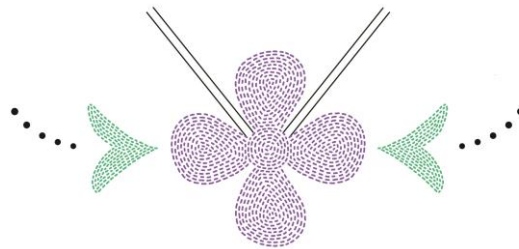


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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 Statement Gathering
Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel
Metro Vancouver (Richmond), British Columbia**



PUBLIC

Wednesday April 4, 2018

**Statement - Volume 338
Fay Blaney, In relation to Angela Blaney**

Statement gathered by Daria Boyarchuk

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II

NOTE

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Documents submitted with testimony: None.



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(Angela Blaney)

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April 4, 2018
Vancouver, BC

(PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 4:30 P.M.)

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Hi, my name is Daria Boyarchuk. It is April 4th, 2018, and it's 4:30 in the afternoon. We're here in the presence of Fay Blaney, who's here to speak about her sister, Angela Blaney.

Fay, I have spoken to you earlier about the consent form --

FAY BLANEY: M'mm-hmm.

DARIA BOYARCHUK: -- and the consent form that allows you to authorize or not authorize the disclosure of your information -- your image, your story -- to outside of the inquiry. So if you could make -- you make the selection that you think is most appropriate for you, for your story, then -- you can either put your initials next to the -- with the box that you think is most appropriate for you, or you can just do a checkmark, whatever is --

FAY BLANEY: Okay.

DARIA BOYARCHUK: -- best. Okay?

And would you be able to -- if you want, the next pers -- or ...

ANITA DEGILEY: No, we'll go in a circle, in a circle.

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay, we will in a circle this way from me. All right. Thank you.

And then would you be able to sign here as a witness?

DONNA DICKISON: Yes, as a witness.

FAY BLANEY: Okay.

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Thank you very much. And before we begin, before Fay begins her testimony, I would like everyone to introduce yourselves and tell us about your relationship to Fay.

DONNA DICKISON: My name is Donna Dickison and I'm a friend of Fay. We have been for 20 years. We belong to the same group, Aboriginal Women's Action Network.

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay.

ROSALYN ING: I'm Rosalyn Ing. I think I met Fay quite a few years back. And I have always admired her, her courage and her activism for

Fay Blaney

(Angela Blaney)

1 Aboriginal people and women. And I think we
2 share similar backgrounds -- and I spent 11 years
3 in residential school -- and so I think that, you
4 know, we help each other knowing what we've been
5 through. And we live our lives usefully and --
6 even though a lot of bad things have happened to
7 us in our lives, but we don't live our lives as
8 victims. We want to make a better Canada for
9 all.

10 Thank you for having the courage to share
11 your story with us.

12 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Thank you for being here.

13 HARRIET PRINCE: I'm [speaking in Ojibway] --
14 from Anishinaabe, and what I
15 just said was -- my name is Kertel (phonetic)
16 in my language and my clan is Cariboo. I'm
17 Anishinaabe from Manitoba, lived in BC for 31
18 years, and I've known Fay for years through her
19 work. I followed her job and I really appreciate
20 what she's doing for the community, especially
21 for the women in [indiscernible]. [First Nations
22 language spoken], Fay.

23 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Thank you very much.

24 ANITA DEGILEY: Hi, my traditional name is Sintay
25 Sapitalia [phonetic], my paper name is Anita
26 Degiley, and I've known Fay for -- I don't know
27 even know how long -- like, a number of years,
28 like, through some of the committees, you know,
29 that we sit on and, you know, share a lot of the
30 same, you know, passions and, you know, activism
31 and, you know, our party and indigenous rights,
32 women's rights.

33 And I just always am very inspired, you
34 know, by your intellect and your passion,
35 everything that, you know, you put into, you
36 know, your path for paving that way, you know,
37 for the younger generations and just, you know,
38 sharing that knowledge, you know, and -- with the
39 people; right? -- and stepping forward, you know,
40 being your own person and that and -- you know,
41 and having the support of, like, many women,
42 like, beside you and behind you, circling you.
43 So thank you for being here. Thank you, you
44 know, for sharing that and inspiring us in a good
45 way.

46 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yeah. Thank you.

47 FAY BLANEY: And I want to thank you all for coming.

Fay Blaney

(Angela Blaney)

1 I really appreciate you being here with me when
2 I'm doing this. I feel really strongly about
3 wanting my sister's story out there and I want
4 people to know what happened to her. And so
5 that's why I didn't want this to be private. You
6 know, it's -- like the [redacted] family this morning,
7 you know, they were talking about how their
8 mother died and -- and it was under a dark
9 shadow, and I don't want my sister's name to be like
10 that. So I'm really grateful that you're here to
11 support and to witness what it is that I want to
12 share.

13 So that -- is it loud enough?

14 DARIA BOYARCHUK: It's loud enough. If you can speak
15 up a bit so that we do have a better recording
16 of -- that would be great.

17 FAY BLANEY: Okay.

18 DARIA BOYARCHUK: -- that would be great, but --

19 FAY BLANEY: Okay.

20 DARIA BOYARCHUK: -- whichever you're most comfortable
21 with. Okay?

22 FAY BLANEY: Okay.

23 So my sister was Angela Joan Blaney and she
24 was the third in our family. I was the oldest
25 and then my brother, [Brother], and then her. And
26 then my baby sister Carina. Angela was born on
27 March the 11th, 1960, and being the oldest, I was
28 born on [birthdate], 1957. And she wasn't even a
29 year old yet and my baby sister was born; 11
30 months apart, the two.

31 Just to give you a little background about
32 my community and what she was born into, I had a
33 grand aunt, who was my grandfather's youngest
34 sister. Her name was Veronica and she was raped
35 on the reserve up in Homalco when she was about
36 12, 13, something like that. And she pressed
37 charges. I don't know how she made it
38 successful, but he was sentenced to five years in
39 Oakalla. And the whole village turned against
40 her. Everybody turned against her. And she
41 couldn't stay at home so she came out here and
42 she lived in the Downtown Eastside. And my
43 Auntie Florence says that she was thrown out of
44 the hotel window of the Broadway Hotel, and she
45 said it was on that block where the Balmoral is.
46 I don't remember a Broadway hotel, but it was at
47 the 50s so I guess it's different. And she died

Fay Blaney

(Angela Blaney)

1 in 1954. Yeah, she was thrown out the window.
2 And her death was treated the same way that I
3 think all Indigenous women's deaths are treated,
4 where there's no regard, there's no respect, and
5 they just called it a suicide.

