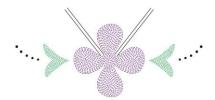
National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls



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 1 Public Hearings Hotel Bonaventure

Montréal, Québec



PUBLIC

Tuesday March 13, 2018

Public Volume 62: Denise Pictou-Maloney, In relation to her mother Annie Mae Pictou Aquash

Heard by Commissioners Qajaq Robinson, Brian Eyolfson & Michèle Audette

Commission Counsel: Fanny Wylde

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Conseil des Anicinabek de Kitcisakik	No Appearance
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Innu Takuaikan Uashat mak Mani- Utenam	No Appearance
Naskapi Nation of Kawawachi-kamach	No Appearance
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Quebec Native Women Association	No Appearance
Regroupement Mamit Innuat Inc.	No Appearance
Les Résidences oblates du Québec	

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2	Folder containing 22 digital images displayed during the public hearing of Denise Pictou-Maloney. [Filename: P01P13P0202_Pictou-Maloney_Exh_2]	58	
3	a) Amnesty International, "Public statement on the arrest of John Graham," December 12, 2003 (one page) along with b) Letter of the daughters of Anna Mae Picto Aquash to AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine (undated, twpages).		
4	Court transcript of direct examination of Denise Pictou Maloney, pp. 292-299 (no citation information included on documents).	59	
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1 Montreal, Quebec --- Upon commencing on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 11:48 2 MS. KONAWATSITSAWI: We are starting our 3 next community public hearing. C'est la prochaine pour le 4 public ici. C'est Denise Pictou-Maloney who will be giving 5 6 her testimony, her story. MS. NADINE: Oui bonjour, alors nous allons 7 procéder avec le prochain témoin qui est madame Denise 8 9 Pictou-Maloney qui nous partageras son histoire et ses vérités. Également on voudrait vous rappeler que si jamais 10 vous avez besoin du soutien à la santé ou du soutien 11 émotionnel vous avez des personnes de soutien à la santé 12 qui portent des t-shirts mauves donc quoi sont très bien 13 identifiés, ils sont disponible pou vous tous, également 14 15 ceux qui préférait parler au téléphone, il y a une ligne du soutien sans frais, vous voyez l'information qui est sur 16 17 les écrans en français et en anglais. 18 MS. KONAWATSITSAWI: Merci, aussi just to repeat en anglais just in English, that there is the 19 community support line that is open to the public because 20 some of the testimony that you do hear can be challenging, 21 painful, and also to see that the people who are in purple 22 shirts are there for everyone. 23 24 It is a public hearing and if you hear

something that is upsetting, we invite you to please

25

Denise Pictou-Maloney In relation to her mother Annie Mae Pictou Aquash

1	connect with someone in the mauve purple shirts, and they
2	are there for your help. If you choose to call the toll-
3	free number, 844-413-6649, that is absolutely okay for all
4	the public. Okay. Migwetch. Merci. Thank you.
5	MS. FANNY WYLDE: Commissioners, I would
6	like to present to you our next witness. We have here
7	Denise Pictou-Maloney who will be sharing the story of Anna
8	Mae Pictou Aquash, her mother. On February 24 th , 1976, near
9	Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota in the United
10	States, her mother was found dead, and she is here to share
11	the story of her mother.
12	Before I let Denise share her story, I would
13	like to ask Mr. Zandberg, the Registrar, to please swear in
14	the witness and she would like to provide oath with an
15	eagle feather.
16	MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Good morning, Denise.
17	MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: Good morning.
18	MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Do you promise to tell
19	your truth in a good way today?
20	MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: I do.
21	MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Okay.
22	MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: Thank you.
23	MS. FANNY WYLDE: Thank you, Mr. Zandberg.
24	So, Denise, we can start maybe by introduce yourself and
25	where you're from to the Commissioners.

1	MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: Okay. My name
2	is Denise Pictou-Maloney and I am the eldest daughter of
3	Annie Mae Pictou Aquash. I'm from Nova Scotia, from
4	Shubenacadie, which is the same community that my mother is
5	from. And, I think we have a video to play.
6	MS. FANNY WYLDE: Yes. So, before an
7	introduction, please, the AV team. Mrs. Pictou would like
8	to share a video in memory of her mother
9	Video Presentation
10	MS. FANNY WYLDE: Thank you. So, Denise,
11	can you share your mother's story with the Commissioners?
12	MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: Thank you. I
13	first want to say thank you to all of you for giving me
14	this opportunity to speak our family's truth to you. To
15	share some of the more difficult things that the public
16	doesn't know about what happened to my mom and our family's
17	journey through the last 20 years in trying to attain
18	justice for her.
19	I'll start by telling you who my mother was.
20	The most important thing to us, that she was our mother.
21	She was the center of our universe. She was the sun, the
22	moon and the stars. And, she left a legacy to us that I
23	continue to mourn because of her strength and her
24	resilience, our community and our women really need that
25	right now.

And, I chose that song because, in that 1 song, he talks about how she belongs here today. Here. 2 She should be here, part of this process, and she would 3 have been because that's what she was passionate about. 4 She was passionate about protecting women's rights and 5 6 human rights, and speaking about difficult things and making people accountable. And, it was that duty that cost 7 her her life. 8 9 She was raised based on the land, sustainability was not something that was foreign to her. 10 She knew how to survive, she knew how to fend for herself. 11 Despite the poverty and oppression, she still managed to 12 maintain her moral and her ethical code, even in a time 13 where there was little hope, where people didn't feel like 14 15 they could have any kind of hope or dependency on any of the institutions that were supposed to be protecting us. 16 17 She has a quote that I carry with myself regularly. She says, "When I'm asked what reservation I'm 18 from, from Whites, I say I wasn't raised on one of those 19 government concentration camps, I was raised properly by my 20 21 parents. I am glad we were brought up the way we were." At a young age, she realized the 22 limitations, she realized the cycle of oppressive 23 24 lifestyles that many of our communities had gotten engaged in, because of that lack of basic human rights and racism 25

that she witnessed every day, she made a decision with others to move to a bigger community. So, she moved to Boston. The purpose of leaving Canada and going to Boston was so that she could blend in, so that she could learn the tools that she would need to fight for our rights, because she knew she had to educate herself and also to be able to feel like she had some kind of equality.

That led to her being involved in the Boston Indian Council where she would work with people in the community, help them find resources, help them find jobs. You would regularly find her sitting outside of the pubs and the bars on Saturday night, just, you know, trying to dissuade participants from going into the bars and saying, there's better choices, come with me, I'll help you.

She became engaged in protecting our First Nations because she recognized the challenges that we had in trying to maintain our integrity, our dignity. And, she saw that -- the lack of the knowledge of our traditional ways, she was raised traditionally. She also knew the values and the morals that she was raised with were lacking in a lot of the groups of the people that she was dealing with that were drinking and partying and really trying to numb themselves from the reality of all of the oppression that they lived in daily.

In the early 1970s, there was a group, an

activist group by the name of the American Indian Movement that came to Boston, and they wanted to petition and campaign for new membership. So, they were travelling city to city and asking those grassroots people in the area if they wanted to come and join their group. They talked a lot about traditional ways, they talked a lot about maintaining our human rights and fighting for our human rights. They said the right things to my mother so that she trusted that this was something that she could get engaged in, that she could invest her time.

And, she became very quickly accepted by the group, and as they say, rose the ranks of where she was with the leadership almost on a constant basis. The leadership at that time being Dennis Banks, John Trudell, Russell Means, Clyde Bellecourt, Vernon Bellecourt and Leonard Peltier, and these people all became her friends at the time.

