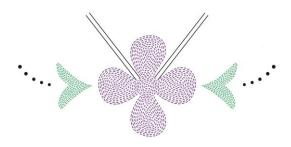
National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls



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 Statement Gathering
Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre
Edmonton, Alberta



PUBLIC

November 8, 2017

Statement - Volume 91

Danielle Boudreau, In relation to Juanita Cardinal, Nina Courtepatte, Rachel Quinney & Ellie May Meyer

Statement Gathered by Frank Hope

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NOTE

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.		

1	Edmonton, Albert
2	Upon commencing on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at 3:07
3	p.m.
4	MR. FRANK HOPE: My name is Frank Hope,
5	statement gatherer. And we are in Edmonton, Alberta,
6	Edmonton Inn. Today is Wednesday, November 8th, 2017. We
7	have in the room a health support.
8	MS. DOREEN WASKEWICH: Doreen Waskewich (ph)
9	MR. FRANK HOPE: And your name?
10	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: Danielle Boudreau.
11	MR. FRANK HOPE: Okay, thank you. And the
12	time is now 3:07 p.m., start time. So I'll start with the
13	question of, Danielle, what brings you in today? And also,
14	what would you like the commissioners to know?
15	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: What brings me in
16	today is I've been involved with the Missing and Murdered
17	Women issue since 1998. And it's been a long journey for
18	me. I went through a lot of different families. I went
19	and I supported a lot of families in court, in trial,
20	representing them in the media, and advocating for people.
21	And it wasn't something that I thought I I was going to
22	do with my life. I I guess, where it came down what
23	it what it I don't know. I guess, that's just the
24	path the Creator put for me, you know.
25	And I guess, with the the Commission and

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with the Inquiry, I was never for the Inquiry. I was never 1 for it. I wasn't for it for -- because I felt that 2 \$40,000,000 was not going to offer the closure to 2500 plus 3 families and what they needed. And that it wouldn't touch 4 what us family members -- what every family -- every family 5 was different, you know. And I felt that \$40,000,000 would 6 be better off educating our youth, and stopping it before 7 it started. And getting the youth involved, so we teach 8 9 them that respect and that, you know, being able to respect ourselves and respecting the other sex, and respecting the 10 same sex, and all those things. And that's what I've 11 always been advocating for was we need to get into our 12 youth and talk about prostitution, and talk about sexual 13 14 exploitation, and talk about domestic violence, and all those things that can occur when it comes down to missing 15 16 and murdered women.

And the other part was, the Indigenous word. 17 I felt that it shouldn't just be Indigenous, it should be 18 all women because we're all sisters. Long before I knew I 19 was a Métis girl, I knew I was a girl. I didn't know I was 20 Métis until I was told that I was Métis. And there's 21 families out there that are black, that are Asian, that are 22 23 not Indigenous, that have nowhere to go, and nobody to listen to them. And I don't think that's fair. However, I 24 do recognize that we as Aboriginal people -- and I don't 25

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even like the word "Indigenous" to be honest with you, but
we as Aboriginal people, we do overrepresent a lot in
Canada, the jail system, the missing and murdered women,
missing and murdered men, violence, domestic violence,
everything.

And I just think that sometimes it's a different -- we're looking at the wrong things. We're looking at the -- the apparent things. The most apparent things: alcohol and drugs. That's the most apparent things. How do we stop the drug dealers from our reserves? How do we stop this? But they're not looking at the root -- root issues. They're only looking at the Band-Aid issues. And you can change a Band-Aid anytime. Just open the -- the bag of Band-Aids, you know what I mean? And that's basically what's been happening, is they're just taking off one Band-Aid to put a brand new one on there. And it's not healing the wounds. How do we heal those wounds? It's going to be a lot more than just a Band-Aid's change.

And, you know, I've had to struggle with my own sexual abuse issues, and my own prostitution issues, and drug issues, and abusive issues, and, like, domestic violence, and a lot. And it's brought me on this -- this journey that's been very, very tumultuous. You know, I've suffered through all different kinds of addiction, every

kind of addiction. I've done everything under the sun to 1 try and run. And I'm still running. I'm still running 2 today. And it's tough because I have one foot in the front 3 and one foot in the back and it's just like every day is 4 5 just -- like, just getting up and just getting through it, and -- because there's so much pain involved. And there's 6 not just the pain of advocating, or the pain of anything in 7 particular. Well, there is -- it is. The pain of loss 8 9 because I've lost a lot. Just recently lost my best friend on 10 Halloween. It hurts so much because she was my best 11 friend, and she died. And her kids are so -- like, they're 12 all, like, lost though. I got to think about her. Like, 13 it's those things, like, it seems like every time, like, 14 we're going ahead, something like this happens. And to --15 16 like, not to me directly, but it happens in my life. And we keep -- wonder why, like, when is it going to end? I've 17 lost so much. And yet I'm still trying to live. [Six 18 lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55]. 19 20 But the other part of me is my son is keeping me really -- I worry about him a lot. We don't get --21 well, we get along, but we don't get along. He's more like 22 23 a brother to me, and I mean he is a son, and --MR. FRANK HOPE: How old is he? 24 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: -- he's 26. And so 25