6 And the other two things that I wanted to
7 share historically about my reserve is -- so with
8 my auntie -- my granddad -- Veronica, she died in
9 '54 and I was born in '57, so she was gone by the
10 time I was born. But when -- after I was born,
11 my mother had a really close friend. Her name
12 was Maggie. And when I was about 4 or 5 Maggie
13 was killed by her husband. And in that time, the
14 people -- the men in the community were mostly
15 loggers and so they would go away for a big spell
16 of time -- like, 10 days or two weeks -- go out
17 logging, then they'd come back for a few days
18 off, and then they'd go back. And so the people
19 in the village were saying that she was partying
20 all the time and -- so when her husband got back
21 he was all jealous and he beat her really badly
22 and she had a fractured skull. And she died when
23 I was a little girl. And there was never ever
24 any kind of police investigation into that death.
25 And he murdered her. And so it sent a very loud
26 message, I think, through the community that you
27 could murder somebody and there would be no
28 consequences.

29 And there was another similar death in our
30 neighbouring community. I won't say too much
31 except that it really set the tone, where this
32 man, he drowned his wife in the bathtub. And it
33 divided the family really badly. They were
34 really fighting, the whole family. Like, there
35 was a son and one of the daughters that defended
36 the father and the rest were, like, very angry
37 that their mother had been killed. So it just
38 split the family.

39 And the other thing that was going on in my
40 village was we had the Catholic church. They had
41 come in way -- like, the Oblates came in a long
42 time ago. And I often wondered why we had that
43 word, lublet, and recently my uncle told me meant
44 the oblates, the oblate priests of whatever. I
45 don't know whatever that word is. But, anyway,
46 the Catholic church had been in my community
47 since the late 1800s and they had a little house

Fay Blaney

(Angela Blaney)

1 behind the church where the priest used to come
2 and stay. And there was one priest that abused a
3 lot of girls in residential school, Father
4 [X.]. And he attempted to abuse me, but I
5 never -- I -- I was so offended with the IAP
6 process in the residential school agreement I
7 never went to court for that. But I think that
8 he tried to molest my sister, too, because we
9 were both there at the same time. That priest,
10 Father [X.], he was at the residential
11 school, but he was also the one that they sent to
12 my village and he would come and he'd stay for
13 like a month or two months and he was always so
14 intoxicated and he was always having sexual
15 relations with my young cousins. My one cousin,
16 in particular, I remember her. Yeah. So he'd
17 get really drunk with everybody else on the
18 reserve. He was a horrible man; I didn't like
19 him.

20 So I really wanted to raise those issues
21 because I wanted to show that in the Indian Act
22 that it really was a patriarchal system. I
23 think one of my big concerns about the National
24 Inquiry is that we're looking so much at
25 colonization, and of course colonization is a
26 very important thing to look at, but we fought
27 hard to make this be only for women and so we
28 should be addressing women's issues and concerns
29 in the process. And I think there's a big
30 difference, a huge difference. In the Indian Act
31 the men got a lot of privileges. They were the
32 ones that could run in band elections, they could
33 vote in band elections, and women were not
34 allowed. And there were a lot of other
35 privileges that they had; like, around the
36 matrilineal property rights issue. The men --
37 the colonizers turned our world upside down by
38 giving that power to the men when it used to be
39 women that held that power. And my aunties that
40 just passed away in the past five years or so,
41 they told us that the home was where the women
42 were and that the sisters stuck together and the
43 sister's children were brothers and sisters. But
44 your brother, he was -- his children were like
45 cousins. They weren't like brothers and sisters;
46 they were more like cousins. Because they went
47 with the wife. So that's what my aunties were

Fay Blaney

(Angela Blaney)

1 teaching me. But when the Indian Act came in,
2 women no longer had that right to be the
3 matriarchs in our family, to house our family and
4 our community. It became a men thing, where the
5 men carried the status, the men owned the home.
6 And the kinship systems were through the men,
7 whereas before colonization it was through the
8 women. And with all of the power that the men
9 received through the Indian Act, they abused us.
10 They abused the women. And now we have a really
11 damaged relationship in our communities and ...
12 I just feel really strongly about the importance
13 of -- and that's one of my recommendations that
14 I'm going to make afterwards: that we really
15 need to undo the damage of the colonial symptoms
16 and especially directly deal with the patriarchy
17 that they imposed on us so that we bring back the
18 strength of women and to honour life-givers
19 again. And I think it's a tough sell for the
20 men, but I think that it's something that we
21 really need to work hard at.

22 So I wanted to tell those three little
23 stories about what my sister and I were born
24 into. We were born into a world where women
25 didn't matter and girls didn't matter. It was
26 the boys, they were the crown prince, but the
27 girls were not allowed to have needs. You know,
28 you weren't allowed to express your needs. The
29 little boys sat at the table and was fed first
30 and, you know, we sat on the floor and were fed
31 last. And very loud messages; that we girls were
32 not -- were insignificant, really. And that
33 message was hammered home throughout our
34 childhood.

35 So I'll come back now to my sister. My
36 sister was, like I said, born in 1960 and she was
37 about a year and a half. And my dad died in '61.
38 He drowned. And so my mom was left with myself,
39 at 4, my brother, at 3; and my sister was a year
40 and a half; and then the baby was six months old.
41 And she was 23 years old, my mom was, and she had
42 four kids. And she was young, very young. And
43 some of this story is told in the film called
44 Finding Dawn.

45 I mentioned that to you.

46 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Right.

47 FAY BLANEY: And my mom was being raped all the time

Fay Blaney

(Angela Blaney)

1 in the village. She had these four little
2 children and she was being raped all the time.
3 And the wives were going after my mother and
4 accusing her of fooling around with their
5 husbands. So she lasted -- I don't think she
6 lasted even a year and then she took off down to
7 the States. And with the 1951 amendment to the
8 Indian Act, she was supposed to be entitled to
9 provincial programs and services. She was
10 supposed to be entitled to support for her
11 children. And she took two -- the baby and my
12 brother -- with her and they wouldn't help her.
13 And this would have been around 1962. And what I
14 understand happened with the 1951 amendment to
15 the Indian Act that said provincial services will
16 be extended to Status Indians, that BC refused
17 because they said it was too expensive to deliver
18 services to Status Indians, and they negotiated a
19 very lucrative agreement, so that's how they got
20 all of their wealth around the apprehension of
21 our children and the dummying down of our kids,
22 saying that they're all special needs and all the
23 health issues they put onto us back then where
24 they were pulling out our teeth and all the
25 things they did to us. So my mom tried really
26 hard to take her kids with her but they wouldn't
27 let her. I mean, the provincial government was
28 saying, go see your Indian agent -- and this is
29 the early 60s -- and she should've gotten support
30 but she didn't. So she went down to Seattle and
31 then to Los Angeles and left us behind. She had
32 to bring back the two children that she took with
33 her because she couldn't care for them. She had
34 no job, and hadn't been off reserve except for
35 berry-picking. In the summer, they used to go
36 across the border to do berry-picking. And less
37 than a year after my mom left, my baby sister
38 died in a house fire. My baby sister, Carina.
39 And we all got separated. I was the oldest
40 and I never got raised with my brother or my
41 sister or my baby sister. I was near my baby
42 sister, but they wouldn't let me talk to her
43 because I only spoke my language and they didn't
44 want her learning that. They wanted her to learn
45 English, so they wouldn't let me near her. So my
46 brother and my sister were both on the reserve
47 and -- my sister went through hell. I barely