It is about the same time that my parents separated and we were left in the care of my mom. Life changed considerably for us. You know, we were living my mother's activist lifestyle, so we would travel with her to protests. I distinctly remember going to the takeover of the Mayflower too, in Boston, Massachusetts in Plymouth, where the members of the American Indian Movement took over the ship and did a protest there on Thanksgiving Day. But,

I specifically remember going to that with her, feeling very proud that we were fighting for our rights at a young age.

And, I distinctly remember also going to the takeover of the BIA building in Washington, D.C., where military came in with -- or police officers came in with tear gas to, you know, try to disperse the crowd. And, her handing me a baggy with a wet face cloth in it and saying, if you see men coming with masks, put them over your face and run out of the building and I'll come find you. It never came to that. She was always careful with our safety. We were actually, you know, moved from that site and went swimming at a pool at a local hotel. But, it was the fact that she was including us in that, that made us feel like we were engaged in her lifestyle and very much supporting her lifestyle, and understanding the reality of what she was fighting for.

The reason they had taken over the building was because they were selling off tracks of land without consult for uranium mining with the government, and she was very much engaged in exposing that injustice that was going on in some of the communities in the United States.

My mother was also very passionate about education, and I -- also to the point where she enrolled us in aliases and made us go to school because we were

thinking that, you know, this activist lifestyle meant that we didn't have to go to school, which was kind of cool, we were running across the country with her. But, there came a time where, because she was so passionate about our education, that she knew that that was important to us.

And, she also was engaged in starting up an education program called TRIBES in Bar Harbor, Maine where they would focus on traditional values, grouped in with education, recognizing how important at that young age and also at that time of era, that most people weren't even thinking about, they were thinking about getting away from their traditional ways because of the impacts of the residential school system. And, they weren't even talking about those things at that time, this is the early '70s.

Movement actually ended up her landing her on the FBI's top most -- top ten most wanted list, which was -- you know, that's not a good thing for a parent to be on when they have two small children. So, my father and her had an agreement that, when they separated, whoever was in the best place to look after us, who had the best capability of looking after us would have custody. So, when that happened, my dad came down and took us and moved us to Canada for safety reasons and security and -- for the decision and the agreement that they had to protect us.

She contacted us regularly by phone. And, in the fall of '75, even swam across a lake to come and meet us, because remembering she's still on the most wanted list for the FBI, she had to travel undetected, and that was probably one of the last times that I saw her.

She stayed with us and an aunt, and there were some things that she said to me during that time that I carry with me still today, because it has a lot of current applications to today. Maybe not the first one, but definitely the other two.

She said, look out for your sister, you are older and it is your duty to look after her. Of course, being a child, I thought, great, I'm the boss. I took that to the bank. But, the next two were so resounding, she said, remember always that we are created equal and that there's no one that's better than you. And, the last one, don't lie, always tell the truth. And then she promised to call us at Christmas time.

Christmas came and went, and we did not get that phone call. Being children, we had no concept of time. The adults in my life knew, I found out later, something was wrong, because she never broke a promise not — to contact us. We were the center of her universe. She talked about us incessantly with her friends within the movement. People knew our names, they knew how old we

were, they knew what colours we liked. Like, she constantly talked about us.

But, to us, not having a concept of time and realizing the holidays and getting caught up in the spirit of the holidays, you know, we thought, oh, she didn't call. I know for myself, I comforted myself in thinking that she was fighting for our people. Knowing that she was on the run from the law, I thought, you know, she must be underground, you know, there's a whole fantasy that you create as a child. But, I was still very proud of her regardless of that, because I knew how hard she was fighting to make a difference in our world.

We would later learn through conversations with the adults in our life that she had contacted other family members during this time. And, one of the most haunting stories that's told out of this story when we're talking about what happened to her and the decision that she made to go back. When she was with us that last time, she told my aunties that she had been interrogated at gun point by Leonard Peltier. She said that the group had started interrogating her and accusing her of being an informant and an infiltrator. Our aunties at the time begged her not to go back. They said, please, it's not safe. You can't go back.

But, she was so passionate and she knew

there were people within this organization that could shift and make a difference, and bring change. She believed in their ability and their strong spirits, that she told them that, no, I have to go back. I have to go back because I know that there's good here. I know that there's good spirits here, there's good hearts. And, she went back.

A few months later, one of my aunties would get a panicked call from her in the middle of the night, in about mid November, and they would -- she would say, I want to come home. You have to help me. I want to come home. This is obviously predating e-transfer. Any opportunity to try and get her money overnight, she had to call Western Union and she said, stay where you are, come to this phone at 10:00 in the morning and I will tell you where to go to get money to come home. And, we never heard from her again.

In early March, I recall having discussions about plans with my family to go on holidays. And, my father sitting us down in a chair, I could tell something was wrong. He never sat us down in a chair to talk to us. It was just something we talk -- that's just what we didn't do. I remember looking at my sister and I, and we were so tiny, both of us were in the same chair. That never would happen today, but we could both sit in a chair together and be -- like, have room. That's how small we were. And, I

remember that, that's engrained in my mind. That -- you know, I wasn't hearing what he was saying, I was thinking that, oh, both of us can sit in a chair. You know, like, this is what a child does.

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He said -- I can't read through my tears, sorry. And, I want to quote because it's important that people understand. Later on, you'll find why I'm so insistent on quoting exactly what happened. He said that my mother was a warrior and that they had found a body and it was hers, and that all we needed to remember was that she died fighting for our people. I was in shock of course. But, my first thought of process went to was, whether or not our holiday would be cancelled, you know? It just -- and then my sister and I were given the option to go to the funeral. They said, you can either go on holiday or you can go to the funeral. No child wants to go to their parent's funeral, so we obviously said, no, we're good. We don't want to see our mother that way. We want to remember her how we saw her last. And, I'm glad we made that decision, I'm glad that my parents at the time gave me that choice, because it is what is part of the resiliency that I have.

Of course, my sister and I would say, you know, it's not true, because we knew she was running from the FBI and from the American authorities. We thought

she's underground, she's hiding, she's with the witness protection program. That's what we actually convinced ourselves, by not going and physically seeing her laying in a casket, that she was still alive out there and that this was some kind of coup to throw them off of her scent. We believed her of that because we thought she was superwoman to us. She was our Wonder Woman.

My auntie would begin a writing campaign after this, that will last several years to no avail.

Dozens of letters written to different government officials, American and Canadian side, asking for help. No answers, responses were handed onto another department, regurgitate information that we already knew, no new info, and the most compelling, no offers of support. Not one offer. Do you guys need help? Do you need us to hire a lawyer in the United States, so we can find out what happened to your mother? There was nothing.

My aunties lived in their communities in Nova Scotia with no resources. Very little access to resources. We could not even consider hiring a lawyer, let alone know what's going on on the other side of the border. So, for many years, our family sat — sitting in limbo, not really knowing what happened, and just having to accept it like, sadly, a lot of our families have to accept it. That's just part of being Indigenous, this stuff happens

and you just swallow it down, choke it down and go on.

We prayed hard that someone -- and I knew there was a lot of people talking about it because of what my mom said. And, if she talked so passionately about her friends and about the people that were important to her, I had hoped that one day they would step up and they would tell us what happened to her no matter what. Our family's suspicions leaned heavily towards the American Indian Movement of course because of what she told us, but we also know that there was a lot of suspicion with the FBI and the American authorities because of why she was already down there fighting.

In 1997, we got the call, our answers were prayered [sic]. We got a call from a man by the name of Robert Pictou Branscombe who was the second cousin of my mom who was living in the United States. He called to inform us, to tell us that there were grand juries being held in the United States about my mother. And, I said, really? I said, well, nobody's called us. And, at this time, we found out there was three, and not one person thought to call the family of this woman and let us know that we were -- you know, conducting grand juries or that they were conducting grand juries in her (indiscernible).