we had a lot of -- I lost three siblings, and my baby. was like, when I think about my son, it really bothers me because I never, like, dealt with any of this stuff. And -- and this is why it's really hard for me because I think back -- I haven't really had, like, that safe space to, like, really deal with it. Like, I keep pushing it away. Like, there'll come a time -- there'll come a time, like -- wait until I go to treatment, or, you know, whatever, and these things.

And it's just like, I don't know why all these things are happening. And it's so hard to, like, put them into priority and file them where they need to be filed in my brain and in my mind. And then on top that, still do the work that I'm doing, in sharing my story, and doing the workshops that I do. And it's just so overwhelming. And knowing that I'm doing this all by myself, like, I don't have that support system in place because I've been burned quite a bit. And I've been --- like, a lot of things have happened.

You know, I started the Memorial March for all the Missing and Murdered Women in Edmonton. I was the founder of it 12 years ago. I've done it in my home, out of my -- out of my bedroom. I've got all the donations. I did all the work myself. And people come in and -- like, this last year and they just totally high-jacked it from

me. They're thinking I'm telling people, and ripping off
families, and that I'm getting funding. I've never been
funded in my life. So I just let them have it. I can take
it. It's all yours. Fuck you guys, basically. Sorry for
being rude.

6 MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: But that's how I feel because I worked hard at what I did. I cold-called businesses, and got frisk [sic] -- free sweaters for, like, the homeless people, you know. I did that all out of my house. And then these people come in and they just totally high-jacked what I'm doing. And it's just like, fucking had it with them, you know.

So now, where I'm at right now, is I'm trying to, like, fight to stay alive. It's not more than just my mom and my son. I shouldn't say it's just them, but it's like, if I can't live for myself, I got to live for something until I'm able to live for myself because I don't really feel like that. And feel like I have a whole lot to go for. And it's been a really rough 20 years. I mean, actually, 42 years because I'm 42 years old. And then I do support a lot of people. And I'm very honest with people, and very straight-forward, and I'll say what I think needs to be said. Like, I'll never beat around the bush. But I can't do it to myself. I just brush myself off, like, just

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1	brush it away. You'll have your time someday. You'll be
2	able to deal with it in the in the second where you're
3	safe and you know you're okay to just feel the way you're
4	feeling. They're they're not going to let you run out.
5	Because that's what I do is I run. I run and I'll go and
6	do what I got to do just to feel normal again.
7	And that for me, right now, is doing drugs.
8	I just can't seem to break free from it right now. And
9	I I think a lot of it is is because I'm holding on to
10	all this stuff. And it's a it's a huge fear to have to
11	face reality, really. Because I was sober at one time.
12	And I liked it. And I enjoy it, and it's just now, like,
13	physically if I can't just detox on my own. I have to
14	actually go into detox because it's a physical thing now.
15	And I just do what I have to do to get by, so I don't get
16	sick. So and there's a lot, I don't know.
17	MR. FRANK HOPE: So let let me let me
18	ask, maybe we can start at the beginning. If you can tell
19	me about a little bit about yourself and Juanita when
20	you were growing up as a kids? What where was it?
21	Where were you raised? What how was that upbringing?
22	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: I didn't meet Juanita
23	until I was probably 17.
24	MR. FRANK HOPE: Okay.

MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: I was raised in a

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very sober environment. My mom --1 MR. FRANK HOPE: I'm sorry. Just to inject. 2 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: Yeah. 3 MR. FRANK HOPE: This is -- this is for the 4 commissioners to know. Can you -- just to give them an 5 idea of Juanita. 6 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: Oh, Juanita? 7 MR. FRANK HOPE: Yeah. Just -- just for 8 9 that. MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: Okay. Okay. 10 sister, Juanita, she's actually my brother's sister. My 11 half-brother, that's his sister. I met her when I was 13, 12 when I met my half-brother. And we embraced each other all 13 through their family. My dad's ex-wife, [Ex-wife], which 14 is my brother's mom, she took me like a daughter, and I 15 16 took her like a mom. And we used to have a joke that my oldest brother, [Oldest brother], his nick -- his Indian 17

So when I met Juanita, she was 13, I was probably about 17 years old. And, I don't know, we used to just, like, hang out and drink. Like, we -- I -- my dad's side of the family is very toxic. And there's a lot of

name was "[Oldest brother] Many Moms" because my dad had

brother, we're the only two that share the same mom and

four kids with all different moms. Me and my little

dad. And my little brother hung himself a year ago.