Fay Blaney

(Angela Blaney)

1 ever saw them, but she went through hell. When
2 I -- the odd time I would get to see her, they
3 told me how much sexual violence they were going
4 through, mostly her, not my brother. I thought I
5 was being pretty wise one time when -- I ran away
6 from residential school here in Mission, and
7 shortly after she got kicked out because she was
8 really angry and she was winging chairs through
9 the window and stuff like that, so they kicked
10 her out, and so she came and stayed with me. And
11 she must have been about 13 or something, 14.
12 And I thought I was being wise. I was trying to
13 get her to look at -- I knew she'd been sexually
14 abused like I was and I was trying to get her to
15 look at it and I was trying to show her this film
16 and -- oh, my God, she just came apart; she was
17 crying really loud and -- she was in so many
18 pain; she said, I can't, I can't look at that.
19 And through the years I started to find out what
20 happened to her. She said she was sexually
21 assaulted anally when she was 2 years old.
22 That's a baby. Like that's practically a newborn
23 baby. And that was with my [Family member 1]. And
24 while she was going through her healing she
25 really -- she had so much rage.

26 And some of you guys knew her from the
27 memorial march and if you see a pictures you will
28 recognize her. She is on some of the pictures.

29 Oh, it's hard to stay focused. There's so
30 much going on inside.

31 In that time that she was finding sobriety,
32 she wanted to launch a court case. And she
33 went -- she had a cop that she was dealing with
34 and she had 26 offenders. I just can't even
35 fathom that. I had, like, four in my childhood.
36 And I was not on the reserve; I was like off
37 reserve in a remote area, and that was all the
38 men that were there, all four of them were
39 abusing me. But she was on the reserve and there
40 were so many. And so she counted 26. And it
41 didn't go anywhere because they wanted dates and
42 they wanted witnesses and all this stupidity that
43 they wanted. And she was really devastated that
44 it was being re-victimized. It's like she was --
45 they -- you know, they got away with it the first
46 time and she's trying to bringing it through the
47 courts and they got away with it a second time.

Fay Blaney

(Angela Blaney)

1 And by this time she would have gotten about
2 maybe 12 years of sobriety thereabouts, somewhere
3 in there. And she a really bad car accident with
4 my cousin and she was in a lot of pain. And she
5 was already in a lot of pain; she had
6 fibromyalgia. And I'm pretty sure all the stuff
7 she went through as a little girl really impacted
8 her. And so when she had that car accident
9 she -- she was in so much pain and the doctors
10 were prescribing her medications and -- they're
11 just so negligent, I can't believe the things
12 they do, but -- they were giving her medications
13 to sleep and medications to kill the pain. And
14 within that time when all of, you know, in the
15 six-month period when she's going through all
16 this pain, she had a relapse, after like about 12
17 years of sobriety, it might have been more. And
18 she went back drinking and drugging. And she had
19 a little girl that was 8 years old and the father
20 of that little girl was still in her life.

21 Oh, I have a hard time talking about that,
22 that night that she died. It's so difficult.

23 So that night that she died ... She'd
24 already been calling transition houses on him,
25 her boyfriend or whatever he was, and she'd
26 called quite a few times, the transition house,
27 so they were all ready. They had a working
28 relationship with her. And she had a really good
29 relationship with the woman upstairs, who was the
30 landlady too. And she was trying to push that
31 man out of her life and he kept coming back.
32 He's still in the Downtown Eastside now. And he
33 was beating her on that night. And she phoned
34 the transition house and they were still in the
35 middle of talking to her and he yanked the phone
36 out of the wall and that -- that part I know,
37 because the landlady upstairs said that he threw
38 the phone out the door and it landed out on the
39 lawn and he could -- she could hear what was
40 going on down there. She could hear that he was
41 beating her. So when the phone was gone, like,
42 she had no connection to the outside world. And
43 then she died that night and the ... I don't
44 know, I just don't think that they did a proper
45 investigation of it. They just said that it was
46 an accidental death. She took all her pills for
47 the pain. Like, the sleeping pills and the pain

Fay Blaney

(Angela Blaney)

1 medications, she took them all. And he wasn't
2 even investigated or anything, even though the
3 landlady upstairs said that he was beating on
4 her.

5 I really wanted her story out there because
6 of all that she went through and how she didn't
7 find the justice that we're still looking for,
8 for Indigenous women. And I guess to add insult
9 to injury, the little girl, she was 8 years
10 old -- she named her [Niece]; she was called
11 [Niece] -- that the father of [Niece], her boyfriend,
12 he was raised in foster care with this family --
13 they were a Christian family -- and that young
14 man, when he grew up, he ended up out on the
15 streets. And then, when my sister died, they
16 took this daughter right away. And I went to the
17 First Nations Legal Clinic right away and said
18 that I wanted to have my niece and I wanted to
19 raise her. And I was talking to the law students
20 there and they kept -- there was a turnover and
21 then three months after I went there they told me
22 that they had a conflict of interest, they said
23 they couldn't tell me what it was, and they
24 couldn't work with me anymore. So this is three
25 months in, they've had my niece for three months,
26 and -- it just really ... Very upsetting that, I
27 lost my niece too. And I haven't seen her since
28 my sister passed.

29 When my sister passed, we were doing our
30 ceremonies. In the Coast Salish way, we have
31 burnings. And we wanted [Niece] there for the
32 burnings and we asked that family if we could
33 have [Niece] and they wouldn't -- we asked them to
34 wait, to respectfully wait -- like, back there --
35 and they wouldn't listen. They were right in the
36 middle disrupting our ceremony. And they
37 wouldn't let her talk. Every time we asked her
38 something, we asked her -- you know, this is
39 during the funeral, right, and all that stuff
40 that was going on -- we were asking her about how
41 did she like school and how did she like soccer,
42 and every time we asked the foster mother would
43 answer. And it's like we couldn't talk to her.
44 And she just really blocked us and pushed us out.
45 So [Niece] doesn't have much connection to the
46 family. And the family are -- they're really
47 upset; they say that [Niece] is like a White girl.

Fay Blaney

(Angela Blaney)

1 And it's -- it's just -- that's very upsetting
2 because what do they expect? I mean, [Niece] was
3 raised in a White home; she doesn't know any
4 other way. But she comes into our homes -- like,
5 I've never seen her myself, but just my other
6 niece, her sister, she says that she wipes off
7 the couch and the chair before she'll sit. It's
8 like we're all dirty. You know, everybody is
9 dirty and -- you know, she's got all these
10 mannerisms that are just ...

