a
14 Strathcona kid, his dad owns a pharmacy. So, it was him
15 that I would talk to, because I'd trust him. Then it was a
16 year -- okay, after the farm got busted, September --
17 anyways, it was a tour -- oh, my friend George Papin,
18 that's her brother? He was at Circle of Eagles Halfway
19 House, two blocks from my house at 7th and Clarke. He calls
20 me, freaking out. And I go, "Slow down, slow down, slow
21 down!"

22 And he says to me, "You've got to come over
23 here. The RCMP are here to talk about my sister." And I'm
24 like, oh my God, because my son was there, right, and we
25 were actually going somewhere. So, I have to tell my son,

1 I didn't want to leave him alone, so I said he had to come
2 with me. So, we went to the Halfway House, and they had
3 just -- this family member, their cousins, he had been
4 adopted, so they were just getting to know each other. But
5 I was starting to get to know him too, because I knew his
6 mom. His mom used to actually take care of us here in '85.
7 She died now. And so, we're sitting in the front and I
8 told a friend of ours -- the people that were in the room,
9 all of us know each other, we're all from home, from
10 Alberta. So, of course I'm going to trust them with my
11 son, right? So, I said, "Don't move, you stay in this
12 room."

13 So, I went outside into the yard and I
14 thought, "Why are they doing it like right out in public,
15 like, there's people walking by that could hear," right? I
16 thought that was kind of strange. So, we're sitting in the
17 front yard at this table there, it was a little bit bushy
18 and stuff, but you could still see us. And they tell me
19 this now, right, that they found Georgina at the farm.

20 I was like -- not surprised; I was not
21 surprised, but the first thing I thought of was, who took
22 her there? It was the first thing I thought of. I went,
23 "no, who took her there?"

24 So, they were talking to me. And I don't
25 know what it is, but I don't know why I don't remember what

1 they said. Probably because I was in shock. I was, when
2 we were sitting there, and I was here -- like I was in
3 shock. I was just sitting there, and I started crying, I
4 just broke down crying. And I was worried about her
5 brother. I was worried about him inside.

6 So, I -- they left and then I went inside.
7 And because it's a halfway house, I wanted to get my son
8 out of there. So, we left. So, I went home, and I went
9 upstairs and I had a really good cry in the bathroom. I
10 washed my face and I went downstairs and I grabbed a Pepsi.
11 And I left with my son, we just went out and did something.
12 And that's how it was the whole time after that.

13 We worked with the Task Force, we didn't
14 have to go through -- that year, 2002, and then it was -- I
15 think it was 2003. No, wait -- 2002, we had her memorial
16 at September 27th, probably 26th. I was going downtown, and
17 I was on a bus on the 22, I was coming from East Van. And
18 I don't know why I forgot about her memorial, because I
19 just about forgot to get off the bus. But I was really
20 tired. And I turned around, and I said, "Oh yeah," and her
21 cousin was at the back of the bus, and she was going too,
22 and her daughter was there. So, I said, "Oh, my God," so I
23 didn't feel alone, because I didn't know who was going to
24 be there.

25 So, we both walk over there. I thought,

1 "I'm not going through the front door." So, she goes to
2 the front door and I slip in, I go sneaking into the side,
3 because I know what was going to happen to me.

4 So, I went to the side door and I stood
5 there, because a pastor was speaking. And at the back of
6 the pews, her aunties were all sitting there, her late
7 Auntie Marie, her late Auntie Cathy that just passed away
8 two years ago. And at the other side, that was Marleen and
9 her daughter, those were the only family members that were
10 there.

11 And then I was going to slip in beside the
12 aunties, and I look, and one of my best friends, Terry
13 Gratton (phon) -- she died in 2009 -- she was there with a
14 friend of ours from Edmonton, Sherry. But because I was in
15 shock, I was looking at my own friend I've known forever, I
16 couldn't remember her. At that moment I couldn't remember
17 her. Because I was looking -- this is the pew -- at the
18 end of it, against the wall, there was a table with all the
19 tea-lights lit up. With her picture, the really nice one
20 the family has of her in the red shirt and choker. And it
21 was really bothersome, I couldn't look at it for a while.

22 Terry jumped up and hugged me. But the
23 media on both sides kept looking at me, right, they were
24 wondering who I was. And I thought, "You're not gonna know
25 who I am."

1 And so, I was sitting with her aunties. And
2 her Auntie Marie got up and she went to speak, and then she
3 came back and before she sat down she said, "My girl, you
4 should go speak." And I said, "I can't. I just can't."
5 So, I will one day.

6 So, a few people went to speak, but you
7 know, I'm not really listening. And then the pastor sang
8 "Amazing Grace", and it was so sad, depressing, I wanted to
9 tell him please don't sing. Because there was no music.
10 And I was saying, why First United Church? I'm sitting in
11 benches where people have died.

12 After it was done, -- oh no, before it was
13 done, Auntie Marie asked -- we used to call her Auntie, too
14 -- she told us to go up there, the three of us. And so, I
15 was in the middle, my friend Terry was on this side and
16 Sherry was on this side, and we walked to the table. And
17 you'd think that they would give us a little bit of
18 privacy? They didn't. They swarmed us. It was horrible -
19 - standing at the table and I'm looking at the picture and
20 the tea-lights, and I'm thinking, "There's never going to
21 be a body." I was thinking, I've never had to do this with
22 a friend, ever.

23 So, we were standing there for the longest
24 time. And because on that side I've got Terry, and on this
25 side -- there was so many media, that all I could see was

1 flash-flash-flash. And I'm trying not to cry because I
2 don't like crying in public. And so, I was ignoring that
3 and I was wondering, why are they doing this to us, wow.

4 And I stopped, I made myself stop crying.
5 And started hiding myself on Terry. And we turned around
6 and sat down. And I remember I seen Kim Bolan from
7 Vancouver Sun, she's sitting over there. And they all kept
8 staring at us. And I thought, they're not, they're not
9 gonna get me, I'm gonna run, I'm gonna run.

10 After it was all done, Wanda Whisocatree
11 (phon), she didn't have any money, she said to us, there's
12 some food and sandwiches. I said thanks, I'm not hungry.
13 I gave Marlene a big hug -- that's a cousin, that's another
14 one, she took care of me when I was a kid, when I was
15 pregnant with one of my daughters, the youngest one.

16 So, we're all pretty close, the Papins, her
17 aunties, friends of my dad's family. It's not like we
18 didn't know each other.