1 alcohol abuse and a lot of toxic behaviours, and things.

2 And I didn't notice it at the time. I thought it was just,

it is what it is. And I wanted to be a part of my family.

4 And Juanita was a part of my family, even though it was

a -- a different brother. You know, like, because I had

two brothers -- older brothers, but as we got older we got

7 closer.

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And I lived in Edmonton, and she lived in the west end. We had, like -- she was, like, my sister. And we used to -- people would always tease us, say she looked like Lucy Liu, which I guess she does. That's her right there. And I was Jann Arden. That's what everyone would say, Jann Arden and Lucy Liu. Except everyone says that I look like Jann Arden, I don't see it, but in Calgary people would stop me on the street and ask me if I was Jann Arden. I was, like -- it was, like, still to this day, I still get that.

But her murder was very, very hard for me all 18 the time. Like, the -- the events that led up to her 19 murder. Because when I did the very first Memorial --20 Memorial March for all the Missing and Murdered Women of 21 Edmonton, that's what it was called at the time, was 22 February 14th, 2006. And I was in an abusive relationship 23 at the time, but I was still doing this. And I was working 24 in an office, selling office supplies. And I was involved 25

Statement - Public 10 Danielle Boudreau (Juanita Cardinal, Nina Courtepatte, Rachel Quinney & Ellie May Meyer)

because two of my friends had been murdered and found out 1 in the fields, including my cousin, Nina Courtepatte and --2 which is a family member through my oldest brother, [Oldest 3 brother]. But we all -- they all still, like, we all 4 5 embrace each other, you know. And I started to get involved on a Project KARE site. Rachel Quinney, I've 6 known since she was a little girl. And Ellie May Meyer, I 7 used to party with her. And they were both found murdered. 8 9 And I didn't directly try to get involved because I didn't feel like it was my place. This is not 10 the first time. This isn't when I first started getting 11 involved. Like, my first involvement with missing and 12 murdered women went back further than that. But I quess, 13 I'll -- I'll get to that part there. But it was 2000 14 15 and -- 2005 was the -- like, December, November, and everybody's speculating, like, who's the serial killer that 16 are -- is killing these women. And, you know, I was 17 really, really -- it really bothered me about Rachel and 18 Ellie May because I hadn't really been around murdered 19 20 anything, you know. Like, murder was just, like, a T.V. show. That's T.V. stuff. And the -- the -- the stuff that 21 happened to them while they were murdered, like, Rachel was 22 23 found with no breasts and no vagina. They had cut it out of her. And Ellie May was missing a finger. And then the 24 rape and the beating of Nina, which ended up -- like, they 25

(Juanita Cardinal, Nina Courtepatte, Rachel Quinney & Ellie May Meyer)

said it -- it's really complicated. And I'll -- I can get
there, like, eventually.

Like -- but in December somebody had said

that they do a walk in Vancouver every year to honour all

their missing and murdered women. And Picton was just

starting. And somebody had said, or -- like, "Too bad we

couldn't have a walk here in Edmonton." And I'm like, "Why

can't we?" You know, like, I'm thinking it would be easy.

Like, I work for -- selling business supplies. I could ask

some of my customers for stuff, and we could do this walk

and, you know, honour the women here and invite family

members. I actually phoned some of the families. I got

their number out of the phonebook. And I introduced

myself, and I -- I asked how they would feel if we did a

walk, and if it would be okay if I used their pictures.

And said, "I'm not wanting money, or anything, I just want

to honour these women that we've lost."

At, you know, in the newspaper, it's like, "Crack-Head Dead," "Hooker Dead," "Prostitute Dead," but that was my life. Because I was a crack-head, and I was a prostitute, but I lived a double-life. I didn't tell anybody about my other life because there's a lot of shame around that. And even though I didn't stand on the street corner, or, you know, exploit myself in that way, I still did it. And I still lived that lifestyle. And, like,

12 Statement - Public Danielle Boudreau (Juanita Cardinal, Nina Courtepatte, Rachel Quinney & Ellie May Meyer)

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1	that's just it, you know. And I remember I was with an
2	Edmonton Sun reporter, and I'm like, "If I were to get
3	killed tomorrow, what do you think would be said about me?"
4	"Local Advocate of Missing and Murdered Women, Murdered."
5	I said, "Now, what if they found out what if they knew I
6	was a hooker, and a prostitute? Would that change it?" He
7	said, "Yeah, it would." The headlines would have changed.
8	And that's when I said and it's the very first time I
9	said it, because I said, "That that is my lifestyle."
10	You know, the first night I did that walk, 60
11	people showed up. It was very overwhelming for me because
12	I didn't expect that much of a a turnout. And the
13	families were so grateful because they had a place to go
14	where other people were going. It was like, finally,
15	they people could support each other. And that was my
16	whole reasoning for the walk. And after it was over, I
17	went home and I scored some dope and I got high on crack.
18	The next day, I went to work just like nothing happened.
19	And my my life continued, like, going to work during the
20	day, smoke crack, sell my sell my body at night, and
21	then go to work in the morning just like a normal human
22	being. You know, but nobody knew what was really going on
23	because my spouse was was working out of town all the
24	time.