So, in 1999, we would start a letter writing campaign this side of the border, trying to get our

Canadian government to help us and assist us. We wrote letters to AFN, to the Canadian government. This would also be the same time when I would start receiving letters from Leonard Peltier. Out of the blue, just one day, I get a letter, oh, Leonard Peltier, Leavenworth Penitentiary. I open it up and read it.

And, in these letters that he sent me, and I won't go into details, but there were three or four of them. He claims that he was my mother's friend, that he loved her, that he wanted to help our family, and if our family would agree to help him, he would help us. I wrote him back and I said, I would not write a letter of support for him, but if he loved my mother as much as he said he did and he wanted to support us, then maybe he could help us find who did this to my mother. And, he responded by saying other things, but first responded by saying, I didn't interrogate your mother, because that had already become public knowledge. And, I would not participate in incarcerating another Indigenous man.

So, I sent him back another letter and I said we didn't need your assistance. Thank you. And then he sent back two other letters which I never responded to, which were full of more lies of his connection to my mother. And, he even created a scenario where they were sitting by a fireside and professing each other's affection

for each other. Not in an intimate way, but as brother and sister. And, he would continue on to then admit that he did interrogate her, but not at gunpoint.

Keeping in mind, in both of the responses -or the responses I sent to him, I never ever once said that
he had shoved a gun in her mouth because I didn't want to
scare him off. So, that's how I knew he was talking to
other people and he was privy to information that was being
said publicly within our territories and in our
communities.

It was at this time that the Assembly of
First Nations passed a resolution supporting Leonard
Peltier. This was a huge shock to our family. Leonard
Peltier is a convicted felon sitting in prison for two life
sentences for murdering two human beings.

In 2000, AFN passed a resolution supporting our family and our quest for justice. When we went to Parliament Hill that same period of time, we had a private meeting with Phil Fontaine at the time who was the sitting Chief, and said, we were disturbed with the conflict of interest that this represented, knowing that Leonard Peltier was at least complicit in my mother's murder, for interrogating her and bad-jacketing her, and we never heard from them again.

So, we're coming into a period of time where

we're coming up to the trials, there was a lot going on, a lot of dates -- and I won't go into it, because I was going to do a timeline, but I thought it might be a little bit distracting. All of this information is available online.

So, in April 2002, I would receive a phone call from Arlo Looking Cloud. Arlo Looking Cloud was one of the suspects that was charged in my mother's murder. This was before he was arrested. Indian Country was abuzz with who was responsible for my mother's murder. They named three individuals as suspects, Arlo Looking Cloud, the most notable, and John Graham, also known as John Boy Patten. Arlo would contact a friend of mine, a journalist who was working on my mother's story for decades to bring awareness to this injustice.

Fully knowing being on the ground in Indian Country and hearing people -- rez gossip I guess they would call it, talk openly about what happened to my mother and how the people that took her life were not the FBI, they were her own people. He started asking questions and people would talk to him.

Arlo Looking Cloud contacted my friend and said, I would like to talk to the daughters of Annie Mae, and he said why? He said it's time. With all the conversations happening out in Indian Country, he finally found his conscience.

During that phone call, Arlo Looking Cloud would share with me the details of what happened to my mother, as an eyewitness who was there, how they kidnapped her from a house in Denver, Colorado. From a house of one of her friend's, who she considered her friend, the house of Troy Lynn Yellow Wood, and how they would take her with her hands tied, against her will, and drive her through the night to Rapid City, South Dakota. Where three individuals, Theda Nelson Clark, John Graham and Arlo Looking Cloud would repeatedly interrogate her, beat her, rape her, and then in the wee hours of the morning, take her to another house to acquire the gun that they needed to kill her, and then to another house where it's speculated a vote happened to execute her. And then they took her out to a bluff in Wanblee, South Dakota. And, while she knelt praying for us, John Graham shot her in the back of the head and dumped her body over a cliff, and then they got in their car and drove away.

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And, we thanked Arlo Looking Cloud for telling us what happened. He didn't speak to the rape, I know that now because of autopsy reports, but I'm not going to go back and tell the same thing over and over again. He spoke to the kidnapping, he spoke to the interrogation, the beatings, he spoke to the different locations, and of course to the point where they executed her.

So, then came the trials. Through grand juries, they were able to determine there was enough evidence with people talking, especially Arlo Looking Cloud has now confessed to us, and they pick him up on the streets somewhere in Denver, Colorado, ironically, on my mother's birthday. I know that was planned. Maybe not, but too good to be true in my opinion. They arrest him in 2003, March 27th. They tried to arrest -- they put a warrant out for John Graham and John Graham fled to Canada. And, it took us almost six years to extradite him and bring him back.

We wrote letters to the Justice Minister, asking and demanding for justice, asking for help. During that period between 2003 and 2010, we had four trials in the United States. Four trials, 23 eyewitnesses who gave detailed testimony under oath how American Indian Movement members kidnapped, interrogate, beat, raped and executed Anna Mae Pictou Aquash December of 1975.

The trials ended in two convictions, Arlo
Looking Cloud was charged, John Graham, we'd have to wait a
little longer for his trial, he was the last trial. He was
convicted of felony, kidnap and murder. And, two other
people that were charged, that I haven't spoken about yet.
Richard Vine Marshall was charged with providing the weapon
and he was acquitted. And, I'll speak a little to that

because he was acquitted because the jury could not determine without a doubt that he knew when they came to his house to get the gun -- never denied giving the gun, but that he knew that they were going to murder her, and that was repeatedly read to the jury by the judge during their instructions. I'm not a lawyer, but I'm also not a mind reader, as I know many people aren't, so he got to walk.

But, what was significant about that trial is that we got to hear again all of the testimony that supported and substantiated the facts that they kidnapped her, that members within the American Indian Movement kidnapped her, interrogated her, beat her, and we heard that all again, including from his own wife who also said that when they took her to her house, they made her cut the labels out of her clothes and change her clothes.

I could never understand why someone would do that to someone, other than to psychologically torture them. What would be the benefit of that? Other than forensically, I could think, that maybe she was covered in so much of her own blood from the beatings that they had to get rid of the evidence that she was beaten on before they shot her. But, this is all under the guise and the pretence that they didn't -- they weren't going out to hurt her.

Arlo Looking Cloud, his defence was he didn't know. He thought they were just going to scare her, didn't think they were going to go and kill her, but yet they went to a house, and made her change her clothes and cut the labels out. Doesn't sound like an accident to me.

At the same time during these trials, Thelma Rios was also charged with accessory. Thelma Rios is the one that initiated the kidnapping and she plead guilty.

After the trials -- of course during the trials, there was a lot of evidence that was revealed. There were three or four groups of people working towards justice for my mother, there was our family, there was journalists who were working on their own path, we had the authorities, and then we had one individual who -- my late cousin, Robert Pictou Branscombe.

During this time during the trials, we would learn the details of her autopsy. We would learn the details of all the mishandling of her body when she was found. We would learn details of the lies and the conspiracy that the American Indian Movement leadership, along with these individuals, created to hide the fact that they had killed one of their own women. For decades, Indian Country thought the FBI shot my mother. For decades, they were given a fantasy, a narrative, you know, that, to me, you would have to have a lot of bad, bad

qualities in you to even think that this would be okay.

During Arlo Looking Cloud's testimony, he made reference to orders coming from higher up along the chain, which would have and only could have been the leadership. And, again, at that time would have included Leonard Peltier, Dennis Banks, Russell Means, Vernon and Clyde Bellecourt, John Trudell, and they all had their own little pockets of AIM across the country that they would run and manage.

And, it's suggested that the reason why they all broke up was because of what happened to my mother, because some consciously could not live on with it and others couldn't. But, the problem was and problem remains today is that the organization has never held those people accountable in any way, shape or form, nor have they ever contacted us in all those years that my mother was missing, not one person from the American Indian Movement ever called us to see if we were okay. Nobody. That silence spoke volumes to me. I knew something was wrong.