19 Oh yeah. When I was at the table, when
20 Wanda was talking about the food and I was standing there
21 and saying thanks to her -- I was trying to, I said I'm not
22 going to go out the front door, so I was trying to get to
23 the back door. And I was looking at it, and I thought,
24 "Oh, my God, I'm just gonna run!" But I didn't make it
25 that far.

1 I got to this service desk and it was shut,
2 so I had this one space and then steps. So, I had this one
3 little tiny space, like this big; and I was just gonna go
4 downstairs and run, and they came out of this way, up those
5 stairs, they all came, and the ones from outside. And they
6 got me, right?

7 And I said nothing but good about my friend,
8 because I know they always want to hear the ugly stuff,
9 right? So, I was telling him -- this is Aaron McArthur
10 from Global News -- I'm telling him good stuff about my
11 friend. And I actually used to live about four blocks from
12 there, there's a church called Rocks on Union Street where
13 I live, where Georgina used to come stay with us.

14 And she was -- anyways, I was standing there
15 and I says, you're not going to hear nothing, like, what
16 they want to hear. So, when Aaron was asking me questions,
17 I was saying, "You know, my friend used to come to my house
18 and she'd cook bannock and she cooked all the time, I was
19 very fortunate," you know, a lot of my sisters used to
20 cook. "And she played board games with my son."

21 They didn't put the part about even her at
22 some point walking him to school, you know? That was,
23 like, special for me, her showing up early in the morning
24 and waiting for us to wake up. When all she had to do was
25 buzz and let her up, but because the way she was, she

1 didn't want to wake me up, but I was already awake.

2 And I remember a couple times she'd come in
3 the morning and she goes, "I'll walk him to school." And
4 so, she'd walk with him over there. She did it twice, two
5 or three times. And this is the story I was telling there
6 -- and they totally changed my words around. I was so
7 pissed off. Because I did nothing but say good about my
8 friend. And they went and made it all sound so ugly. But
9 I did a really good interview with Kim Bolan, right,
10 because before I left, I knew who she was. So, I was
11 talking to her. And everything I said was point, you know,
12 everything I said, she didn't edit it or add her own stuff.
13 But those guys did.

14 So, you know, because we're in Vancouver and
15 all this was happening, I didn't think about the rest of
16 the country. You know, I'm not thinking that, I'm here.
17 I'm thinking about the news anywhere else.

18 So, when I left from there, I talked with
19 Kim, and then when they swarmed me and when I finally got
20 to leave, I thought -- a lot of us did not watch the news
21 on this stuff. But I did. I didn't see me that day, I
22 never did see me on TV. But I remember -- excuse me, when
23 I left from there I went down straight to the bar, I had to
24 find somebody I knew. And I just sat there in the dark,
25 and I just had the longest cry ever.

1 And then I just left, and I went home and
2 went to bed. And I think I stayed in bed for a couple
3 days. I just couldn't move, I could barely eat. And then
4 from that point I had to avoid media. I thought, "No, you
5 guys, you're not doing that to me again, change my words
6 around, no, that's not happening anymore." So, I never
7 spoke, all these years, I never spoke. I only started
8 about -- two years ago, but nothing like huge.

9 After that happened, it was that year --
10 first that year, when that happened, it was 2002. It was
11 at the end of March, February 14th, it was the end of March.
12 And I was leaving. And I was walking with one of the
13 Elders, and we were walking past the Marr Hotel, and that's
14 at Dunlevy and Powell. And across the street is the Wings
15 Hotel, it's something else now. And Dave Dickson the cop
16 was standing there in front of his car. And Wendy Eistett
17 who escaped the farm, and that didn't show up at the
18 memorial or the inquiry -- she was standing there. And I
19 went up to them and I said, "What's going on?" And she
20 said, "Oh, Dave is just dropping off some stuff for me."
21 And I'm looking at her, and -- she didn't have anything in
22 her hands, right?

23 And I thought it was really -- I didn't know
24 what was going on. And I didn't know at that time yet,
25 that she had escaped the farm, I didn't know any of this

1 yet, right?

2 And so, Dave was always being like -- always
3 had something to hide, right? So, I said, "What's going on
4 now, Dave?" He says, "Oh, me and Wendy are just talking, I
5 just brought her some things she needed." Okay. So, I
6 said, "So, I'll see you guys later," and I didn't think
7 nothing of it, but always, what's going on, right? I'll
8 never forget that day.

9 So, it was later on, in 2003. How I got to
10 know her was through a friend, because she didn't come to
11 the bars. I met her at a bar first, and then I met her at
12 BCCW because she showed me her scar, right? When I got
13 transferred from Z to C, Unit C, and there was three girls
14 in this room. And I'm sitting there talking to her, like I
15 knew her now, right, so she's on the floor and we're
16 talking and I'm sitting in this chair. And so, she starts
17 telling me about this, right? And I'm looking at her, and
18 she looks at that long, long scar.

19 And I was at -- why are you still alive
20 then? In my head, like I'm not saying anything. And so, I
21 walked out of there thinking, "I just met someone that
22 escaped the farm? What??" And I had to let it go, right,
23 because it's jail, and it's like -- so I just let it go for
24 now. But I kept an eye on her for how many years after
25 that, because it only made sense. Because she always had

1 money and when she was at Wing's Hotel after the farm got
2 found out, she was at the hospital and she had the cops as
3 her guards. And then she had, the room she was at was
4 number 7 at the Wings. And our friend named Brian, he gave
5 her the key, she was using his room to sell dope out of.

6 And she -- I don't know why I went there one
7 time. There was -- I had to get some ID for somebody that
8 lived there, it was one of the Elders. They couldn't go up
9 the stairs to the third floor. So, I was at the park, at
10 Oppenheimer Park, so I said I'd go over there and help you
11 go up the stairs. And she said, "No, just bring it up
12 there, because I don't want nobody else to take it."

13 So, I went up there and I didn't even think
14 anything about Wendy. I was going up to the third floor
15 and on the second floor, she was in Number 7. And I was at
16 the corner street, Dunlevy? Dunlevy and Powell, it was at
17 the corner. So, upstairs on the second floor is a second
18 window. And so, I was going up the stairs, and I heard the
19 laughter and music and stuff, so I'm being nosy, I go
20 around the corner, and there's two cops standing there.
21 And of them is Pepper, and Pepper is now in Homicide, he's
22 a [indiscernible] cop. He was standing there with another
23 cop, and that door was open, and I heard them laughing in
24 there. And I know Wendy's laugh, so I went over there and
25 she's sitting there, and she's got a needle in her arm, and

1 then there's somebody else sitting there. And I'm like,
2 looking at, what's wrong with this picture? There's two
3 cops there and the door is open, her dope and money is all
4 over the table. And I thought, what makes this girl so
5 special, right?