11 And her children are really struggling. My
12 sister's older children, they're not that old. I
13 mean, they're still in their teens when she
14 passed away. And [Niece 2] --

15 I don't know if you guys know [Niece 2].

16 -- she's moved back to the reserve now, but
17 she was at Sheway a lot in the past year. She's
18 got, like, four or five kids. She keeps having
19 kids and kids. And they're all over the place;
20 like, she just ... And now she's gone to the
21 reserve and she doesn't know how to parent the
22 kids and just -- lots of problems. And I don't
23 know what to do. I have a hard time with that.

24 So that's my sister's story that I wanted to
25 tell and I have a bunch of recommendations.

26 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay.

27 FAY BLANEY: But is there anything else? Anybody want
28 to ask anything?

29 The only thing that I left out was that both
30 my sister and I went to residential school, and
31 my brother too. We all went to Sechelt and to
32 St. Mary's.

33 HARRIET PRINCE: So how old is [Niece]
34 now?

35 FAY BLANEY: She's 16 or 17. Yeah.

36 HARRIET PRINCE: Still with the same
37 foster --

38 FAY BLANEY: Yeah. And she looks just like mom. I've
39 seen pictures of her.

40 GROUP RESPONSE: Aw.

41 FAY BLANEY: She looks so much like my sister. She's
42 really sweet. Yeah. And she's tall like her
43 mom -- or, not -- unlike her mom, unlike us. I
44 don't know, she must have got that from the dad.
45 Because we Coast Salish, we're pretty short.

46 ROSALYN ING: Maybe that would be [Niece's father]?

47 FAY BLANEY: Oh, it might be [Niece's father].

Fay Blaney

(Angela Blaney)

1 So one really beautiful memory that I have
2 of my sister is her love of the animals.

3

4

(INTERRUPTION BY UNKNOWN PARTY)

5

6

That's my son.

7

DARIA BOYARCHUK: So do we want to talk about another
8 member of the family?

8

9

FAY BLANEY: Pardon?

10

DARIA BOYARCHUK: You wanted to talk about --

11

FAY BLANEY: No, not another member. I just wanted to
12 say one really wonderful memory --

12

13

DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yes, please --

14

FAY BLANEY: -- I have of --

15

DARIA BOYARCHUK: -- do share --

16

FAY BLANEY: -- my sister.

17

DARIA BOYARCHUK: -- yes, of course.

18

FAY BLANEY: When she was a little girl, she said
19 that -- with all the horror going on in her
20 life -- she said her only solace was the animals.
21 And they used to say that she was like a mother
22 cat. And she was also the mother to all the
23 dogs. It's like -- and we had -- on the reserve
24 we had no running water and no, no indoor
25 toilets, so, you know, we went outside for that
26 stuff. And so in the morning when she got up she
27 would be walking to the outhouse and all the dogs
28 would be jumping around her, and the cats are
29 trailing along behind, all the res dogs. Yeah.

30

It's really sad the sexual violence that she
31 went through. She says that she often had blood
32 running down her legs and no one cared. No one
33 at all cared. She had -- she was treated so
34 badly. And I didn't get to see them. I hardly
35 got to see them.

35

36

So shall I do the recommendations now?

37

DARIA BOYARCHUK: I have a few questions, actually --

38

FAY BLANEY: Okay.

39

DARIA BOYARCHUK: -- if you don't mind --

40

FAY BLANEY: Okay.

41

DARIA BOYARCHUK: -- and if --

42

Do you also have any questions to ask Fay?

43

Like, maybe something that's unclear, you want to
44 know more about?

44

45

ROSALYN ING: Well, I just -- you know, it's more like
46 a complaint about this system. Because at one
47 time I worked at the native education centre and

46

47

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1 I was teaching counsellors there to work with
2 battered women and there were a lot of issues
3 that they weren't aware of, because a lot of
4 them, you know, had been abused themselves. But
5 one of the things in the 1980s came out was that,
6 you know, it's still a criminal act to beat, you
7 know, another person. It's a criminal assault
8 and -- but the police rarely ever, you know,
9 acted on it, if it was Aboriginal women, that I
10 was told, you know, or somebody else who knew a
11 court worker. And then they -- actually, the
12 government took over and made a policy out of
13 that criminal acts, so that the police
14 departments now had to act on it so that whenever
15 a woman brought up a charge against, you know,
16 anyone that assaulted her, they couldn't just
17 drop the case, even if she came back the next day
18 and said, you know, that she didn't want to press
19 charges, yeah. So I think, you know, in some
20 ways that's been an improvement, but I think it's
21 still not really carried through by a lot of
22 police departments yet. They don't believe or,
23 you know, they -- it's Aboriginal people, that
24 they just don't think, you know, that it's a
25 valid charge.

26 FAY BLANEY: Women's groups fought really hard for
27 that, the VAWIR policy, the Violence Against
28 Women In Relationships. That was a policy that
29 came in, in the late 90s, that the police were
30 the ones who were to press the charges and not
31 the woman. Yeah.

32 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Thank you.

33 Fay, you also mentioned that when your mom,
34 she went -- you know, after your father passed
35 away, after a year, so she went to the States --
36 Seattle and then U.S. [sic] -- what happened to you
37 children? Were you given up for adoption or put
38 up for foster care, or did --

39 FAY BLANEY: They -- we were --

40 DARIA BOYARCHUK: -- residential school? Where did
41 you end up?

42 FAY BLANEY: We were remote enough that -- I don't
43 think we involved the Indian agent or anybody.
44 Like, it was -- we were just distributed within
45 our families.

46 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Within your family, okay.

47 FAY BLANEY: Yeah. I was raised first by my great

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1 grandmother and then she passed away when I was 7
2 and then I got put with my grand uncle, her
3 youngest son. And, within that, there was a lot
4 of bouncing around, too. Like, we went to
5 residential school. My sister was 6 and 7 and I
6 was like 9 and 10, and the two of us got sent to
7 Sechelt. But I got bounced around a lot within
8 my family growing up. And we were always the
9 orphans, like -- and we were called bastards.
10 That was one of the things; they always called us
11 bastards. And yeah, they -- everybody treated us
12 badly because we didn't have parents.

13 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Is it the same residential school
14 that you went with Rosalyn, or?

15 DONNA DICKISON: I went to the same school --

16 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Oh, you went school --

17 DONNA DICKISON: -- yeah.

18 DARIA BOYARCHUK: -- yeah, I apologize -- you went to
19 the same --

20 Donna, you went to the same residential
21 school; right? And was it the Sechelt one?

22 DONNA DICKISON: No, St. Mary's.

23 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Oh, St. Mary's.

24 FAY BLANEY: Yeah, we went to St. Mary's later. Yeah.

25 DONNA DICKISON: But I'm older than her, so it ...

26 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay. Thank you.

27 FAY BLANEY: So we got sent to St. Mary's later on,
28 after our mom passed away. We met our mom 10
29 years later.

30 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Oh, you did?

31 FAY BLANEY: We met her and by then she already had
32 liver cirrhosis. She drank a lot. And I'm
33 pretty sure I would drink a lot too if I lost
34 four of my kids.

35 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Did she come back into the community
36 or how -- under what circumstances did you have
37 any chance to meet her?