Originally, when she was found, there was a lot of drama around how her body was handled. And, I'll speak to that a little bit and it's a little bit gory, but I'll tell you because it's important to how we ended up here and how we managed to have those trials and justice.

When they found her body, she was discovered

at the edge of a rancher's property and -- he was out mending fences in the spring when he came across her corpse. Immediately, of course, the federal authorities were brought in. Her body had been laying out there for some time. They flew a pathologist in from the next state over in the middle of the night. It was in February, so the weather was weirdly, you know, quite warm, cold, warm, cold, and if you understand science at all, to a body that's decaying, you know, it's not pretty. So, the pathologist that came in -- at the time, the x-ray machine was broken, he didn't do x-rays. He looked at her body, assuming that, you know, again just another dead Indian. And, he deemed her death by exposure. They cut off her hands at the wrists because her body was so mummified that they could not do the conventional testing which would be through the fingertips and then putting it in a glove, and they're estimating, probably because of an inexperienced field agent, cut the hands off at the wrist, put them in formaldehyde and sent them to Washington, D.C. for ID. Of course, AIM took that to the bank. How dare they desecrate their warrior martyr. How dare they

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dare they desecrate their warrior martyr. How dare they treat that body in that way. There must be some kind of conspiracy. They're trying to hide something. Maybe ligature marks around her hands, that's why they had to cut off the hands. This is the narrative that was going around

at this time. How could they do this? Not how did she

die? And, this is well after we have already identified

her. Nobody knows her identity yet. She's still Jane Doe.

During testimony, we learned that Dennis
Banks, on February 25th, called his friend, John Trudell,
and he was with his wife, Ka-Mook Banks, at the time, and
he said, you know that body they found? And, John said, I
didn't know there was a body. He said, yes, it's Annie
Mae. And, he said, oh. He says, I didn't know. And that
was it.

She wasn't positively identified until March the 3rd, after her hands went to Washington, D.C. And, my question is, how could he have known that that was her when he wasn't even in the state? His wife was sitting with him at the time and she said, how do you know it's her? He said, oh, the people that are there are saying that she's easily identifiable. Anybody could guess it was her. And, she said, okay, you know, mourning of course for her friend, because she was my mom's friend.

When we got word, our family immediately demanded a second autopsy. We knew something wasn't right. We knew her survival abilities because of how she was raised. We knew that she would not have been walking along the highway in South Dakota, deserted part of the highway, without the proper gear on. And, she would end up being

exhumed so that we could do a second autopsy with apathologist of our choosing.

And, when they did the second autopsy, it did not take long for the pathologist to find the bullet hole in the back of her head. And, that's when we knew, with how the American Indian Movement had behaved in not calling us, and when this happened there was dead silence, and then the cries started that it was the FBI that shot her. We didn't know any of these details at that time, when this was going down. We didn't know who to trust, we didn't know who to listen to, but we just knew something wasn't right and we just stood back.

And, it wasn't until we were in trial that we realized these details of how much of a cover up this was within the American Indian Movement, to actually create a narrative that they could focus on the fact that they cut a woman's hands off and not the fact that there was a bullet in the back of her head. She did not die from having her hands cut off.

After the trials were over, more details would come out with how her body was handled during her burial. We were told by women within the American Indian Movement that her body was prepared, that they gave her the traditional medicine she would need for her journey, they left her with medicines and items that she would need, and

she was in a beautiful dress and they cleaned her. When her body was found, my aunties would share with us, well into our adulthood, that when they went down to her funeral, the one that I opted out of, that they were picked up in a van and driven four hours from Rapid City to Pine Ridge, where they were having the wake in that territory, and that they were not permitted to go and see their sister. They were not allowed to go into the tepee that they were, waking her in.

My aunties, the whole four hours, were interrogated, asked, who were you talking to, the FBI, asking you questions, so they resorted to speaking in their own language, not feeling so safe. I know one aunt was intent on bringing her home and I believe the other aunt wanted the same thing, but they heard it from my own mother's mouth that she wanted to be buried there if something happened to her. So, they had to respect her wishes. But, of course not in any way draining that this was such a contrived, conspired event, that believing and hoping that it was the FBI and not their own people that did this to their sister, even though they knew there was question and suspicion there. They didn't want to believe it.

2004, after Arlo Looking Cloud was sentenced. My sister and I decided that -- well, actually,

it was my sister, because I, I'll be truthful, protested it
in the beginning because I knew it was going to be hard.

But, she wanted to bring my mother home. After we realized that this was an inside job, there was no way we wanted them to have access to her in the spirit.

So, we made arrangements to bring her home and -- through our own expenses, which cost us a lot of money. And, I think the most hurtful thing through that whole process was when we pulled her out of the ground, because they said they gave her a traditional burial -- we trusted them, we're talking about something that's sacred. And, when we pulled her out, she was wrapped in a tarp, in a plastic (indiscernible) sheet naked, there was nothing with her. I didn't see her when my sister pulled her out of the ground. I wouldn't even be surprised if she was face down.

During our repatriation of her, all our expense -- we went through ceremony and brought her out, packed her up to go home. And, we were served with an injunction on the evening when she was supposed to leave from Arlo Looking Cloud's defence lawyer saying that we couldn't take her home because they wanted to do DNA testing to determine, in fact, if it was her and then also to determine if there was any evidence of rape. This is 28 years later, after she was buried. We were floored. We

were horrified that we would go through our own expense and our own pain and our own effort, and then to have us denied that in the eleventh hour.

We went into court the next day feeling defeated in front of the judge again. We sat down and they got up and they plead their case, and the judge looked at us and he looked at them, and he said, well, first of all, he said, the charges of rape are — the statute of limitations have expired on that. He says, and your client's not even charged with rape. He said, so why would you do that? We knew at the time that John Graham, one of the charges that they had put on him was rape, so then we knew that he was communicating with each other from Canada into the United States, that the two lawyers were talking, because he was trying to find out, you know, if his client of course would be charged with rape — that there would be evidence to charge him.

And, we -- he looked at us and he said, you know what, he said, you had 28 years to get the evidence that you needed. He said, these young girls took it amongst themselves in their own -- through their own efforts to take their mother home, this woman is going home, and he denied the injunction and threw it out.

Unbeknownst to us, while we were going through all this, somebody had neglected to tell the

airport she couldn't go home and she was already home. So, I don't know if it was karma or divine intervention, whatever you want to believe, but there was no stopping her as soon as we know she was going home. Because of that, both my sister and I had a serious discussion about making sure that when we got her home, that every level of -- any scientific study that we could do in DNA, any kind of forensics that we could do, we would do before we interned her again.

And, we made plans for her funeral knowing that it was going to be a memorial, it was going to be a funeral and also a celebratory event because, in our community, my mother was revered as a hero and a hero was coming home. So, we planned it for an appropriate date, which would have been National Aboriginal Day 2004.

We got to that day, and I'm sitting on the tarmac of the airport in Halifax Stanfield International Airport, flying in from Toronto because I was living there at the time, and I get a call from my sister and she says, are you sitting down? And, I said, yes. She said, well, we just received an injunction that they're going to prevent us from burying her. And, I said, who? She said, John Graham's lawyers. I said, why? They want DNA to see if there's evidence for rape. I said, but the statute of limitations has expired on that. Why? 28 year -- you

1 know, this is ridiculous.

So, we worked feverishly throughout the weekend, Father's Day weekend, feverishly to find pathologists or our pathologist who had already started working on our stuff. I believe he was from Northern Ontario or from Manitoba, I'm not quite sure yet, I'll have to confirm that. But, he worked through Father's Day to get the final findings done, and he was able to determine that -- you know, that it was her, and then he sent the report, and they abandoned their injunction the next morning, which was the day of the funeral.