6 And I thought, what is going on here? So, I
7 took off, I thought, what the hell. So, I left. And then
8 after that, I watched her, I watched her; I remember that
9 summer, she told me that her mom won a Jeep as a prize from
10 the Prize Home thing at PD and then that same fall, her
11 brother was around, and she said, "Our sister told us that
12 if we both straighten out and get off the street, that
13 she'll give us a million dollars each."

14 And I thought, hey, must be nice, right? I
15 go, "You know, your sister only won \$10 million, why would
16 she give you guys a million dollars each, you guys will
17 never quit doing dope. Why would she do that to you?"
18 It's like, enabling you.

19 So, I never thought nothing after that, but
20 I kept -- I was always watching her, right? She's just
21 like -- always had money. And it was later on, it was
22 2005, I was still living at the same place. I went to the
23 March with my friend. She came to the March and she was at
24 the March -- she was with Dave Dickson at the March at
25 Oppenheimer Park and she was wearing a yellow hoodie, so I

1 gave her my drum. And my drum has a bear claw on it. So,
2 I said, "Here, hold this drum." So, I got her to hold the
3 drum, and Dave was standing there, so I took a couple of
4 pictures of them, so now I have pictures of them.

5 Then she came to the March again, after
6 that, and then I never seen her again after that. I mean,
7 she still lives in North Van, she's got her kids, she's got
8 her life, right? And she didn't show up at the Memorial,
9 or the Oppal Inquiry, nothing; her name was Anderson.
10 Like, what all of us ask, each and every one of has asked
11 is, why? Why did she do that?

12 Okay, so someone's out to kill you --
13 someone's out to get you. But there's always something
14 that you can do, maybe leave the country, maybe you can go
15 somewhere. But why did you do that, why did she have to
16 stay here and not say anything? You know how many lives
17 would have been saved after her? And that would have been
18 my sister Georgina, that would have been Mona; that would
19 have been Andrea Joesbury, that would have been Brenda
20 Wolfe; Sarah de Vries; Sharon [indiscernible].

21 So, if she would have stepped up and said
22 something, that would have stopped -- and not only that,
23 but the other part too is, what's her name, that escaped --
24 when she stabbed him. That was so botched. They both stab
25 each other up, they're fighting and they both end up at the

1 hospital, was it New West or Burnaby? Like, that doesn't
2 tell -- he just got away with it, just like that?

3 I mean, she got away, but she didn't charge
4 him? And then Wendy is at the farm and she escapes with
5 her life. She got to live, she has her kids, you know?
6 These kids are left without mothers. Their families are
7 left without them, you know, they were loved. And this
8 woman -- and Wendy, wherever you are? You know, you have
9 to live with this for the rest of your life. You can't
10 just think that it's gonna go away, it's just gonna stay
11 with her forever. Like, I don't know how she lives with
12 herself, I just don't know anybody could live with herself.

13 You know, you hang out down there with these
14 people, you did dope with them, you did lots with them, and
15 then you can't step up and say anything? We all know that
16 she's protected. And we might as well talk about Diana
17 Taylor, too, while we're at it.

18 She got acquitted and she helped them. She
19 helped Pickton. And I seen her; I seen her twice so far, I
20 took pictures of her on the bus. And we can't touch her,
21 we can't touch them, you can't say nothing to them. And
22 the government still takes care of them, pay their rent,
23 they're still doing heroin. Keeping them alive.

24 You know, that's not right. I remember
25 Diana so well, hanging around outside -- there's Carnegie,

1 there's the alley and there's the Roosevelt. And she was
2 always in that alley. She wore a cobalt blue jacket with a
3 hoodie. She's ugly, she's an ugly, evil person. She was
4 always yelling and fighting and being mean to people. And
5 Andrea Joesbury had a boyfriend, Mohammed, that lived at
6 the Roosevelt. And you know, Andrea was young, she was
7 blonde, she was beautiful. Minded her own business. And
8 Diana went into that hotel a lot. She was really, really
9 mean, she was so mean. Always fighting, always arguing
10 with people.

11 But we never had no idea what she was doing,
12 we had no idea that she was taking our sisters to the farm.
13 You know? That's another thing, it's just like -- it was
14 right there, like, right under our noses. That's what gets
15 me, this is what drove us nuts. They snatched our sisters
16 right from under our noses. We tried to keep these women
17 safe, and they were taken right there, right outside. We
18 could be in a bar right here -- and they were right outside
19 getting picked up, and we don't never see them again.
20 That's what gets us, right?

21 Because we didn't just lose one sister. We
22 lost many. He may have been charged for six, right? But
23 it was 26, then there's 49; and what's the last number, 59?
24 It's not just six. So, it's been happening a lot of years,
25 a lot, a lot of years. Even before a lot of us even moved

1 here.

2 You know, that's such a -- that's a huge
3 loss for many, it's affected so many people. And it's not
4 just us in Vancouver, but these women came from all over
5 the place, right? You know, last week one of the twin
6 sisters that lost -- I didn't realize she had a twin
7 sister, but Debra Locke, she was a booster -- which means
8 she stole stuff from the store and sold it. I didn't know
9 Debra that long; she was bubbly, she had blonde hair, but I
10 think she dyed it. I remember seeing her down the street
11 from the Balmoral, she was all happy and stuff, right? She
12 wasn't there very long, and I met her sister last week and
13 it just blew me away. I didn't know that she had a twin,
14 right, you find out stuff way later.

15 So, with Georgina, her and I, in Edmonton we
16 hung out. I left -- I was there in '85, I went home that
17 same year. I was home in '86 and '87. So, her and I hung
18 out a lot, '86 and '87. Hung out a lot, and then I left in
19 '88 and went out East. So, I don't know what year she
20 moved over here, I didn't ask. But that's when we hooked
21 up again, was probably the late '93, '94, because we did
22 that birthday. And then all through the years of the mid-
23 90s, she lived in Mission. Oh, my God, she was doing so
24 well.

25 And her and -- there was a few times her and

1 Sylvia Smith, she's from Saskatchewan; and another one was
2 our late friend Shelly Latchmadeer (phon), they all lived
3 in Mission. And they would come into town, and they just
4 used to come and hang out, party, dance, have fun. Because
5 that's where you go to meet everybody, right? You always
6 found somebody.

7 And I remember there was a few times where
8 Shelly and her husband would come to my house and my sitter
9 would watch their kids, and we'd all go out. And then we'd
10 go back, and we didn't go stay up all night. And then
11 they'd spend a couple of days and they'd go up to Mission.