38 FAY BLANEY: I was the impetus for her coming back.
39 She lived in Seattle. I started running away
40 when I was 13 because of the sexual violence, and
41 that's in the film Finding Dawn where I fled.
42 And it was a really remote location and so I
43 travelled through the wilderness and I swam parts
44 of the way; like, where there's a steep, steep
45 rock face, I swam like a distance to get to the
46 next beach and that sort of thing. I travelled
47 for about six hours or something and I reached

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1 this Christian family and they -- they brought me
2 to the reserve. And, from there, I really got
3 bounced around. And, again, there was so much
4 sexual violence from my uncles. And I was being
5 sent because my uncles were so violent towards me
6 and their wives -- same as what my mother went
7 through -- their wives thought I was trying to
8 fool around with my uncles, and so they wanted to
9 beat me up. And so they were sending me to
10 residential school to get me out of the
11 community. And the flight was scheduled to come
12 in and so I was going around saying good-bye to
13 my family. And my oldest uncle grabbed me and
14 tried to rape me right on the spot -- like, right
15 there -- before I was leaving and --

16 DARIA BOYARCHUK: How old were you then?

17 FAY BLANEY: 13.

18 DARIA BOYARCHUK: 13?

19 FAY BLANEY: And so I sent to Sliammon, that's the
20 reserve near ours, and they kept me there
21 overnight and they were sending me to Sechelt.
22 And I never got compensated for a lot this.
23 They ripped me off. I wanted to send the money
24 back to them, the res -- the common experience
25 payment, I didn't get the years that I was
26 there.

27 So my auntie contacted my mother and said,
28 this is going on with your daughter and you
29 should come see her. And so she came to see me
30 in Sechelt. And, like I said, she was like a
31 full-blown alcoholic. And the first time I met
32 her, she was giving me alcohol. And I got really
33 intoxicated and they kicked me out of the
34 residential school. And I had no place to go. I
35 couldn't go back to the reserve. I had nobody.
36 And so she took me to Seattle with her. And when
37 I got to Seattle, her husband came home and he
38 started beating her up in front of me. And I'm
39 in a strange place, I didn't know what to do.
40 And I'm, like, 13 at the time. I couldn't do
41 much of anything.

42 And so I met her first. I was really
43 excited to meet her and I wanted my two siblings
44 to meet her, too. And that's how that sort of
45 happened, was me first, and then them. But then
46 she died shortly afterwards and -- yeah -- we
47 were having conflict with her because of her

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1 drinking.

2 DARIA BOYARCHUK: And that's when you ended up coming
3 back here; right, or?

4 FAY BLANEY: I came to Vancouver and by then I was
5 like 14 or 15 and I had no place to go, so they
6 sent me to residential school again, to St.
7 Mary's. So I stayed at St. Mary's for another
8 two years and I ran away. M'mm-hmm. I ran away
9 when I was 16 and I was living in the downtown
10 area; like, on Granville and Robson, back in the
11 day when there was an old, old, old building
12 there. Not modern like today; it was a really
13 old rundown apartment building.

14 ROSALYN ING: Oh, yeah.

15 FAY BLANEY: You remember that place?

16 ROSALYN ING: Yeah. Holy.

17 FAY BLANEY: My boyfriend, Ted, had a brother and they
18 had a twin bed, him and his wife, and me and my
19 boyfriend were on the couch. That's Carina's
20 father. He became my husband later on.

21 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Hmm.

22 FAY BLANEY: So, yeah, that's how we met my mom. And
23 my sister was so excited to meet our mom. And I
24 was going through such anguish. I was so furious
25 with her: How dare you leave us when you knew
26 exactly at what you were leaving us to? So I was
27 going through all that rage, and my sister was,
28 how dare you be so ungrateful; this is our mother
29 you're talking about. You know, and it just ...
30 Like her and I were clashing on that point. So I
31 just really -- my family wouldn't let me have my
32 rage, and I couldn't talk to anybody about my
33 rage, and it was when I was in university that I
34 really processed. One of my women's studies
35 assignments was to interview either an elder or a
36 youth and so I interviewed my auntie. She was --
37 at the time my mom took off, my auntie also took
38 off, and she left four children behind. And, of
39 the four children, her two daughters were
40 sexually exploited and they've both suicided;
41 they are gone now. But I interviewed my auntie
42 and I wanted to know more about my mom. And she
43 was counselling at Hey-way'-noqu' and so she
44 comes home from work and spreads out on my couch
45 and she laid there for four hours -- four
46 hours -- and just talked and talked and talked
47 and told me the whole story of what happened.

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1 And I wrote and wrote and wrote and I got, like,
2 about 84 pages of notes and my hands were
3 cramping. And when I went to make all those
4 notes into a paper, I just never cried so much in
5 all my life. And I came to peace with what
6 happened to my mom. But, my sister and I, we
7 still -- you know, right up until the time she
8 passed away, she hates me saying "my mom." But I
9 still say it. I don't know why. I never say
10 "our mom." I claim her for myself, "my mom."
11 But she was pretty mad about that.

12 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yeah. Thank you. Thank you for
13 sharing this.

14 And you said that you have some
15 recommendations that you would also like to
16 share?

17 FAY BLANEY: Yeah. I just think the -- these are
18 really, like, right at the top of my list, is the
19 patriarchy within the Indian Act. I think that
20 the damage caused by patriarchy is ripping our
21 communities apart and so I think that there needs
22 to be a huge effort towards decolonization. And
23 that decolonization cannot be a generic general
24 term. It has to be the roles of women and the
25 roles of men in our communities. I think we have
26 really mixed-up ideas of what men's and women's
27 roles are and it's really causing a lot of harm
28 to the women. And far too many women are fleeing
29 from our homelands and our homes and families.
30 And my mom was one, I was one, my sister was one;
31 like, we're all fleeing from our homelands. So
32 there's something terribly wrong in that
33 community that is governed by men around the
34 politics. And one piece that I left out of our
35 history is that the church also did -- had its
36 big role. They appointed watchmen. I think it
37 grew out of the Metlakatla model in -- have you
38 heard of that, in northern BC, where they --
39 yeah, it was very militaristic style of governing
40 the community. And so on our reserve they
41 appointed a man to be a watchman and that man was
42 raping kids left, right and centre. He was
43 supposedly looking out for our safety, but he
44 raped everybody.

45 So I think a systemic look at the sexism
46 within the Indian Act, the patriarchy within the
47 Indian Act, and that's what decolonization has to

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1 mean. And I think that we also need autonomous
2 women's groups -- autonomous Indigenous women's
3 groups that does -- here, in Vancouver, we had
4 the traditional mother's dance group. I just
5 thought that was such an excellent model that
6 they had.

7 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Is it something that you think
8 should be adopted throughout the country, like,
9 in every community or some --

10 FAY BLANEY: Well, I wouldn't want to impose it. I
11 mean if --

12 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Right.