But, this is when we're already into day three of a four day ceremony for a funeral, and they have the nerve to try and inflict that on our family. And, I thought, what are they so scared of that they would do that? They had three months to do it. We were there for three months. They could have had access to her body. And, they waited until the eve of her funeral. And, it wasn't a private event, people knew about it for decades.

But, when we finally had the final say with John Graham's conviction, 2010, I had one of the lawyers walk over to me and say, this is going to be such a weight off of your chest. You must be so happy that you guys have gotten justice. I said, this was never a pleasant experience for me, there's no joy in watching other

families get destroyed. I said, but the battle now just begins. And, he said, why? And, I said, because now I have to go and convince Indian Country that they have been lied to for decades by individuals who they revered as their heroes, individuals that they called resistance fighters, they called warriors. That they have been lying to them all along, to create this narrative that the FBI shot Annie Mae, to create the narrative that there were COINTELPRO actions going on to cause dissention amongst the movement.

Reality, it was a domestic event that they lost control of and then tried to bury. And, because of their lifestyle, their thug mentality, that they had convinced themselves that they could just lie, and if they had an inner circle that was tight enough and loyal enough, that they could just lie, and they did and they took it to the bank.

So, people wonder why I'm still talking about this 42 years later. Why am I still talking? We got convictions, we have people sitting in prison, we have some form of justice. We're the lucky ones. I'm here to talk about the systemic issues that came after our justice. I had more difficulty in my years of fighting for justice for my mother, dealing with that, than I did with the actual trials in getting justice for my mother and that's sad.

I'm going to read you a letter that was written in 2003. On the day that they arrested -- let me back up a little bit. After the trials -- actually, it was during the trials. I got a call from Amnesty International to discuss about profiling my mother as one of the top 100 cases in Canada for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. And, I said, what are you going to do? And, they said, we're going to talk about what happened to her and we're going to show the injustice that she suffered and talk about that. I'm thinking, great, you know, we're in the middle of the trials, there's new evidence to prove that these people were engaged in her murder. And, I worked for eight months with one of their workers to get all the background information on what happened to Annie Mae.

Canada, Amnesty International wrote a letter of support for John Graham. It was like a punch in the face. After I had worked for eight months with them to profile my mother as one of the top 100 cases in Canada for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, I felt betrayed, I felt alone, I felt hopeless. I wrote a letter back and said, I don't understand, how can you support a man who is a suspect in her murder, in her interrogation that led to her murder, and support my mother? I couldn't understand the

1 contradiction.

And, all they would tell me was that, until he was proven guilty, he was considered to be innocent and that they, as a human rights organization, looked after all levels of human rights and sometimes there would be difficult contradictions. I said, I don't want anything to do with your project at that point. I said, I cannot walk in that world of contradiction. My mother died because of that. I can't walk in it, fighting for justice, knowing that I would be supporting an organization that not only supported my mother's trigger man, but for decades had supported Leonard Peltier.

So, with that, I pretty much ruined any opportunity for me to be involved in any kind of activity promoting Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. I didn't get phone calls, I didn't get invitations to come to the round tables. I got a couple of calls from the Native Women's Association over the years to get a Golden Eagle Award for fighting for justice for my mother, but that would be it.

We'll fast forward to -- at the same time, with the contradiction that AFN had, holding a resolution for Leonard Peltier and holding a resolution for my mother, I circled back with them feeling so lost and betrayed after losing that support from Amnesty. I said, you know, I just

wanted to check in to see where our resolution sat. 1 Is there anything happening? And, they said, oh, well, we 2 have it on your file that you don't want our help. No one 3 in my family ever called them to say that we didn't want 4 their help. The only thing that I could imagine is that 5 6 when my uncle went to question them about their contradiction, that that's what was stamped on our file. 7 Too controversial to deal with. 8 9 Today, if you go on the Amnesty International website, despite reports that they told John 10 Graham to remove the letter of support, there still exists 11 on John Graham's website a link to Amnesty International, 12 and I printed off that page two days ago. Right there, 13 links of support, down the page, Amnesty International. 14 15 I was told by the director, Alex Neve, that Amnesty Canada and Amnesty USA are two different entities. 16 17 I said, oh, okay. So, what are you saying? He goes, well, it's Amnesty -- it's USA Amnesty that's supporting Leonard 18 Peltier. We're not actively. I said, but you're all the 19 same, I don't see that anywhere that you're not. He goes, 20 well, historically, he said, we did in the past and we're 21 not actively supporting him. And, I said, well, I beg to 22 differ, because when he's looking for clemency, you're 23

always there to promote that. You're famous for that.

So, I went on the website the other day and

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I -- Amnesty Canada, and I Googled or searched their search engine there, and it says -- I put in Leonard's name, and right away, up popped all of these letters of support and articles of support for Leonard Peltier. And, it says at the top of the page, Amnesty Canada.

So, to me, to anybody that doesn't know this story, you would have assumed that they support him today, they have not denounced that. This is after trials, this is after convictions. One of the most poignant points I'm going to make right now is that when we were at trial, there was a woman who testified, who said that Leonard Peltier bragged to her, and her sister and my mother about shooting the two FBI agents when they were on the run with him in Marlon Brando's motor home right before he fled to Canada. That is documented evidence during a murder trial. And, it certainly puts a motive as to why they had to silence my mother, in knowing her moral convictions, she would not have sat well with that and through the repeated interrogations at gunpoint that he put her through.

Our family sat for a long time on our own, in silence, not really knowing who to turn to. Even throughout the trials, when we were active, we didn't know who -- who could we ask to help us, you know? They paid for one person to come down for the family, nobody else could come. Many of the trials I went to by myself. We

had to do our own fundraising, we had no offers of any kind of help, and that was okay because we got it done. We got it done by ourselves.

What was interesting is that during and throughout all of this, I felt so alone because I was the front person. I was the spokesperson. I was the one out there advocating for her justice throughout the trials.

And then when we even got after the trials, I had to still keep fighting for her right to life. I still had to keep campaigning because of this systemic confusion that was being created in our communities. Where people felt comfort, I could not find a space where I could feel safe to support my mother's right to life because of the contradiction and the grey areas.

There was no way I was going to stand on a stage with people who supported my mother's murder. What's the message I'm giving to our women and our youth, that it's okay, you know, a certain amount of time, when no acknowledgment or no ownership has been taken in any capacity with any organization or with any group that has been engaged in my mother's death.

I think one of the hardest things that we had to get over was that, exclusion. To sit there and watch on TV, people marched for MMIWG, people marched for justice. (Indiscernible), you name it. And, our family

sat there thinking, did we imagine that we just went to

trial? Did we imagine that we had convictions, that

there's documented evidence that these people are engaged?

And, are we imagining that our organizations that are

mandated and paid to defend our women are supporting our

mother's murderers and those involved in her murder? I

couldn't believe it.

And then when this entity came about, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls National Inquiry was announced, I was angry at first. I thought, oh, here we go again. Another money grab, another opportunity for people to just, you know, go through the motions. Another opportunity to be excluded. And, when the preliminary hearings came out throughout the country, I found out about it a day and a half before through Facebook. Somebody messaged me and said, did you know that they're coming to your territory? I said, no, I didn't know. They said, well, they're wanting to hear from families.

So, I went down there and I spoke my truth.

I was angry. I said to Carolyn Bennett, if you are serious about doing this work, you have to do it where you are maintaining the safety and the integrity of the families.

No one else. No organizations. Nothing else. You have to make sure that they have a safe place to say their truth,

and without impediment, and most of all without repercussion, because we know that is the deal that we're dealing with here, is that the reason why a lot of family members don't speak about this type of contradiction in their own communities and not feeling safe is because they worry about the repercussions.