12 And then at some point, I remember Shelly
13 and John just ended up staying Downtown, they never left.
14 In 2003, I was walking out -- first, I was by myself.
15 Actually, I was walking my friend Kenyique (phon), she
16 passed away too, she had cancer -- we were walking by
17 Franciscan Sisters, which is across from Oppenheimer Park.
18 We were just walking, it was a nice spring day. And I was
19 looking for somebody, and we were walking, and a cruiser,
20 undercover, pulls up on the sidewalk.

21 And Randy, the undercover cop, he's really
22 tall -- he runs on the other side of the car and he's got a
23 clipboard in his hand. And he says, he looks at me and
24 says, "Are you one of the missing women?" And I looked at
25 him. I said, "Do I look like I'm missing?" Right?

1 And so, he had this clipboard, and I said,
2 "What have you got there?" And he goes, "I just want to
3 know." I go, "Why don't you just ask me my name?" And so,
4 we're talking to him, and I said, "I'll tell you what,
5 there's a family member that I'd really like you to go see.
6 And she's at BCCW, so I really think you should go talk to
7 her. Because it's getting really, really hard to talk to
8 my friend that's hurting, that's so confused, that's alone.
9 So, someone needs to go talk to her, somebody."

10 And they tried to get me -- he opened the
11 back door. There was -- the other guy was shorter. His
12 door was already open, because he was standing against it.
13 And this one, Randy, was over here talking to me. And then
14 he says, "Do you want to come with us?" And the other one
15 just opens the door right away. And I ain't going nowhere.
16 I said, "You think I'm gonna go to BCCW with two cops, are
17 you crazy? I don't think so. Just go talk to her." They
18 never did.

19 So, that's what gets me, is why were they --
20 because they tried so hard. Because I told Kim, I said,
21 go, just go. And there was nobody around, it was the
22 middle of daytime. And I was standing there, I got so
23 scared. I was so scared, because I thought, what is going
24 on here?

25 So, when he opened the door, that's when I -

1 - because I know Randy, right, but I don't know the other
2 cop. I said, "Randy, I ain't going anywhere. I'm not
3 going anywhere with you guys, I ain't getting in no cop
4 car, ain't going to BCCW, so you can forget that."

5 So, he says okay, and he says they'll go see
6 this family member. And they never did, they never did.
7 And it was that same time, that same month, me and Shelly
8 were by the West -- that's Carrall and Pender, between
9 Pender and Hastings -- we were walking, another bright,
10 sunny day. And Roger pulls up.

11 And this is strange, because this guy was an
12 Englishman and his name was Roger and he drove a white
13 Camaro. But he had a girlfriend that went missing. And I
14 don't know -- because I don't want to say that, I'm not
15 sure, but I think her DNA was found at the farm. Because
16 he pulls up, and he says, "I gotta talk to you guys." And
17 he's freaking out. He says, "Come for a ride and we'll go
18 to the Patricia and we'll talk."

19 And I said okay, let's go. So, we got in
20 the car, and when I was in the Patricia, ordering a beer,
21 and the bar was kind of empty. So, we put music in the
22 juke box. So, we're talking, and he tells us, he says, he
23 was driving home to Delta one night. He was driving and
24 all of a sudden, the RCMP came and blocked him, two cars.
25 But VPD had been following him all the way, and they

1 followed him all the way to Delta but before he got to
2 Delta, Surrey side, they all cornered him, two in the back
3 and two in the front. And he got really scared. So, they
4 stopped him, they asked him to come out. And all it was,
5 was -- I don't know why they had to do that to him, though
6 -- they told him that they wanted to take him to identify
7 his girlfriend's belongings. And I said -- just for that,
8 like, that's cruel, that's not cool.

9 And he said they took him to a warehouse
10 downtown -- no, I think at that time, because this is
11 before they had one private building just for all the items
12 found -- it was at the police station they took him to.
13 So, he went through the items and wasn't able to find
14 anything. And that's when I was thinking, "Why do they
15 gotta do that?" You know, he lost his girlfriend, going
16 through heck, and then they do that to him?

17 But with me, what they did was, as it says
18 in January 15th, 2003 -- I always figure that my transcript
19 was from the day that one of the VPD Task Force came to my
20 apartment at 7th Avenue, I lived by myself. And he came
21 with a laptop, and I had to -- I was looking for four
22 rings, right? Because back in those days -- and then, you
23 don't even think about it till after, you know -- we're
24 always giving each other rings, necklaces, whatever, right?

25 And there were four rings I gave her and she

1 wore them all the time. And when they came to my house,
2 that's what I was searching for on this laptop. So, I see,
3 I got to see every last item that was found in the trailer.
4 And I was -- "oh, my God, what was I thinking, why didn't I
5 ask somebody to come and be with me," right? I was sitting
6 there, because he's scrolling -- the only thing I
7 recognized was Sereena Abotsway's puffer. And then there
8 was, somebody else had a piece of ID.

9 I mean, it was just so much stuff, he was
10 just going and going and going. The most horrible thing
11 that I had to go through before court -- I don't even know
12 what year that was, but I remember getting called to go to
13 Crown counsellor at New West, and of course, here again I
14 go by myself. And I get to the Crown counsel, and you know
15 how it's all locked up, you go down the stairs -- and I'm
16 talking to the one guy, I go in his office.

17 And I sit down. And I'm drinking my can of
18 Pepsi and there's -- on the table, there's two white pieces
19 of paper. And there's two skeleton hands on this sheet of
20 paper, right, just skeleton hands. And I looked at them
21 and I got so mad, I pounded my fist on the table, and I
22 said, "Why would you do that to me? Do you think that I'm
23 going to change my mind? Do you think I'm going to get
24 scared and walk away, do you think I'm just gonna stop
25 talking? Do you think that seeing this is going to bother

1 me? That's not nice, that's crazy, wow." Because I was so
2 upset, I had to stop talking.

3 And so, I took them and I put it together
4 and put it away, so we got the process going. And then the
5 -- I think I went through those years by myself. I stayed
6 quiet. Life went on, right? But still, like when
7 anything's happening Downtown, anything -- I still went to
8 the marches. But I was always in East Van. I did activism
9 work in East Van.

10 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I just want to ask a
11 couple of clarification questions. Thank you for sharing
12 so much. You have such an important context to this.

13 The document that I just let the
14 Commissioner see, that's actually a transcript of the
15 interview you did with the police. And you were talking
16 about those four rings.