And on February 26th, two weeks after the

Statement - Public 13 Danielle Boudreau (Juanita Cardinal, Nina Courtepatte, Rachel Quinney & Ellie May Meyer)

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very first walk, I got the phone call that my sister was 1 murdered in her home. And I was just, like, "Why? Like, 2 after everything that I'd done, like, why take my sister 3 now?" And it was -- like, I was just in so much shock. 4 And like, why kill her? Like, she worked, she had a good 5 job, she raised the kids. I didn't raise my kids. I gave 6 my kids up in 1998 when I was raped back in St. Paul. 7 had been raped over a three day period, and I couldn't stay 8 9 in my home in my community. My kids were going to school, and I left my kids with my mom. And that's when I went on 10 my journey of drugs, and alcohol, and prostitution. And I 11 just felt like she had so much more to live for than me. 12 And I just felt so quilty because she shouldn't have died, 13 14 you know. 15

Like, and it was really, really hard for me to -- because all of a sudden, like, she dies and then people know it's my sister. And it's like, I did this walk two weeks ago -- two weeks prior, and now I'm one of them, you know. Like, not in a rude, mean way, but I became one of those women -- that -- one of those family members, you know, a statistic. People assuming my sister was a prostitute, and she wasn't. She worked, she had a little girl. And that just set me off again. And a month after my sister died, February 26th of '06, and by June, my auntie had been found in the Downtown Eastside Vancouver.

My only aunt -- aunt on my dad's side. There's, like,
eight brothers and one auntie. She was a morphine addict
as well, and she was found dead in her apartment.

And I went down to Calgary, and I just stayed
there. I stayed there and just drank, smoked up, did
drugs, and hooked. I did that and I just -- self-defeating
behaviours, you know. And I just didn't care anymore. No
reason to care. My mom had my kids, so I knew they'd be
safe.

MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: My sister had went out that night, it was a Saturday night. And her and her best friend, [Friend 1] were partying and they went back home and they were smoking crack and drinking. And they got into an argument over a guy and a cell phone. And my sister was attacked with a knife, and she suffered a stab wound to the neck. And she gave up the fight and said she had enough, and she went and laid down and bled to death. There was never any charges pressed. [Friend 1] actually is still out downtown, hanging around. In fact, about a month ago -- my younger brother is on the street right now and he's living in the Salvation Army, and he has mental health issues. And he was down by the gazebo behind the Remand Centre, and this girl pulled up on a -- like, a bike. She

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had a machete, and she was, like, "I'll fucking get those
guys. I fucking got away with murder already once, I'll
fucking do it again." And here it was [Friend 1] bragging
about getting away with fucking murder -- on my sister's
murder to boot.

I was livid. I was so fucking livid. I called that homicide detectives, and I ended up having to call this 1-800 number here, like, I don't what -- I don't know this number, or what number because I couldn't -- I could not deal with my emotions. I was so angry, like, I was ready to come to the city myself, and fucking show her. You know what I mean? Like, these cops they just let her go. They let her go, they -- she did not have to pay for any of the wrongdoings for taking my sister's life.

In fact, I ran into her a year later in the park at -- Winston Churchill Park. I'd already sobered up because in 2007 I had what, I guess, would be a spiritual awaking, or something. Something happened, and I sobered up. It was, like, all of a sudden my life -- it was like my body was encased in, like, a -- a nylon stocking, that's how I -- like, how I think about it. Like, when you put a nylon stocking on your face, and then you pull it off and you can breathe, that's how I felt. And I sobered up, and then when I walked -- when I ran into her in the park, I confronted her, but not in a mean way, like, I'm going to