They worry about not having access to basic needs in their community and being excluded from that.

They worry that they're going to get outcasted. That they're not going to be included in any kind of opportunities. They'll be overlooked when there's job opportunities, they'll be overlooked when they need to have help in their own community.

I went to that preliminary hearing so angry because I had heard there was an individual selling books outside one of the preliminary hearings out west. It was an individual that I won't name right now, but I repeatedly asked him not to appropriate my mother's name in his writing or in his public speaking because he sun dances with the men that killed my mother. And, he was at a MMIWG event selling his book. And, I spoke to that publicly. I said, this is why families don't feel safe coming to this process. You have to ensure.

And, I'm not the only one that has these paranoias or whatever they want to call it. We need to

feel safe, we need to know that the loyalty is there, and that it's not conditional and that it's not going to change because, you know, you're going to get more attention through this venue or that venue, that it is always going to be about the truth because the truth can be manipulated very easily as you saw with what happened to my mom.

People can lie, people can find other opportunities.

I'm going to read something for you and I'll apologize now because I will cry. I wanted to have — there should be another chair here and it should be for my sister. My sister and I are like two peas in a pod, we did everything together growing up. We had a pact that when we were going to take this process on, we were going to do it together because we were each other's best supports. We had each other's backs. She suffered greatly because of this process.

My sister is an RCMP officer and has been one for 31 years. The reason she became a police officer is because of the trauma that she lived through, she didn't want another family to have to go through it, she didn't want another human being, like my mother, to suffer the way she did.

She's never spoken publicly about my mother's death, instead she kept all her thoughts, all her opinions, all her feelings, living in guilt that I had to

face all of this on my own and deal with the daily barrage of insults, lies, half-truths and misinformed supporters.

For 31 years, she's been part of the justice system in Canada. However, all that training and experience was no match for either of us. We went through the trials, we saw crime photographs, and listened to horrific deals in the last few hours of our mother's life

We were warned by the judge if we wanted to remain in the court room, we were not allowed to shed one tear or display any emotion that might influence the jury. Neither one of us flinched when we saw our mother's decomposing body laying on the ground with her blackened skin. We were even able to get through hearing how she was bound and interrogated. Even when we heard testimony of how Graham was allegedly raping our mom. We knew she was doing everything possible to stay alive. We knew she was fighting hard every step of the way to try and convince her murderers that she deserved to live and that she wasn't an informant.

What we weren't prepared to hear was how in those last few hours and last few moments, she suddenly stopped crying and she stood defiantly and began praying enigma. On one hand, it broke our hearts knowing that she had finally conceded and given up, yet in our minds, we knew that she became a warrior to those last few seconds of

her life.

My sister, as I mentioned earlier, made arrangements to bring her home and it cost us a lot of money. And, throughout that process, having to be denied that full mourning, by being stopped with injunctions, them having every opportunity to do that. But, I'll tell you the hardest part for me was when we went to that National Inquiry hearing, I brought her with me, because I said, it's just a hearing about MMIWG. Come. Come and listen.

The room was full of families of victims from the Atlantic region, and we spent two days talking about systemic problems we all experienced by police in the death of our loved ones and missing cases. My sister didn't say a word.

As the hours went by -- and she sat there listening to everybody's stories in silence. We were the last ones to be given an opportunity to speak and my sister sat silent, and I spoke on behalf of our family.

Afterwards, she told me she was embarrassed to be a police officer, that even though she didn't handle any of those investigations, even though it wasn't her responsibility, even though she couldn't possibly have known everything that was going on, she still felt responsible and she was part of the organization as a whole.

She felt more responsible than senior

managers or the police that were involved did, and as much as I tried to talk sense into her, to tell her how could she possibly have known or done something, I can't remove the sense of guilt I feel and the pain she was -- experienced, and I know it's the reason why she can no longer work in that. She's retiring. It's part of the reason she can't come here and testify, unable to bear the pain and embarrassment of being part of the systemic system. She can't even say how she really feels because she's still a government employee and can't be seen as critical of her own organization. So, in essence, she's silenced once again, but this time by her employer.

I wasn't planning on going to the preliminary hearing that June, when I -- even after I found -- the day and a half that I had to actually conceptualize that it was happening, but there was one event that happened that fuelled me in wanting to go and wanting to be a part of this process. And, I presented to the Commissioners, news articles.

I was at home, minding my own business, you know, living life after trial, getting busy with the business of raising my children and getting back to the normal routine. And, I got a message on Facebook, someone said that the National Chief is on television, asking for our Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, on his visit to see

Obama, to ask for clemency for Leonard Peltier. This is after I just watched him accept a pretty large cheque for MMIWG.

So, right away I called up my Regional Chief -- because I go by the book, I go by the process that's in place. I called up my Regional Chief, Morley Googoo, and I said, Morley, this is happened, our family is devastated. He's just put us back 10 years. The evidence is out there, how can he say that he thinks he's innocent and that he deserves clemency? I was told not to get hysterical like my cousin. I was told that I would get more flies with honey than vinegar.

The phone conversation didn't last very long. I then contacted Mr. Perry Bellegarde's executive assistant, and I said, I would like a phone call with him, we're very upset, our family. He put out a press release saying that he apologized to our family, he's sorry that he inflicted so much pain, but that he still felt that Leonard was innocent.

This is why I am here, to address the systemic issues within our own communities, to address the hypocrisy, to address the contradiction, and the lies that we tell each other that we're fighting for justice and that we're mandated to do things to protect our women when everything that I have witnessed says the opposite.

If we're ever going to pull ourselves out of this vicious cycle -- the victimization of our women and girls is a billion-dollar business in this country. A billion-dollar business. If we are unhealthy, people are hi fiving themselves to the bank. And, as long as we have to rely on a system that says that they protect us and doesn't, we know what's going on behind the scenes. When people of position and people are put in positions of power, who are the perpetrators and who are bringing this injustice to our women, we will never get ahead. We will never heal. We will never have justice.

And, to me, that's what this process depends on. It depends on that. If we're not true to ourselves to the point where we can draw that line in the sand and say, I will not cross that line because I have my loyalty to these women, because these women deserve better and they deserve unconditional justice.

I'm going to speak to the intergenerational trauma that our family has suffered over this, the psychological torture that we have had to contend with in trying to navigate this justice system.

I submitted my impact statement from the murder of my mother when we went to trial to you, so I won't read that. It's lengthy. I want to talk about the next generation.

I'm going to read you my daughter's impact statement. She was 7 years old when she wrote this -sorry, 11 years old when she wrote this, and it was when we were going to trial for John Graham. She says, "I know a victim impact statement is supposed to be about what you lost, but mine is about what I never had. I never met my grandmother. I still don't know what she looks like or even smells like." We're smellers in our family, sorry.
"I never even felt comfortable even saying her name until this past year. I also never met anyone who had a family member murdered. My grandmother is what a lot of people lost, but my grandmother is what I never had."

And, when my husband and I were reading this last night, we came to a conclusion and a realization, most grandchildren remember the memories and moments with their grandparents through their lives. My children only remember them through doing school projects about her murder. If that's not of the epitome of intergeneration trauma, I don't know what is. The fact that she has to rely on doing school projects to learn about her grandmother.

And, I could be part of that because I wanted to protect her, because the realization and the hope that I didn't want her to lose in realizing the reality of this gong show of what we call advocacy in this country is

something I wanted her to have a little smidge of hope in maintaining that when she gets up to be of age, where she can be in charge of advocacy, that she can step forward and do it with a good heart and know that she can do it unconditionally. Thank you.

MS. FANNY WYLDE: Thank you, Denise. If you'll allow me, you shared with me this morning what you would be wearing around your neck and -- can you share it with the Commissioners?

MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: Oh. Okay. When my mother was murdered, members within the American Indian Movement took great pride in distributing all of her personal effects amongst each other across the United States, to try and hide the fact that they had done this to their sister. One of the things they took was her pipe. I did not know that she even had a pipe because I didn't know my mother that way. I was told by her good friends, they said, they have her pipe and they're using it. And, I said, I want it back.

And, when we were at trial, I was in an Elders room, so much like what we have here, and there was a bunch of Elders there from the area, and I walked in and I said, I understand that someone within the American Indian Movement has my mother's pipe and I want it back.

And, I was told by an Elder right away that's not how you

ask about it. It's not going to come to you if you ask

about it that way. And, I said, sorry, the rules were

broken when she was killed and I want it back. And, I

didn't hear anything about it.

I got a call from an Elder, a medicine man, out on the west coast, maybe five years later. And, he said, I think I know where your mom's pipe is. And, I said, okay, well, where is it? And, we didn't have any further conversation because he wasn't interested in telling me where he thought it might be, but I, kind of, knew then that it was in a certain area. But, he was calling to see if I wanted to meet with John Trudell and Dino Butler because they were struggling spiritually over what was going on with my mom, and I said no. Trials are done, they had their opportunity to come and speak to our family. It's done.

I get a call or a message from a friend in Maine. She says, two years later, do you know what your mom's pipe looks like? And, I said, no, sadly I don't. She says, okay. Something weird happened last week. I got a call from a friend of mine who was out west, who says that she thinks she knows where your pipe is -- your mom's pipe. I said, okay. And, the next thing I know, she says, I have your mom's pipe. So, somehow it was sent. It's being used in a bad way. They were drinking and partying

with it, and taking it out for show, bragging about how they had Annie Mae's pipe, sacred item. Men who knew what happened to her and have lied to continue to lie to this day about what happened to her. And, in the spring, after we treated it the way it was supposed to be treated, I asked my dad to bring this home and he went down and got it.

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I have my mother's pipe here with me today. I was instructed by one of your wonderful health supports that I needed to bring this today to give me courage and strength, and that this was the purpose of why it came This carries her prayers and her hopes and her dreams, and is something that will always -- I will hold dear to my heart. Of course, critics and naysayers say, how do you know it's hers, you know? And, I said, well, I'm telling you right now, to the person that sent this falsely to this family in that capacity, there is no medicine that is going to protect you on the other side. To me, it's her pipe and it will always be her pipe, and I wanted to bring it today to give courage and strength to the other families. I'm not a pipe carrier, but I respect it enough to do the medicine for it, to make sure that it's good.

And, I don't understand what the word "pipe carrier" is, I know this isn't it, just saying, carrying it

1	around your neck. And, I'm learning my traditional ways
2	because, as a result, again that intergenerational trauma,
3	the one woman that would have taught me my language, and my
4	traditions, and my culture was stolen from me at a very
5	young age.
6	MS. FANNY WYLDE: And, before I ask you if
7	you have any recommendations to provide to Commissioners,
8	you brought documents that you would like to share with
9	them. So, as you identify them, I will ask maybe the
10	Registrar to distribute a copy as the documents are
11	identified, please. So, just identify
12	MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: Okay.
13	MS. FANNY WYLDE: the first document
14	that you would like to share with the Commissioners, just
15	to mention what it is.
16	MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: Yes. So, it's a
17	public statement on the arrest of John Graham by Amnesty
18	International, sent December 12 th , 2003. This would have
19	been the letter that they posted and that was posted all
20	over the internet in support of that.
21	The second document is letters that we sent
22	to the Assembly of First Nations in asking for help with
23	our mother's trial.
24	MS. FANNY WYLDE: And, the second document?
25	MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: The second

1 document I have here is court records of my testimony of when Arlo Looking Cloud told me what happened to my mom. I 2 was subpoenaed to testify twice to speak to that. I have a 3 copy of the resolution. It's not signed because it was one 4 that I was sent at the time from the Assembly of First 5 6 Nations for my mother. MS. FANNY WYLDE: So, this is the third 7 document. 8 9 MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: Okay. Yes, because the two were stapled together. 10 MS. FANNY WYLDE: Okay. 11 12 MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: So, there were 13 two that were stapled. I'm sorry, the first two were stapled together. 14 15 MS. FANNY WYLDE: Okay. MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: The next one is 16 17 a news article speaking to our family asking for an apology from AFM and it was addressing when our National Chief 18 asked for clemency for Leonard Peltier. And, there's two 19 news articles speaking to that. 20 21 And then you'll see another document that's actually the second letter that's supposed to go with the 22 first letter for the Assembly of First Nations. And then I 23 24 have a copy of my daughter's victim impact statement, and then a copy of my impact statement. 25

MS. FANNY WYLDE: Okay. Thank you, Denise. 1 Do you have any recommendations to address to the 2 Commissioners? 3 MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: I do. A couple 4 of the recommendations I, kind of, mentioned earlier, when 5 6 I was talking to you about maintaining the integrity of our advocacy groups in making sure that there is a clear 7 definitive line of uninhibited truth for our families, in 8 9 being able to invest in an entity that supports justice without it being bastardized by politicians or by, you 10 know, whatever the next cause is that's coming along. 11 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in our 12 country is an entity that stands on its own and has for 13 centuries, and will continue sadly if we don't change 14 15 things to stand on its own as being an entity. We need healthier resources in our 16 17 communities, access to health. Generations of trauma have 18 created a lifestyle in our communities that we accept as acceptable because we think that that's what's normal, 19 being born Indigenous, that you have to exist in such a 20 high level of violence. 21 And, that our women deserve to have a safe 22 place to run so they don't leave our communities. I 23 24 recommend having safe houses in every one of our 25 communities before another gymnasium or before another ice

rink is built. That we build a safe house for our families to run to. And, I say families because I'm not going to be gender specific. The violence infiltrates and comes from every person in our community. The opportunity that they can go and not lose their children to family services because they have to call 911 for help, that they can go to a safe zone, let their partner, significant other cool down, let the law deal with them, and they have a safe zone where their families aren't being taken out of their schools and away from their communities, away from their medicine, away from their supports.

It's no wonder to me that our numbers are as high as they are when you have families that are running from domestic abuse in our communities, who can't have justice because the people and the perpetrators are the ones in their communities that are responsible for maintaining safety and a care that they are owed through basic human rights and living their lives undisturbed.

And, I think that until we take those measures to do that, that we will continue to have that vicious cycle. Having access to health supports and having access to mental health supports, it has to be something that we are comfortable with, that we create ourselves, that we identify with, that is Indigenous-based, so that we take ownership in it. And, that has to happen, because if

it doesn't, we're going to continue on in this cycle.

And, as I said, if that does, then we can't blame anybody else but ourselves. We know the solutions, we know what has to be done, we have to take ownership and we have to make sure that our women are protected and protected on all levels. Not just from the police, not just from a perpetrator, but all levels within their lives. That if they come to someone looking for help, if they say I have been violated, I have been attacked, they will be believed and then they will also have supports put in place so that they're not told that they're lying or they're not told that they don't matter, they're not told that they don't have value, because that is what the message that our family was given through this whole process, is that my mother didn't matter. She was one woman. One woman.

Every one of these missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and survivors are one woman. I know that there are people within our organizations that have good hearts and I'll tell you why I know this. One of them is sitting right here. I know you guys work with the justice system, you have good hearts, so I know those people exist.