17 I think it's around Page 19, they actually
18 show you a poster, too, of a number of pictures. And
19 there's a lot of the same women you're talking about today.
20 So, you know, if you didn't think of it at the time, you
21 see --

22 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** Actually, you know
23 what? I didn't even have to look at the pictures. I just
24 -- what I did was, I caught myself, when I was at Crown
25 counsel's office. Just because of what they were doing to

1 me, which, putting those skeleton hands in front of me and
2 expecting me to go to New West by myself -- like, little
3 things like that, right? So, like, with the names that
4 I've added -- okay, we're talking away. And then all of a
5 sudden, I start mentioning other peoples' names. And then
6 after the third name, I went, "Hey, wait a minute, wait a
7 minute, I better stop right here. Because if I start, if I
8 keep on going and talking about everybody else, what's
9 going to happen to me later on?" I didn't know what to
10 think, right? So, I stopped.

11 I mentioned Mona Wilson and then I mentioned
12 Marnie Frey. And then I stopped. But then again, because
13 Marie Laliberte was still missing at the time, and I
14 mentioned that the last time I seen her, at the corner of
15 Commercial Drive and Hastings, I was getting on a bus and
16 she was with her boyfriend, but I ran back to hug her. I
17 mean, I did see her again after that, but that's what I
18 gave her, that's what I gave, to tell them.

19 And then the part about Sarah de Vries --
20 the whole thing about the first posters -- [indiscernible]
21 was a good friend of Sarah's. But the whole thing about
22 Sarah was, they portrayed it -- he created the -- he's the
23 one who created "Missing.net". He's the one that did all
24 the creations of all the women, like all the pictures and
25 stuff. Because he was a very good friend of Sarah de

1 Vries.

2 And I remember when he first put up the
3 posters, he was the one that put up the most posters. I
4 mean, he plastered them everywhere, you couldn't miss them,
5 right? So, that was when, people really, really -- that
6 was from the point that Carol, the point where people
7 really started noticing. Because the posters were
8 everywhere.

9 So, my special memories of Sarah is, she was
10 always on roller blades, she used to come to BG -- it was
11 called BG Confectionary Store, right next to the Sunrise --
12 because that's where they sold, you know, all the candy ice
13 cream and all that. She never really hung out in the bar,
14 but she'd come and say hi to Anna Rosa, say hi to
15 everybody, and she'd be off again. But she always had a
16 book and a pen.

17 It's weird, because, here's this girl on
18 roller blades, and I seen her all over, because I lived in
19 Strathcona, she lived on Princess and Hastings. So, I'd
20 see her by the park, I'd see her at McLean Park, writing on
21 a table, picnic table. You know, this is it, our sisters
22 did normal stuff. They did, they went to movies; the
23 Women's Centre in Crabtree used to have a lot of picnics, a
24 lot of barbeques -- usually at the park, but stuff happened
25 at McLean Park, Strathcona, too. So, they weren't just out

1 there, they were part of the community, they did stuff.

2 There's a lot of people that have pictures,
3 but through the years they've been stolen. So, some of the
4 organizations have had to hide them. Because -- like with
5 me, I had a lot of pictures, but I lost a lot of the
6 negatives through the years.

7 So, that's why when I was at Crown counsel
8 office -- sorry, I skipped that part. At the Crown
9 counsel, I was like, quit talking. Something told me,
10 "Evelyn, don't say another word, don't say another word."
11 Because, just the way I got treated, I thought, why would
12 you do that to me, why?

13 And then I mentioned -- I mean, I shared
14 something good about Marnie, right? Marnie was another
15 one, she was tall and thin, and she was on roller blades a
16 lot. But her thing was, they sell them at the corner
17 stores a lot -- they take a whole box of ice cream and they
18 cut it in half; so her thing was, she'd cut it in half and
19 it would be all with strawberry. That's how I remember
20 her. And how I remember her really well, too, is because
21 at Crabtree -- Cordoba, no, Columbia and Powell -- the door
22 is at the corner. So, you get a drop-in for everybody,
23 right?

24 Is how many times Marnie -- I'd be walking
25 someplace, and Marnie would be like, "Go get your son, it's

1 just about three o'clock." But, I got that from everybody.
2 Like, we all took care of each other, right? We reminded
3 each other of things like that, it was like that with all
4 of us. So, I remember Marnie that one time, "Go get your
5 son!" I was running by Carnegie and she was coming around
6 the corner and she looks at her watch, and I said, "Geez,
7 you're just like my mom!"

8 And she hung out a lot by the corner of
9 Pennsylvania, the same corner where Angela Jardine hung
10 around -- another victim from the farm. She lived at
11 Pennsylvania. She was really special, that one, because
12 she was like a 12-year-old. We used to get after her all
13 the time for running around in bare feet.

14 And that's another one, all it took was an
15 ice cream; she loved her ice cream. That corner store,
16 it's still there. It's right at the corner of Carroll and
17 Hastings. I mean, I bought her a couple, maybe once or
18 twice. But you know, everybody watched out for her. So,
19 that was why I was like, wow, how could that happen. There
20 was always someone around her, right?

21 So, she was bubbly, she would skip down the
22 street sometimes. You know what, there's so many more I
23 can go, but I'm just trying to stick with -- because on
24 that paper, I'm trying to remember.

25 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I think, obviously,

1 because you're a part of the community, because it's
2 obvious there's a lot of them that you actually knew. And
3 that you're living through, as the investigation was
4 happening, as you had said earlier to the Chief, that you
5 were talking directly to the Task Force.

6 And I just have a couple more clarification
7 questions, because I know that you did end up testifying in
8 the trial. And so, can I pass up an article, it's just a
9 timeline of the trial. And I know that there's one article
10 that talked about your testimony, it's very short. And it
11 was done by -- it talks about the little feet, that story
12 you just shared with the Chief. About seeing her for that
13 last time in the shoes that you bought her.

14 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** That's when I broke
15 down.

16 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And I just want to
17 pass those two articles up. But one thing from the
18 article, and this is known. Pickton was sentenced to six
19 concurrent life sentences with no eligibility for 25 years.
20 And the timeline just shows just six. But you also touched
21 on that point, the point that there were so many more, but
22 only six were prosecuted, and only conviction on six.

23 And the other thing I'll be passing around
24 from this, the actual Reasons for Sentence, the oral
25 Reasons for Sentence from the decision. And the very last

1 paragraph, the second-last paragraph, I apologize, is the
2 decision that there will be -- as he is sentenced, he:

3 "Will receive six counts of second-degree
4 murder, for which you have been convicted, I sentence you
5 to a term of imprisonment for life without eligibility for
6 parole until you have served 25 years of your sentence.
7 Each term shall run concurrent to the others."