13 FAY BLANEY: -- that's what the community wants, I
14 think it's good. I think it's a really good
15 model to get women thinking about women's roles.
16 You know, they -- in that traditional parenting
17 program, they made their regalia, and they made
18 drums, they told stories, and they sang some
19 songs and they created new songs. And it
20 was -- it was a comfortable women's circle.

21 DARIA BOYARCHUK: So what is it, called traditional --

22 FAY BLANEY: Traditional parenting skills program. It
23 was my auntie that created that with the Indian
24 Homemakers' Association of BC, my Aunt Florence,
25 Florence Hackett. She was the executive director
26 that really pushed for that.

27 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Florence Hackett?

28 FAY BLANEY: M'mm-hmm.

29 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Was she real tall?

30 FAY BLANEY: No, Florence is my height. She's like
31 Don. I really wanted her to come and tell these
32 stories, but she -- she doesn't feel --

33 DARIA BOYARCHUK: So it's still in place; right?

34 FAY BLANEY: No, the Homemakers' got shut down. I'm
35 really upset about that.

36 ROSALYN ING: They were awesome.

37 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Oh, yes.

38 FAY BLANEY: And the founder of the Indian Homemakers'
39 of BC, she just passed away about two weeks ago
40 or a months ago, Rose Charlie. They have such an
41 incredible story of success with Indigenous
42 women's issues. But, yeah, I just think that we
43 really need indigenous women-only spaces where we
44 can have healing groups, talking circles,
45 whatever it is that women want to do. And that's
46 how we started, the one Donna was talking about,
47 the Aboriginal Women's Action Network. We

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1 started by having drop-ins on Tuesdays and
2 Thursdays, and we would sit around and have
3 cookies and tea and we'd just -- sometimes do
4 projects or else we would have a guest speaker
5 or -- just something that brought us together.
6 And eventually we -- we really learned a lot;
7 like, that VAWIR policy that Rosalyn was speaking
8 of. We were really concerned about the issue of
9 violence against women, so in the year 2000 we
10 rafted down the Fraser River on a journey for
11 justice. And before we went we educated
12 ourselves. We had 12 workshops, three or four
13 hours each. And we had a set topic every week.
14 Like, the VAWIR policy, we had a speaker to tell
15 us what it meant and how it worked, and children
16 who witnessed violence policy, and the sexual
17 assault laws. And we just -- 12 weeks solid of
18 learning all about that.

19 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Do you still run -- well, the
20 Aboriginal Women --

21 FAY BLANEY: Yeah, we have standing.

22 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay.

23 FAY BLANEY: Yeah, we have standing in the inquiry.

24 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay. Great.

25 FAY BLANEY: Yeah.

26 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Thank you.

27 FAY BLANEY: And I'm still on patriarchal damages
28 in --

29 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yes, of course --

30 FAY BLANEY: -- the Indian Act.

31 DARIA BOYARCHUK: -- of course.

32 FAY BLANEY: The other thing that they've done is
33 they've de-funded all the women's programs across
34 the country. And it was the women's groups that
35 really helped us get going in the Aboriginal
36 Women's Action Network. We used to work with the
37 Vancouver Status of Women. And, today, mostly we
38 work with Vancouver Rape Relief because they are
39 the ones that are supporting us. And when we
40 heard that the inquiry was starting, we held two
41 national gatherings and brought women from across
42 the country to come and talk about what the
43 inquiry was. And it's very much from a feminist
44 perspective. That's my big thing, is Indigenous
45 feminism.

46 My second recommendation is -- I'm trying to
47 put them in order of priority.

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1 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay.

2 FAY BLANEY: The second one is time and expertise to
3 complete Phases 2 and 3 of the National Inquiry.
4 I just think that the government has been
5 scheming all along that they haven't wanted to do
6 Phase 2 and 3. When they came here for the
7 pre-inquiry consultation, they wanted to hear the
8 families' stories and they didn't want us from
9 women's groups to come there. And they were
10 saying that the agencies and organizations
11 shouldn't be here. And in BC, like, we're very
12 well organized. We've got the coalition that
13 came out of the Oppal inquiry and we also have
14 the annual Valentine's Day Womens Memorial march. So
15 we are organized and so we all came up -- came
16 out with our different hats on. And yesterday
17 afternoon we heard from someone that was saying
18 that Carolyn Bennett was really unhappy with us
19 here, in the BC, and the amount of space that we
20 took in the pre- inquiry consultation. I think
21 people might not be fully aware of what Phase 2
22 and 3 are because they're not even telling us
23 what -- you know, no one is telling us what Phase 2
24 and 3 are and -- I just think they're so
25 critical. You know, we've heard the stories,
26 we've heard the women share their stories, but
27 the next part, the institutional, like, we really
28 have to look at those three areas that you guys
29 are talking about: the victim services, child
30 welfare, and -- I always forget the third one --
31 health. Health. And then housing is somewhere
32 in there maybe. I mean, it's not for sure that
33 there's a fourth one, but those government
34 institutions need to be interrogated and
35 examined. It's very unfortunate that we're not
36 interrogating the police. That's bad enough,
37 that they're not included in the terms of
38 reference, but what limited power we have, to
39 look at how victim services runs in this country.
40 Like, what kind of support are they offering to
41 Indigenous women in cases of violence. You know,
42 when I was working at the Downtown Eastside
43 Women's Centre, we had a woman that was almost
44 dead. She was stabbed in front of the First
45 United Church. They took her to the hospital,
46 the hospital -- as soon as she came to -- she was
47 in a semi-comatose stage -- she came to and they

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1 gave her a bunch of gauze and sent her home. Is
2 that proper victim services? We know it's not.
3 You know, they -- that's so inappropriate, to
4 release her and to send her down to her SRO where
5 it's got cockroaches and mice running around all
6 over and she's got gaping wounds. So, you know,
7 that's just a for-example. We need to look at
8 what the victim services looks like in this
9 country. And child welfare, I mean, that's the
10 huge one, child welfare. It needs so much
11 looking at. Because those gals, they age out of
12 the foster care system and they end up working on
13 the streets. You know, my two cousins that I
14 just said my auntie and my mom left together,
15 those two girls were in foster care. One of them
16 was being prostituted for a gallon of wine, the
17 other one was in a foster home up in Prince
18 George, and the sexual violence she endured was
19 so bad that she was prostituting at around 12,
20 13, just to get away from that foster home. And
21 then she ran down to the States to try and find
22 her mother and her mother was intoxicated and her
23 stepdad was raping her. It's just no end in
24 sight to the sexual violence that we encounter.
25 And somewhere in there the child welfare system
26 has to take responsibility. And the government
27 sure ain't taken responsibility in BC. Before
28 Mary Ellen Lafond was finished as our
29 representative for children and youth, she
30 released a report in 2016 looking at the cases of
31 sexual abuse against foster kids. She looked at
32 a three-year period, from 2011 to 2014. In
33 that -- it's online under their website -- in
34 that period, almost 70 percent -- I think it was
35 like 67 percent -- of the children that were
36 being abused were Aboriginal girls and 50 percent
37 of those were being abused before they were age
38 12. And when you look at all the children in
39 care, Aboriginal girls comprise 25 percent.
40 Aboriginal girls are one quarter of all foster
41 kids and yet over half of the children being
42 sexually abused are -- they're us. So we're all
43 victims of sexual violence whether we are at home
44 or whether we're in the foster care system. And
45 so that institution of child welfare really needs
46 to be interrogated.