This isn't a witch hunt to trash down -- and I can say this because people will say that I bad mouth and I'm on a witch hunt to bring down the American Indian

Movement, and I'm not, and I'll tell you why I know this, 1 because my mother was a member of the American Indian 2 Movement when it was in its purest form, and it was 3 corruption, drugs, alcohol, whatever you want to call it. 4 There was an entity in there that twisted it from its 5 6 original mandate and brought it down to its knees. And, when they got into the business of 7 killing human beings and lying about it, that's when it's 8 9 changed. And, people should not be investing in an organization that will not take accountability or 10 responsibility for that. 11 Things can change, organizations can be 12 changed, people can create new organizations, I believe in 13 that. I've seen amazing things being done in this country 14 15 with organizations that are on the grassroots level, out on the ground, my sister over here, doing it every day, 16 17 helping our women, not for recognition, not for a pay 18 cheque. That's where our energy needs to be put. It needs to be put into those grassroots people who are on the 19 ground, blood, sweat and tears every day, fighting for our 20 women to just exist in a world that does everything in its 21 power to say that they don't matter. Thank you. 22 Thank you, Denise. 23 MS. FANNY WYLDE: I will 24 now ask the Commissioners if they have questions or 25 comments. And, it's the time to do it. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci. 1 Before we go for question, I think -- I want to ask you for 2 forgiveness. I learned something today. I was supporting 3 something, without knowing, that didn't respect your mom. 4 And, she does matter, even still today. And, I will not 5 6 support the organization anymore, until they make this statement publicly. 7 Your words had a real effect starting now. 8 9 And, the other organization, which I work for 12 years for them, I will ask personally if they can do something. 10 when I'll be free moccasin, you bet I'll be loud. So, I 11 just want to say thank you ---12 MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: 13 Thank you. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: --- and I'm 14 15 asking you for your forgiveness. MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: Thank you. And, 16 17 I will accept. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: First time I 18 put make up on. 19 COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON: Denise, I just 20 21 want to thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for coming and sharing everything tat you've been through with your 22 family and telling us about your mother. And, especially 23 24 for -- I just want to acknowledge your incredible strength 25 in coming here and sharing, shining a spotlight on the

systemic issues that you talked about, the contradictions, what can make people -- families feel excluded, and the confusion and just giving us that perspective and having such strength to do that. So, thank you so much.

5 MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: Thank you. I'm 6 such a cry baby.

COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: The journey of the Inquiry is -- the beginning, was where you and I met, and this is the first time I've gotten to hear it all.

When we marched in Membertou, it was such an honour to hold your mom's picture. I still have it in my office.

I want to acknowledge a gift you've given us today, but also what you've given to this Inquiry, what you've taught us since the beginning, how we should walk, how we should walk our talk and that's something that I remember every day, and I thank you again for reminding me of that today. This is not a process run by -- it can't be a process like those other institutions and processes have been, it can't be polluted by politics. The truth cannot be polluted by politics and create corruption. You've opened my eyes to so much and I want to thank you for that, and I'll carry that in my moccasins too.

And, I want to thank you for all the love that you've given our staff and our families throughout this Inquiry as well, and for guiding us to do this the

1 best way we can together, and I want to thank you so much for that. (Speaking in Native language). 2 MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: Very good. 3 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Well, people 4 maybe don't know in the crowd and across Canada that we are 5 6 blessed to have families, families that come from different territories, different region, different background, 7 survivors, with a long, long -- how can I say? They're 8 9 strong, and they agreed and accepted to guide us, we say the National Family Advisory Circle, but they are warriors, 10 strong warriors, and beautiful and powerful, and we have 11 just on the other side too, over here, again one and two, 12 and another room too. And, when you said yes to us, it's 13 not over, you're still there. So, people, you need to know 14 15 that, like I said, the families are quiding us and it's beautiful to see that they're also inside seven days a 16 17 week. And, your friends behind you, it's beautiful to see 18 -- and this handsome man too, it's nice to see him here. Merci beaucoup. 19 MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: 20 Thank you. MS. FANNY WYLDE: So, I will ask the 21 Commissioners to adjourn this session. Thank you. 22 MS. DENISE PICTOU-MALONEY: 23 Somebody's going 24 to sing for us, but we can't have any cameras on, so maybe we'll do it after the gifts or... 25

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay. 1 MS. KONAWATSITSAWI: Okay. Bonjour. Hello. 2 3 (Speaking in Native language) to everyone. I'm just going to get everybody to take a deep breath. Let it out. This 4 is a lot of history here, learning here. Let your arms 5 6 loose. Let your arms loose. Relax. Put your feet on Mother Earth. Feel Mother Earth. Everyone has to feel --7 put your two feet on the earth, side by side, roll your 8 9 shoulders. Even if you're in your seat, roll your shoulders. Put your arms up, way up. Wave. Wave it away. 10 Wave it away. But, then bring in the power that we heard. 11 Bring in the power that we heard, the incredible words. 12 Okay. We are going to have an honour song after. Après les 13 familles finissent ici, we're going to have a song, but I 14 15 just want you to take a deep breath. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Alors on vous 16 17 demande de prendre une profonde respiration. De laissez aller toutes les tensions, les émotions, de mettre bien 18 19 comme il faut les pieds sur la mère terre, de sentir et de bouger. Il va avoir un champ d'honneur, on demande à ce 20 moment-là. Ok, donc durant le champ d'honneur, on demande 21 à ce qu'il n'y est pas de camera qui tourne s'il vous plaît 22 puis en suite, ça sera une pause pour le diner. 23 24 MS. KONAWATSITSAWI: Yes, lunch is there. 25 We will be quided to let you know when we recommence.

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1	will ask tha	t you drink some water, to get some food, but
2	we will also	ask to have the cameras turned off while the
3	song is done	to honour the families in the circle, please.
4	Migwetch. The	nank you. <i>Merci</i> .
5		COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: (Speaking in
6	Native langua	age), Denise. My Mi'kmaq sister.
7	Exhibits	(code: P01P13P0101)
8	Exhibit 1:	Video of Peter Stevens playing song for Annie
9		Mae Pictou Aquash (3 minutes 57 seconds, 10.1
10		MB, MP4 format) [Filename:
11		P01P13P0202_Pictou-Maloney_Exh_1]
12	Exhibit 2:	Folder containing 22 digital images displayed
13		during the public hearing of Denise Pictou-
14		Maloney. [Filename: P01P13P0202_Pictou-
15		Maloney_Exh_2]
16	Exhibit 3:	a) Amnesty International, "Public statement
17		on the arrest of John Graham," December 12,
18		2003 (one page) along with b) Letter of the
19		daughters of Anna Mae Pictou Aquash to AFN
20		National Chief Phil Fontaine (undated, two
21		pages).
22	Exhibit 4:	Court transcript of direct examination of
23		Denise Pictou Maloney, pp. 292-299 (no
24		citation information included on documents).
25	Exhibit 5:	Confederacy of Nations Resolution no. 2/2000,

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1		subject: Justice for Anna Mae Pictou-Aquash
2		(two pages).
3	Exhibit 6:	CTV article "Daughter of native rights
4		activist wants apology from AFN," published
5		March 9, 2016 at 5:43 PM EST, printed March
6		13, 2018 (two pages).
7	Exhibit 7:	APTN article "Bellegarde apologizes to Anna
8		Mae Aquash's daughter over statement about
9		Leonard Peltier," published March 9, 2016,
10		printed March 13, 2018 (two pages).
11	Exhibit 8:	Letter addressed to AFN Grand Chief Matthew
12		Coon Come from Denise and Debbie Pictou
13		Maloney.
L4	Exhibit 9:	Victim impact statement of Christine, Annie
15		Mae's grand-daughter (one page).
16	Exhibit 10:	Victim impact statement of Denise Pictou
17		Maloney, with one line crossed out on the
18		second page (5 pages).
19	Upon adjou	rning at 13:44
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21		
22		
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Denise Pictou-Maloney In relation to her mother Annie Mae Pictou Aquash

1	LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE
2	
3	I, Shirley Chang, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I
4	have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and
5	accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this
6	matter.
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10	Shirley Chang
11	March 28, 2018
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