Statement - Public 16 Danielle Boudreau (Juanita Cardinal, Nina Courtepatte, Rachel Quinney & Ellie May Meyer)

kick your ass or anything. I just said, "Do you know who I 1 am?" And she said, "No." And I said, "I'm Juanita's 2 sister, Danielle." And she started to get scared. I said, 3 "You know what? I'm not here to do anything." I said, "I 4 just seen you, and wanted to tell you that I forgive you 5 for what you did." I said, "I'm not forgiving you for you, 6 though. I'm forgiving you for me, and for my family." I 7 said, "Because I -- I put myself in your place." I said, 8 9 "And I can see myself doing something like that if I was that angry." I could, you know. And then she starts 10 blubbering, "Oh, I wanted to name my baby after Juanita." 11 "Like, you do not have the fucking right to do that. And 12 in fact, I would prefer if you do not bring my sister's 13 name up." You know, like, to me, she had no right. 14 She's living her life downtown, and doing 15 16 whatever downtown people do. And she had no right. And I walked away from there, and I -- it really affected me 17 again. But I didn't go to alcohol and drugs this time. I 18 went to fellowship, and I embraced my program. And a month 19 after that, my older brother was killed, 2008, in 20 September, two blocks from his house. He was run over. 21 22 But I didn't -- I didn't drink or use. I stayed sober 23 throughout his death, and throughout that whole funeral. Like, I've had a lot of loss. And it's 24 always around something big. So to me, like, when we talk 25

Statement - Public 17 Danielle Boudreau (Juanita Cardinal, Nina Courtepatte, Rachel Quinney & Ellie May Meyer)

about the issues around missing and murdered women, and the 1 missing and murdered men and, you know, all these other gay 2 and lesbian, transgender things, like, I've been touched by 3 every single one of them. Every single one. I can -- I 4 can relate something back by my losses that I've had in the 5 last ten years. And I don't know why these happen. Like, 6 I'm very broken in the inside, and I try to maintain, like, 7 my strength. It's really hard when I feel like I'm losing 8 9 people all the time. And, yeah, so going back to my sister's --10 what happened. They deemed it as self-defence. Like, 11 there was a little, tiny article in the newspaper, a little 12 small one, and it was basically, "Two Indian girls" -- "Two 13 Native Girls Got Into a Fight, One Died." Like, whoo-hoo, 14 it's over. And they just left it like that. There was no 15 16 closure. How I got closure? Was I ended up phoning them -- homicide, like, what the fuck happened here? 17 Like, you guys didn't even tell my parents. 18 Well, they're not my real parents, it was -- like, I -- I 19 20 call them the step-parents. It's my dad's ex-wife, and her husband, [Man 1]. And they suffer from mental illness, and 21 pill -- like, they eat a lot of pills. [Ex-wife] has 22 passed away since then. [Ex-wife] had passed away two 23 years ago. [Man 1] is currently in a mental health 24 facility. He can't live on his own. My older brother is -25

Statement - Public 18 Danielle Boudreau (Juanita Cardinal, Nina Courtepatte, Rachel Quinney & Ellie May Meyer)

- well, he deals with his stuff just by drinking, and work-1 a-holic. That's all he does. He just actually just 2 (indiscernible). He's 46. He's got five kids with three 3 different women. And, like, we've all been affected by 4 5 this, right. And the homicide detective, "Well, did you 6 want to know what happened? Like, how could've we have 7 told you?" And I'm, like, "I don't know why nobody told 8 9 us, you know." And when they told me the scenario, you know, I could kind of understand. I kind of put myself in 10 her place. I was in the position at that time, I was --11 put her in position where I -- I don't know, like, I was 12 sober, so I can see -- I can -- I had clarity, you know. 13 14 Like, I wasn't seeing the negative parts of things. I was seeing where that other person -- I put that -- myself in 15 16 that other person's shoes, in Juanita's [sic], or not Juanita, [Friend 1]'s shoes, I guess. And so in our minds, 17 what we thought was - because [Friend 1]'s a very big 18 19 woman, she's bigger than me, and Juanita was very tiny. And our understanding was, they got into a fight, and a 20 knife was pulled. And my sister was stabbed seven times, 21 in the jug -- one was in the jugular, and that's what 22 23 killed her. 24 I guess what happened, they were both high on

crack, and they were both drinking. And they got into a

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Rachel Quinney & Ellie May Meyer)

1	fight, which was true. But they both had knives. And
2	[Friend 1] did the do the stabe (ph) the fatal stab
3	wound. She ended up losing half of her ear as well. And
4	my sister lost her life. And I really had to sit back and
5	think, like, how many times have I been angry where I could
6	of just killed somebody, you know what I mean?
7	And I can honestly say that I I have felt
8	like that, like, when I've been physically abused in my
9	relationships, where, you know, like, trying to save my
10	life. You know, like, February May 26th of that same
11	year of my sister's murder, my common-law spouse tried to
12	stab me in the neck. And I broke free from that. But I
13	had a really hard time with that with that break-up
14	because of my sister's death was so fresh. And when my
15	auntie passed away, and then me and I'm like, it was
16	just so much that I just stayed to the streets again, and
17	just live my life. But it was, like, I had that freedom.
18	And I ended up that was a year after my sister got
19	murdered that I got that spiritual awakening, I guess you
20	could say. Because the homicide told me what happened, and
21	all of a sudden I just had this freedom. Like, this
22	feeling of like I can breathe again.
23	And I ended up going to Manitoba. When I was
24	11 years-old, I had been sexually assaulted by my mom's
25	boyfriend. And I had disclosed to her and my mom sent