8 So, this is the sentence he gets for six
9 lives. And it's second-degree murder that he's convicted
10 of.

11 Just for clarification, the timeline is not
12 passed up for truth of content, it's for context of the
13 proceedings. Because it lays out a timeline, it's a media
14 news outlet, a CBC media news outlet that puts times in, so
15 just for the purpose of context. Because we know that
16 you've testified in relation to, in particular, Georgina,
17 but I also know you have some pretty strong feelings on the
18 fact that only six of the murders were actually prosecuted.

19 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** I just
20 want to clarify something for the record. He was charged
21 with more, but the plea was only for six?

22 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Yes. So, for the
23 purpose of....

24 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Yes, so
25 the indictment grew from the time of the preliminary

1 inquiry till the trial.

2 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Yes, from 6 to 20,
3 but then subsequently to that, we now know that they will
4 not proceed prosecuting the additional 20, or the 49 that
5 he apparently has confessed to killing.

6 So, I know that that was frustrating for
7 you. The fact that all of these women, their families, may
8 not get justice.

9 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** It hurts so much,
10 because so many that needed justice -- you know, the kids.
11 Take for instance, I know Trey Bowen (phon), his mom
12 Yvonne. And he speaks about that, and he's a really strong
13 speaker. And he doesn't get that chance to share about his
14 mom. And there's so many others, right? It's not -- like
15 that's another thing, too, is -- he got charged for six.
16 It could be 26, he could have got charged for a lot more.

17 Anyways, at the farm, there's so many that
18 went missing that have not been found, or their DNA. But
19 if you look at the farm, how big it used to be. And on the
20 maps, on the way in the back of the farm, there's a new
21 school, a fire department; what's under those buildings and
22 the developments on both sides? What's under there?

23 And then there's connections with the farm
24 and body parts found somewhere else. But that's connected
25 to the farm. So, that's another thing that has not ever

1 been really resolved. We know he didn't act alone. Like,
2 how does a skinny little wiry man handcuff you and do all
3 that? I can't just see him doing all that by himself. My
4 friend [indiscernible] was strong, she was strong. And I
5 know they used drugs and they used other people, women, to
6 bring them there.

7 But you know, how does one person carry
8 someone that's out of it, from a distance, from the trailer
9 all the way to the barn? I don't know, I've never been
10 there, but just from -- you know, the truth is gonna come
11 out one day, I don't know how I know that. But one day,
12 you know, this big cover-up that they've had for all these
13 years, years and years, I don't know how the system can
14 live with themselves. I don't know how judges and all
15 these prosecutors, I don't know how they can live with
16 themselves, by letting that go. Like, letting that go and
17 it continued, it happened over and over and over again,
18 till he got sloppy, right? They got sloppy.

19 And it took just one little rookie to come
20 across items in a trailer? When meanwhile they were under
21 surveillance for so long? And it took just one little
22 person to go in there and bust the whole place? And they
23 never had any faith in Lori Shenher in the beginning. I
24 remember her from way back then, too. You know, she was in
25 there working so hard and they didn't listen to her. Never

1 mind listen to her, they didn't even listen to us. Like,
2 we're the ones from way back then.

3 I remember at the beginning when the
4 families were starting to come around, when they were going
5 to the police station. And it was like, it was to them it
6 was just like -- okay, someone came by and reported you
7 missing. But then they just put it in a drawer somewhere.
8 It's like, you know, we'll deal with this later. And it
9 got worse. It did, it was bad, it was really bad.

10 You know, those early days with the families
11 crying; media chasing them; you know, when they're at their
12 worst, you know? Instead of trying to leave them alone,
13 they just want to get your story and they go on their merry
14 way. They like to share those stories about people crying.
15 That was the hardest to watch.

16 Way back then, it was really hard to watch
17 the families suffer like that, getting no answers, going
18 home with empty-handed, no news of their loved ones. Their
19 little sisters.

20 And you know, I wasn't going to talk about
21 this, but since I'm here. You just better all have strong
22 stomachs.

23 We live in a port city. And we live by the
24 border. And many, many years ago, many of us talked about
25 human trafficking, human organs and stuff. And people

1 would look at us like we were crazy. So, eventually we
2 just quit talking about it, because we always said we'd
3 talk about it one day. So, I guess today's the day.

4 Because you think about it back then, and
5 all these years. And then you add the young men in the
6 early 2000s that were going missing, down the highway and
7 their cars are found at gas stations or wherever, just
8 left. No trace of them. And this is during the time we
9 were going through this. And then now you think about the
10 fentanyl crisis.

11 I was home last summer in Edmonton for six
12 weeks. And that is the longest time I've spent in my own
13 city in 23 years, 26 years. And I had a really hard time
14 last summer when I stayed -- I went home, I lost a cousin.
15 An older cousin. He was an Elder, a medicine-picker. So,
16 I missed going to see him at Matawatasco (phon) but, I was
17 able to go to the funeral. And then I went to my aunt's on
18 another reserve, I spent a week. And then I came back to
19 our Pow Wow, and it was so nice to be there for that
20 weekend, I hardly got any sleep.

21 But that Sunday night, my sister was going
22 home to the city; my sister's a social worker, she's my
23 younger sister. And we went -- I said, "I wanna come home
24 with you," because I needed Wi-Fi, right? And because she
25 didn't live on the reserve any more, I don't want to depend

1 on people to go visit all over. So, I thought, I'll go
2 home while you're in the City, and I'll come back.

3 So, that night I slept and I went to go stay
4 at my nieces' instead. And we were going to Shaw, she was
5 getting the Shaw hooked up. And I see the newspaper. And
6 it said, "Edmonton Police Services is opening up 11 cold
7 cases." And I thought, oh my God, this is it! So, I
8 grabbed that newspaper and I just kept on reading and
9 reading it, because I come from there, I come from that
10 city, I know what it's like. Ahh, it's so racist there.

11 So, and the cops are so bad there. So, I
12 was at my nieces' in Southside, and I just kept -- because
13 of all our Coalition days and stuff and everybody was
14 travelling, I was keeping in touch with the emails and
15 stuff. And I started compiling lists of the sisters from
16 the Prairies that lost their lives here, right? I started
17 doing that.