47 DARIA BOYARCHUK: M'mm-hmm.

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1 FAY BLANEY: And health care is just as bad. Do you
2 know the healthcare system, like, Vancouver
3 Coastal Health, they promptly notify the child
4 welfare authorities when a native mom comes in to
5 give birth. They were trying to take my little
6 cousin away and we fought like crazy to keep that
7 baby. And if she goes to a different health
8 region, they still chase her around. One of
9 the --

10 Do you remember [Woman 1] on the first
11 poster? Do you remember earlier on when the
12 Pickton stuff started to happen, before the
13 Pickton name was out there, we released that one,
14 the very first poster that said these 60 women
15 are missing?

16 ROSALYN ING: Oh, yeah.

17 FAY BLANEY: One of those woman was [Woman 1] on
18 there.

19 ROSALYN ING: M'mm-hmm. Yeah.

20 FAY BLANEY: [Woman 1], we protested her case. She was -
21 and I don't want [Woman 1]'s name on the - in this -
22 I don't have the authority to be saying her
23 name -- I shouldn't have said her name -- she had
24 a baby and the hospital social worker criticized
25 and condemned her in writing. The doctor said
26 she was uncoop -- and I'm saying this because she
27 let us read her papers -- the doctor said she was
28 very uncooperative during labour. And we fought
29 and fought for that baby and they still
30 apprehended. And you know what happened, she
31 disappeared. She -- she had two and a half years
32 of sobriety. She was from the north of this
33 province before she had the baby and yet they
34 said she was drug addicted. And after they took
35 her baby away, she relapsed. And not too long
36 after that she disappeared. And she was on that
37 first poster that we had. But on the bright
38 side -- I don't know if it's such a bright
39 side -- but she was alive. She was found in a
40 mental institution in Portland. And Port --
41 like, there's a sex-trafficking thing going on
42 between here and Portland so ... That's where
43 she was in, in a mental institution.

44 So my point there is that we really got to
45 get to the institutional part and interrogate
46 those institutions.

47 And then third part is the expert testimony,

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1 which is what I have standing for in the
2 Aboriginal Women's Action Network. I think those
3 government institutions have their role and they
4 do what they do, but the women's groups and band
5 offices and whoever, we see it differently. We
6 have a perspective that we have to share as well.
7 And it just seems like the government is really
8 anxious to eliminate those two and so it's an
9 insult to all the families that have shared, when
10 you've gathered all this information and then to
11 not take those next two steps to carry those
12 concerns to its logical conclusion: to
13 understanding what happened where things failed.
14 I mean, that really has to be done. So that was
15 my second recommendation.

16 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Thank you.

17 FAY BLANEY: Sexism in policing, I think the police
18 are horrendous. I've heard it time and time
19 again that there's always sexual violence coming
20 from the police against Indigenous women and
21 girls. In the late 90s I used to work with
22 different native organizations and we got an
23 agreement with the police to have quarterly
24 meetings, very different from SisterWatch because
25 we, the native community, had control over what
26 we did in that. And the cops came and they heard
27 us, not the other way around. Today,
28 SisterWatch, the cops come in and they tell you
29 what, wherefore, and how. It's -- just they run
30 the whole show. It's ridiculous. But back then
31 the organizations would come in. Like, at that
32 time I was working with Hey-way'-noqu',
33 counselling. Some of the women coming to our --
34 to get counselling, they had been sexually
35 assaulted by the cops. And we brought that to
36 the quarterly meeting and, after complaints from
37 different organizations, they eventually
38 identified those two cops. And right now there's
39 no accountability for that kind of sexual
40 violence coming from the police. And my
41 cousin -- this is -- I know it's anecdotal but I
42 need to say it, anyway -- on my reserve I went
43 home because I'm trying to adopt a little guy
44 from home that's -- they want to adopt him into
45 the non-native world, so I'm trying to adopt
46 him -- and I went home and my cousin was telling
47 me what happened to her. Her husband is actually

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1 my cousin and she -- I guess she's my
2 cousin-in-law or something, but I'm really close
3 with her. He was beating on her and she called
4 the cops and they came -- and she'd been
5 drinking -- and they said to her, well, if you
6 give me a blowjob, I will lock him up for the
7 night, is what they said to my cousin. So in
8 this day and age it's still going on. And
9 there's -- there's no system to address that.
10 And when -- you know, we -- we have no
11 credibility, no integrity of the eyes of the
12 cops. We have no voice. And so the sexism with
13 the police has to be addressed. I understand the
14 whole issue of racism with the police, but I
15 think it's just -- I think that's spoken enough
16 of and what I really want to focus on is male
17 violence against women; like, the stories I gave
18 at the very beginning with my mom's friend, who
19 got killed by her husband. You know, the --
20 Sharon MacIver often says that the native
21 patriarchs worked very well with the white
22 patriarchs; they'd collude to keep native women
23 down. And it's very true.

24 This one I think is so important as well --
25 I should have put it higher maybe -- the
26 enforcement of the prostitution laws. The
27 Vancouver Police Department refused to enforce
28 that law. And the -- I was pretty disappointed
29 this morning that there was such a pro-sex work
30 perspective being delivered. And I come at it
31 from a completely different perspective. I
32 believe that prostitution should be abolished.
33 And people say, but it's a choice; we have a
34 choice to choose prostitution. And the irony
35 behind it is why is it the women who have zero
36 choices that are in prostitution? Is it really a
37 choice then when you have zero choices?

38 Our reserve came apart in the 1980s. Indian
39 Affairs implemented an end-isolation policy and
40 our reserve died, really, in the 80s, and a lot
41 of our people ended up homeless in
42 Campbell River. They were with the beach boys,
43 there was homelessness in Vancouver, and there
44 was some horrendous couch surfing on another
45 reserve where we were promised housing and it
46 never came through. And in that time -- where
47 was I going with that? -- oh, oh, yeah, okay, I