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me to Manitoba to go and live with an aunt and uncle I 1 never met. I'd seen pictures of them, but I didn't know 2 them. And I felt like I did something bad because I was 3 left there by myself without my brother, or my sister, or 4 5 my mom. And I moved out, and I was put on a -- a spiritual camp that was very strict. Sweat lodges, and the Daymen 6 (ph) lodges, a ceremony, women's work, spirits. Like, 7 there was protocol around everything that I did. I wasn't 8 9 allowed to be a child. I had to be a woman, even though I hadn't had my time yet. And I had a lot of anger around 10 that because I was, like, I'm not even -- I'm like 11 11 years-old, you know. 12 But my auntie, her grand -- her parents, her 13 mom had taken me under her wing. And she loved me. And 14 15 she taught me how to speak Saulteaux. I don't know how to speak it now, though. And they call me Sally (ph). 16 17 my nickname, Sally Bonsmith (ph), and I was their Sally. And I really rebelled against, like, my uncle. I felt that 18 if I was bad he wouldn't touch me. Even, though, that's 19 20 not what he was trying to do. But I became a really bad girl and I got punished quite a bit. But my granny always, 21 22 like, made me feel safe. So after when I found out about that homicide 23 thing, I had went to Manitoba to my grandmother's grave and 24

my grandfather's grave, and I laid down there and it was

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21 Statement - Public Danielle Boudreau (Juanita Cardinal, Nina Courtepatte, Rachel Quinney & Ellie May Meyer)

1	just, like, everything went away. And it was almost like a
2	calmness. And I stopped using that day when for three
3	years. Like, to me, I think that I found peace. And,
4	like, I started going to counselling for my sexual abuse
5	issues. And there was a lot of things that happened that
6	time. Like, I was having flashbacks of my childhood
7	repressed memories. I never thought I wasn't I never
8	thought I was sexually abused as a child. But then when
9	I I started having these dreams, I didn't know what they
10	were from. [Four lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55].
11	For me, I was a very sexual kid growing up,
12	like a little girl. I didn't know that wasn't normal. To
13	me, that's what I thought we were supposed to be for men.
14	And so prostitution was very easy for me to fall into. And
15	alcohol and drugs was very easy for me to fall into because
16	that's the only time I felt like I was something, you know.
17	I'd have that ugly feeling inside of me when I drank and I
18	used drugs and stuff. So it's like it all came full
19	circle, my healing, you know. Like, from sexual
20	exploitation as a youth, and you know, things that I
21	thought were normal, weren't normal. Things that I thought
22	were weren't rape, were rape. You know what I mean?
23	Like, there was just so much and then
24	and this is it all ties back into this the missing
25	and murdered women stuff. And it's like, if you like, I

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don't know if I'm explaining this right, or if it sounds 1 right, or anything like that, but -- or it makes sense, but 2 that's how this journey went. And it's -- it's so much 3 more than just missing and murdered women. It's so much 4 more than my sister dying. It's so much more than just 5 this issue. It's about my story is so many other women's 6 story, maybe, not the exact same, but pretty similar. And 7 I don't know, it -- it's like, this Inquiry stuff, I don't 8 9 think that they realize the -- the depth that some of us women go back into. Like, there's a lot of -- like, this 10 goes back to me, like, six months old, you know? That's 42 11 years of stuff all around this issue. And I'm still alive, 12 you know. 13

> It's been tough. Like, I've lost my son two years ago. And he's been one of my strongest supports. He went to every one of my walks, my talks. He'd go to my talks. And, like, "I go to the slut-walk." And he thought that was hilarious because they had pins that say, "I'm slut," and "What's wrong with being a slut?" And it's not about being a slut. What it is about is about how society thinks it's what you wear to -- when you get raped. You shouldn't wear those clothes, or you're going to get raped. That's what it's about. But people have this mind frame that you're acting like a slut, so you get raped. It's a big thing. And because of the work that I've done, I went