18 And so, I did a lot of walking on Boyle
19 Street, which is no longer there. But I was going around -
20 - because you know, I'd been gone so long. So, I'm putting
21 what year they lived here, so I was able to do all that
22 while I was there that six weeks. And I remember, now
23 we're in Edmonton, and I'm thinking, "Geez, if I remember
24 all this stuff about all the people that got killed
25 here...." And then I was walking like 10, 11 kilometres a

1 day, because I was doing a lot of writing, for today.

2 And every time I logged onto Facebook, I
3 remember that one week we lost, last August, we lost six
4 people Downtown in one week. We don't even have time to
5 grieve for one person. It could be the same night or the
6 next day, we lose another one. So, we have lost in the
7 last year, we have lost so many people. You know.

8 Juanita, I and Cara are part of the organizing committee
9 for the March Committee. So, this year, we have a pamphlet
10 of all the names. I haven't had a chance to look at it, I
11 can't, I cannot open it, because that book gets thicker and
12 thicker each year. I can't, I have it, but I can't open it
13 yet. Because I haven't grieved for everybody we lost last
14 year yet. And what gets me, what gets all of us, is how do
15 they get away with taking organs from people without their
16 consent, or family consent? Because all that's been in my
17 mind.

18 While I was home in Edmonton, I couldn't get
19 to Smithers for the hearing, the community thing. So, I
20 thought, you know what, I'll figure it out. But then,
21 while I was in Edmonton, I knew they were coming there.
22 So, I got a hold -- I went to the website so I called
23 Denise, and Denise and Melissa got me in right away. And I
24 was just close by anyways, my cousin was with me. So, I
25 did my community hearing. And in my testimony, my three-

1 hour testimony, that's what I'm talking about, right? But
2 in order for me to get the two hours here today, there was
3 no reason for us to go to that three-hour testimony.

4 And then I thought about it, what I'm just
5 saying now is what I said in that tape, right? It's a
6 serious matter. Because, like, people don't just die, you
7 just take their organs, it's just not right. And that's
8 what they were doing. We don't know how many; I know I
9 don't know the count, but other people do. But we know,
10 right, we know. And so, that's happening now.

11 What was happening all those years ago? You
12 know, they find shallow graves along the Highway. I know a
13 friend, he was male, but it still happens. It's like, is
14 that what they're doing? Is that what they're doing? Is
15 that why they're taking people, is that why our sisters are
16 being taken?

17 Our transgendered, our men, anybody, right?
18 I can't even prove it, but we can talk about it. We know,
19 we've been here this whole time, you know, it's just like -
20 - they can't find bodies, they can't find graves, they
21 can't find -- you know, we live in a port city. What goes
22 out of those containers at the port? You know, way, way
23 back, I remember in the '90s - when the girls used to say -
24 - not just even girls from Downtown, just even other women
25 that came Downtown to drink on Hastings.

1 They'd say, "Let's go party at the ships."
2 I've never gotten asked, but I've heard other people say,
3 "Oh yeah, let's go aboard the ships," and I'd go, oh my
4 God, anything can happen, right? And it did, like Thunder
5 Bay, things came up, right? But I've never heard of an
6 incident in Vancouver, I just know -- can I? I just know
7 that Juanita went once, but she left, she got off the ship
8 safely. They went to party and she got her friend and they
9 left. Because she was smart enough to go.

10 I know somebody leaving the ship and falling
11 into the water, but they were drowned, they didn't get
12 pushed or anything, but they found them leaving. But that
13 was like in '90 -- that was like '85.

14 You know, there's so much stuff that has
15 happened in this town, in this city. And it just seems
16 like it was really bad back then, but now, with this
17 fentanyl crisis, our sisters that needed to share -- they
18 can't, because they're gone now. All the ones that,
19 there's so many that needed to share, that wanted to share,
20 they can't, because they're gone.

21 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** You were talking
22 about the pamphlet with all the names and how you haven't
23 had the chance to grieve. But I was wondering if you could
24 also just tell us a little bit about the February 14th
25 marches, because, you know, I know we've been talking a lot

1 about -- and I notice there's some pictures coming up, too
2 -- and we've been talking a lot about the, kind of dark
3 stuff.

4 But some of the advocacy, some of the
5 strength that comes from the community. The fact that you
6 have a committee that does this every year. Can you share
7 with us about the February 14th March Committee and the type
8 of work you're doing, so you can actually increase the
9 awareness?

10 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** You want me to tell
11 you who all these people are? Okay. That's me; and that's
12 Haspa (phon), she's a new staff at the Women's Issues Front
13 Line, but she's an East Van kid; girl, grown-up now. She
14 graduated with my son, that's my son's friend. And she was
15 really happy to hold that sign.

16 And that's Carol; that's our flamingo; this
17 was in front of -- we stopped, they prayed at a site where
18 someone's missing; so while they were doing that, I was
19 over here getting out of the way of the media. And I
20 looked and she was standing there resting, and she had her
21 eyes closed, so I took a shot. And so, that's our flamingo
22 that day.

23 This is me and Laura Gowins (phon), she's
24 very close with Juanita; well all of us, but they're very
25 close. Maura (phon) is a social worker; she works out of

1 Maxxine Wright House in Surrey; survivor, mother, sister to
2 everybody, like she's known a lot of women. She was going
3 to try to testify, but it was too hard, so she gave up.
4 But she came to support Juanita the other day.

5 We were having a moment there; we used to be
6 able to put candles around the totem pole, but because
7 people were leaving candles against the wood, the bottom of
8 the totem pole started having a lot of marks. So, last
9 year we changed it over to Dixie Cups and -- because
10 there's cement there at the bottom. So, we were having a
11 moment, everybody left, so I seen her -- she was having a
12 moment, because that big pink sign is Marnie Frey, who we
13 just talked about -- they were really good friends. So, I
14 let her be for a few minutes. There's about five pictures,
15 but she chose this one today. So, we were having a moment
16 there.

17 We were -- her friend Marissa was taking a
18 picture of us, and another friend of ours was standing
19 beside us, behind, on this side. And we just started
20 naming, just talking and talking, that's why we're facing
21 each other. And that was our moment, we were just naming
22 as many women that we knew, over and over again. Because
23 normally we have posters of their pictures on them laying
24 there, but everybody already took off and left.

25 So, that's -- these are the three stones

1 that were placed in front of the Balmoral Hotel on Hastings
2 on the 100 Block, we call it the 100 Block. They were
3 removed two years ago; they were removed in 2015. There
4 was three plaques and we don't know the story, but we think
5 their families took them back, but we don't know. But the
6 first one to your left is Marnie, because she used to live
7 in the Balmoral. The middle one is Brenda Wolfe; she used
8 to work in a bar, she used to be a doorman and she worked
9 the bar sometimes, like waitressing. And the last one is
10 Georgina Papin. And she's never lived in the hotels there,
11 but she -- when she used to come find us from out of town,
12 she'd find us somewhere at the Balmoral.