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1 remember now -- in that time a lot of our people
2 ended up in really dire conditions of
3 homelessness and some of my relatives -- like,
4 close relatives, my first cousins -- are now, as
5 little children, were being prostituted in the
6 Downtown Eastside. And they are still there now.
7 They are still there now in the
8 Downtown Eastside. I don't agree with the
9 organizations being poverty pimps. I don't agree
10 with them using native women to keep saying, look
11 it, we're servicing 5,000 people a year or
12 whatever they're saying, and they get funding to
13 keep, keep these native women in a holding
14 pattern, you know? And native women have a lot
15 of needs because of everything that's been stolen
16 from us and we have a lot of needs that have to
17 be met and we can't feel guilty about saying that
18 our needs have to be met. You know, we have
19 substandard, we've had our children stolen, you
20 know, we struggle with our addictions like my mom
21 did, and -- all those needs have to be addressed.
22 And as long as those needs aren't addressed --
23 the poverty and the homelessness -- we are forced
24 into that; we are forced into prostitution
25 against our will. Yeah, I can't say enough about
26 that whole issue of the way that they're dealing
27 with the prostitution law. And what I'm really
28 afraid of right now is what this inquiry is going
29 to do about prostitution. What are the
30 recommendations that are going to come at the
31 end? Are you going to agree to keep our sisters
32 in a holding pattern, to be forever sentenced to
33 the streets selling your body? You know, my
34 sister was headed down that path. And she went
35 and tried to -- she told me this herself -- she
36 went and tried to turn a trick and partway
37 through, she just run out of the room and never
38 went back. I don't want that for my sister. I
39 don't want that for my grandchildren, my
40 granddaughters. I want better. I want better
41 for native women. And when I talk like this,
42 people think I hate those women that are doing it
43 now. I don't -- there's no way that I hate those
44 women. I love them. I want better for them.
45 You know? And they are my family and my
46 relations that are there now, and I just ache
47 when I see how they have to live. It's not right

Fay Blaney

(Angela Blaney)

1 that they have to live like that.

2 I have three more or four more. One is -- I
3 better speed up a little -- accountability of the
4 Crown counsel in the charges that get laid. You
5 know, we have the police that don't do a proper
6 investigation, but if they do a proper
7 investigation and then they deliver that
8 information to Crown, the decision is up to Crown
9 about whether they lay charges are not and more
10 often than not they won't lay charges when it's
11 Indigenous people involved. And there's no
12 accountability. You can't appeal. You can't go
13 back and say you had a lot of -- enough
14 information to lay a charge, to successfully lay
15 a charge. But there is no way to appeal to Crown
16 counsel.

17 Obviously, the adoption of Indigenous
18 children into non-Indigenous homes, and I speak
19 on that one from my little niece -- or my big
20 niece now, I guess. She's a big girl.

21 And I won't dwell on this next one either,
22 the utter failure of the sexual assault laws, you
23 know, from Jian Ghomeshi, to the taxi driver that
24 raped that woman in Halifax, to that judge -- and
25 people don't know, but that judge in Alberta,
26 he -- that was a native woman he was talking to
27 when he said, why didn't you just -- what did he
28 say to her? -- curve your bum down so he wouldn't
29 penetrate or whatever.

30 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yeah.

31 FAY BLANEY: They didn't really say that was a native
32 woman, but that was. They kept that message a
33 secret, I don't know why. But the judiciary are
34 unteachable. It's horrible that the judges think
35 they know it all already and they don't want to
36 listen. So they really have a lot of work cut
37 out for them around sexual assaults. And the
38 larger society is addressing that, so I don't
39 want to talk too much about it. But I hope that
40 the inquiry will back that up, especially the
41 campaigns that are going on now that started in
42 the States and -- their -- the Me Too campaign
43 and the other one, It's Time or something, that
44 other one.

45 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yeah.

46 FAY BLANEY: Time's up?

47 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Time is up, that's it, yeah.

Fay Blaney

(Angela Blaney)

1 FAY BLANEY: Yeah, yeah.

2 And the last one -- I'm probably going to
3 speak against everybody else, but anyway, that's
4 me, Ms. Contrary -- I don't really like the idea
5 of a memorial. I know it's in the terms of
6 reference that you're supposed to at the end of
7 this process create a memorial for the murdered
8 and the missing. I really have a hard time with
9 that because it institutionalizes our
10 victimization. Like Rosalyn was saying, yeah,
11 we've been victimized all right, but we're not
12 victims.

13 DARIA BOYARCHUK: M'mm-hmm.

14 FAY BLANEY: We're survivors. And the memorial freaks
15 me out because it puts us in eternity into this
16 role of the victim of the murdered and missing,
17 so ... So I'm opposed to the memorial, even
18 though it's right there in the terms of
19 reference.

20 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Because it puts us in this mould or
21 in this -- the memorial itself, can you elaborate
22 a little bit more about it? Because it's --

23 FAY BLANEY: It will be a lasting legacy that says
24 Indigenous women are victims.

25 DARIA BOYARCHUK: M'mm-hmm.

26 FAY BLANEY: I don't want anything that's calling me a
27 victim. Or any --

28 ROSALYN ING: Or me neither.

29 FAY BLANEY: Yes. We're not victims, but that will
30 institutionalize it forever.

31 DARIA BOYARCHUK: M'mm-hmm. Yeah. Thank you.

32 FAY BLANEY: And I don't know why they decide that at
33 the front end, anyway. It should be up to us
34 what we want. It was probably Carolyn Bennett's
35 idea.

36 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Thank you very much for sharing
37 here.

38 And thank you for being here for Fay. I
39 know you have known her throughout the years and,
40 when you have done your introduction, I realized
41 how much Fay has already done. We've not even
42 heard her story. I realized the presence here
43 and the your connection to her has already done
44 so much impact because of her own experiences and
45 that's why I appreciate today you sharing us with
46 everybody else and -- your story, and making it
47 public and agreeing to make it public so all

Fay Blaney

Reporter's certification

1 other people, everyone else who is also
2 interested, will be able to hear and be part of
3 that story. So thank you very much.

4 FAY BLANEY: Thank you.

5 DONNA DICKISON: And she spoke at a union
6 function, that's where I first heard her, and
7 that gave me the power to speak, that she
8 was so strong, and I never spoke about what went
9 on for me before that, and then after that I was
10 able to speak, after I heard her and started
11 working with her.

12 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay.

13 DONNA DICKISON: She gave me the power. Thank you.

14 DARIA BOYARCHUK: The power, yeah. The inspiration;
15 right?

16 DONNA DICKISON: Yeah.

17 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yeah. Thank you.

18 FAY BLANEY: And Donna does some very powerful things
19 with cop training now. Not just Donna, but she's
20 one of them that works with the -- yeah -- the
21 Justice Institute.

22 DARIA BOYARCHUK: Thank you very much. Thank you. It
23 is 5:49 p.m. We are going to conclude this
24 statement. Thank you very much.

25 Thank you everyone for being here. Thank
26 you.

27

28 (PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 5:49 P.M.)

29

30 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION:

31 I, Jeffrey Brinkert, Official Reporter in
32 the Province of British Columbia, Canada, BCSRA
33 No. 369, do hereby certify:

34 That the proceedings were taken down by me
35 in shorthand at the time and place herein set
36 forth and thereafter transcribed, and the same is
37 a true and correct and complete transcript of
38 said proceedings to the best of my skill and
39 ability.

40 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
41 subscribed my name this 2nd day of May, 2018.

42

43

44

45

46 _____
Jeffrey Brinkert

47 Official Reporter