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and publicly spoke about, you know, if it's about what you 1 wear, then how come there's no rapes at nude -- nude 2 beaches? You know what I mean? Like, it's just 3 justification that's what it is. 4 It's about finding that justification, even 5 with missing and murdered women. She was a hooker, she was 6 a prostitute, she was this, she was that. So -- and my 7 son's death was around him being gay, and being bullied. 8 9 So there's another issue that I've had to deal with -- that I could be talking about. You know? My son froze to death 10 on New Year's Day, on January 1st, 2014. He was found in a 11 shed, with no coat, and two different shoes. He had gone 12 to a party, two blocks from another's -- two houses from 13 the house that they found him. So it's -- I don't know. 14 It's probably one of the hardest ones I've dealt with. And 15 I'm dealing with it. I'm still suffering from it. And my 16 17 baby brother, he killed himself a year ago. And he -- at the end of April. And my mom -- was the only son, my only 18 brother that is my blood brother, who actually -- much 19 raised because my mom was a working woman. She worked. 20 She's sober. We never had alcohol at -- growing up in our 21 family, or drugs. We were raised the red road, and my mom 22 23 worked hard, and my -- me and my little brother, I always took care of my little brother. I used to go pick him up 24 from daycare when I was in grade 2 and piggy-back him home. 25

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Make peanut butter sandwiches, wait for my mom to get home.
So that loss is huge too.

started out very slow, but I'm probably at the brunt of my addiction, where it's either do or die now. Like, I'm going to go one of two ways. I'm either going to straighten out because I'm ready to get -- I'm ready to -- I'm just done. You know, like, I'm done living like this. And I don't know if it's because of the -- the -- maybe it's about the Inquiry, I don't know. I haven't really had it manifest, but -- or maybe this is something that I can just dump my shit here, and then -- then make that decision. You know what I mean? Because it's a very -- this has been stuffed the last eight years -- seven years.

I've stuffed everything down because I've 15 been in the media quite a bit, and I've had to maintain --16 17 you know, I'm seen -- like, you know, I can't go and drink, which I don't anyways. But, you know, I shouldn't be seen 18 in a bar. I don't go see -- you -- you don't see me in a 19 bar, you know. You don't see me much in the media anymore 20 because I chose not to be. I gave up my walk. I -- I 21 just -- behind the scenes because that way it's easier for 22 23 me if I chose to go the other way. People won't remember where I was, or who I was. Or, whatever happened to her? 24 You know what I mean. They don't need to know. Or, I can 25

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1	come back again, and really work hard at what I want to do
2	with my goals. I do have goals, and I have aspirations or
3	this subject, and I just don't know if I'm worthy enough
4	yet. Or if I'm where what I want right now. I do
5	know that I miss I just keep, you know, with an open
6	mind and see how things go, and
7	MR. FRANK HOPE: If I could just ask for
8	clarification, which homicide department took or was
9	handling your sister's case? Was it the
10	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: The RCMP.
11	MR. FRANK HOPE: The RCMP?
12	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: It was actually EPS
13	The EPS homicide department.
14	MR. FRANK HOPE: Okay.
15	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: Because my sister
16	wasn't a prostitute, so she wasn't involved with Project -
17	Project KARE.
18	MR. FRANK HOPE: Okay. And Project KARE is
19	through
20	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: They were the task
21	force of made to Project KARE was a a task force
22	that was brought together to take the DNA and to
23	investigate the murders of all the women who were found or
24	the fields. Like, that were involved with prostitution.
25	MR. FRANK HOPE: And that's handled by the

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RCMP? 1 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: "K" -- "K" Division. 2 MR. FRANK HOPE: Okay. 3 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: Yeah. 4 5 MR. FRANK HOPE: All right. MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: And how I was 6 involved with them was, I was a family spokesperson for 7 8 Rachel Quinney and Ellie May Meyer, she was a friend of 9 mine. So I -- like, I spoke for them. And I went and sat in trial, and I -- you know, I really supported them as 10 best as I could. Even though, I really struggled. And it 11 goes back now, to where my community -- who am I to be 12 doing shit like this? You know what I mean? Like, I used 13 to be a party girl. I was a bar-fiend. You know, like, 14 who am I to be standing up and -- like, I never even liked 15 Rachel's mother. I couldn't stand her. But now, she's --16 I love her. You know, like, she's like a mom to me too. 17 And she struggles, and you know, I help them as best as I 18 could, and I supported them through the court procedure. 19 20 And when they found -- when Thomas Svekla was found not quilty, I set it up so the court -- like, the 21 Crown prosecutor, and that team, could sit down with the 22 23 police and discuss what happened. Why he wasn't -- you know, to give them that closure because they struggled with 24 it. Like, he murdered her. We know 100 percent that he 25