13 So, those are no longer there, but for the
14 past few years, the ones that knew them all, that would be
15 -- I always chose the ones that knew them. So, that would
16 be me, Juanita, Carol and we have two friends, sisters,
17 Dina and Tammy Jamieson; that one there in red, that's
18 Dina, very, very, really close friend with Georgina; and
19 the one praying over her sister, that's Tammy. And it's
20 really special, it really means a lot, when a family member
21 comes for them. A couple years ago, Marnie's stepmom Lynn
22 came. The first stone. And Tammy -- those two are
23 sisters, they come from Hazelton, they're black and Native;
24 but very, very good friends with Georgina, too. Tammy's
25 younger than -- yeah, she's come a couple of times, and it

1 really makes a big difference when family are there.

2 So, she's done the honours, of smudging and
3 laying roses down at spots and stuff, and she, you know,
4 she made a blanket for her sister this year.

5 That's the blanket she made, and that was --
6 I didn't get a picture to her in time, so she printed that
7 one off from somewhere.

8 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I think we also have
9 at least one more picture of Georgina.

10 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** I'll tell you about
11 this one. This was March 4th, 1994. She had come into
12 Vancouver and it was her birthday. And we were all at the
13 Balmoral and it was jam-packed, and I'm sitting on the
14 chair like this, and we're hugging. And I don't know why,
15 we took a bunch, but this is the one that I only have left.
16 And I kept it all these years, with this picture was
17 hanging on my wall, nobody ever bothered it. And, finally,
18 I put them away. I thought, you know what, I'm gonna take
19 them down and put them away. So, in 2007 I sent a copy to
20 each of her brothers, George and Rick, in Edmonton. And
21 then at the end of November in 2007, I made copies and took
22 the copies down to the courthouse in New West and I gave
23 the three sisters each a copy.

24 I just always had it on my wall, because
25 it's -- I've lost some good ones though, I've lost a lot of

1 negatives.

2 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** You had a fire,
3 didn't you?

4 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** Yeah, it was
5 strange, I had a fire. And for some reason, I had put
6 everything, because I was painting, I had put everything in
7 a Rubbermaid container. So, they were -- they got saved
8 from smoke damage. I would have been so choked, because I
9 saved these for a reason. And you know, I'm not the only
10 one that has pictures of a lot of the sisters.

11 There are some friends of ours that will not
12 share. Just because -- we respect the families, too,
13 right? I've been taking pictures at the Marches about
14 seven, eight years; it was because, going through the
15 years, the media come, people come. And then we never see
16 them, we never see any of these pictures. So, what we do
17 is, I take all the pictures and then we print them off.
18 And then, especially the Elders, the Elders and friends.
19 The friends that come from out of town.

20 Like, we have a -- we're very, very
21 fortunate that we have the lady that, that's her prayer-
22 song, that's Martina Pierre from Lil' Wat, the women's
23 warrior song. So, this is what we sing every year. Well,
24 we sing it all the time, but she marches with us now, it's
25 really special that they come.

1 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Chief Commissioner,
2 I just wanted to afford you the opportunity, if you had any
3 questions or comments at this time?

4 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** I don't
5 have any questions right now. But I'll certainly read all
6 the documents.

7 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** Okay.

8 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** I may
9 have questions. Could I reach you through Christa? Some
10 other time, now this week, but it'll be some other time.

11 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** Yes.

12 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Because
13 I'm sure I'll have questions as I go through this.

14 I want to thank you very much, Evelyn. All
15 those sisters that we've all lost have found their voices
16 through you, today, so thank you. You're a wonderful
17 advocate and spokesperson for each and every one of them.

18 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** Thank you.

19 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** They
20 won't be forgotten.

21 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** We won't let them be
22 forgotten.

23 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** No, we
24 won't. Juanita, I want to thank you for being here today
25 in support, and Sheila, thank you very much. Carey, thank

1 you so much for being here. And Carol, thank you for,
2 literally, having Evelyn's back today and other days.

3 And I have to tell you, what you've said
4 today, Evelyn, is very important to our work. Critical to
5 our work. So, thank you very much for what you have said.
6 And personally, it's very important to me, too, because way
7 back, I had from the court side, some involvement with the
8 Pickton case. So, I'm always interested in hearing
9 somebody else's view of what happened. Because you've
10 given us important gifts today, your truths and your
11 memories about some beautiful, beautiful women. We have
12 gifts for you.

13 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** Thank you.

14 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** We have,
15 first of all, an eagle feather, to lift you up and hold you
16 up, so you can continue to do your good work. And on those
17 days when you think you can reach even a little bit higher,
18 that eagle feather will hold you up and take you up even to
19 places you never thought you could go.

20 Back when we first started this National
21 Inquiry, the Commissioners and I wanted there to be
22 healing. And for new growth to happen as a result of
23 healing. So, we have some seeds for you; they're wild
24 strawberries. And I'm thinking of you and your rooftop
25 garden that you used to have. Now I hope you have better

1 luck than I did with these.

2 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** You don't have a
3 green thumb? I don't either, but I'll get it back.

4 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** So,
5 please plant them, and if something grows, will you take a
6 photograph and send it to us for our archives, please,
7 because we want to see growth happen. We're already seeing
8 it all across Canada, now. Thank you, Evelyn, and I so
9 admire you for your courage, for your strength and for your
10 resilience, to keep coming back and advocating for all our
11 sisters. Not just Vancouver, but everywhere. You're a
12 real gift.

13 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** Thank you.

14 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** And I'm
15 so honoured to have spent this time to get to know you.

16 **MS. EVELYN YOUNGCHIEF:** So, now do you get
17 the "Families at Heart"? Now do you get it?

18 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** I sure
19 do. Yeah. We have for a long time. So, thank you so
20 much. And we'll adjourn.

21 --- Exhibits (code: P01P15P0303)

22 **Exhibit 1:** Statement of Evelyn Youngchief taken by
23 Detective Constable Traversky, Missing
24 Women's Taskforce, on January 15, 2003 File #
25 2002E-1388 (25 pages).

1 **Exhibit 2:** Folder containing ten digital images
2 displayed on monitors during the public
3 testimony of Evelyn Youngchief.

4 --- Upon adjourning at 13:28

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LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Shirley Chang, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I
have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and
accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this
matter.



Shirley Chang
April 16, 2018