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- 1 murdered her, but it's beyond a reasonable doubt, you know.
- 2 So it wasn't only -- it -- this isn't just about my sister.
- 3 She's -- she is a big piece of it. I think it's more
- 4 emotional for me because she was so close to me -- because
- 5 we were so close.
- 6 MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.
- 7 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: But it was also the
- 8 people around me. People (indiscernible) and that whole
- 9 hooker dead, and prostitute dead, and you know. Police
- justifications and, you know, like, I just -- it did not
- 11 sit right -- right with me because I was a hooker, and I
- was a prostitute, and I was a crack-head, and I did all
- those things. And I didn't think I deserved to die over
- it, you know.
- MR. FRANK HOPE: In your registration, you
- 16 mention a niece, and you mention two friends. Can you put
- names to your niece, and your two friends, and the -- what
- the story behind that --
- 19 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: I forgot what I wrote
- in there.
- MR. FRANK HOPE: You -- you mention your --
- 22 you -- you mention the loss of Juanita --
- 23 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: M'hm.
- MR. FRANK HOPE: -- a niece, and two friends.
- 25 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: Well, there was

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Rachel Quinney and Ellie May Meyer were two of my friends.
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                       MR. FRANK HOPE: Okay. But -- but -- okay,
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         what was the --
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                       MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: [Three lines redacted
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         - Rule 55].
                       MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.
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                       MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: [Four lines redacted
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         - Rule 55].
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                       MR. FRANK HOPE: And that was the other two?
                       MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: [15 lines redacted -
10
         Rule 55].
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                        So there's a lot of violence, and it's, like,
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         very close to home. So Nina Courtepatte was also, like, in
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         my family. And with this, I can't -- I'm just thinking
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         about the major ones. Like, it's, like, there's so much.
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         Like, I -- I just hate to even bring things up because it
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         just seems so overwhelming. Like, just March of this last
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         year, 20 years ago, my auntie was raped in Calgary. My
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         mom's sister, she was raped and beaten and left for dead.
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         She passed away. When she passed away, the DNA found that
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         guy who did it. And he just got convicted. And knew she
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         had already died. And they used, like, the statements
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before she died to convict him. And he -- she just --

we -- we just got justice for that. That -- and that

wasn't even that long ago. It was 20 years it took. And

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1	they got him, and they put him away for what he did to my
2	auntie. So there's a lot of turmoil and a lot of shit.
3	MR. FRANK HOPE: Where do you think this
4	stems from?
5	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: For me, I truly,
6	truly believe it's the ripple effects of residential
7	school. Even though, I directly don't have my mom was
8	not into in residential school. My community was sick.
9	MR. FRANK HOPE: Your community is?
10	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: I've been all over.
11	MR. FRANK HOPE: Who who which
12	community?
13	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: I actually was born
14	in Calgary, Alberta.
15	MR. FRANK HOPE: Okay.
16	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: My mom left when I
17	was three. [Eight lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55].
18	Like, I always had these grandiose idealisms
19	that my dad would come get me, or my dad this, or, you
20	know, like, I had these ideas that my dad was all these
21	things that he really wasn't. And we were there for eight
22	years, and I got sent to Manitoba. We lived there for five
23	years, then we came back to Alberta. And we've been here
24	since.

But growing up, like I said, our community

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was sick. Because my mom was a foster mom, she was a 1 social worker, and so a lot of the people that -- who she 2 worked with, and that was around us, were people who were 3 sick. And there was a lot of sexual abuse going on. I 4 5 remember in grade 2 being sexually abused and going to school and telling. And being told to sit -- sit down. 6 Like, I imagined it or something. So I thought that was 7 normal. You know, my little cousins, my cousins that were 8 9 my same age there too, like -- it was like, their step-dad would stay home from the dance, when we didn't go to the 10 dance, and was almost, like, we had to wait our turn, or 11 something, you know. Like, he was such a creep. And then 12 there was, like, the peer-on-peer stuff, like, the same age 13 14 group. And we're playing house and things, and it was not 15 healthy. But nobody intercepted or did anything. Like, I don't understand how at 13, when I had been raped, how it 16 was totally brushed under the rug? Like, nothing happened. 17 It was just, like, "Oh, here's your pills and yeah, yeah. 18 We're going to your brother's wedding." You know what I 19 20 mean? And I just -- I -- I just don't understand a 21 lot of it. When my first incident with missing and 22 23 murdered women, which was in 1998, it just so happened that, you know, I was working in Calgary. I was in a sober 24 house. I lived in an Oxford House they're called, with a 25

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bunch of -- we called them the Golden Girls because they 1 were old -- older women. I was the youngest one. And I 2 just got my first computer, the internet was just starting, 3 you know, nobody really knew much about the internet and 4 things. And a friend of mine sent me a -- a link that 5 said, "Welcome to the Girls of Calgary." And I opened it 6 up, and here are these homeless women, naked and passed 7 8 out, and there was a white male -- and you knew he was 9 white because he was taking pictures of himself getting head. And he had red pubic hair. 10

> And I was sickened by this because one of those ladies happened to be one of my uncle's drinking buddies. And it scared me because I thought, "Where are these women? Like, are they still alive?" You know, and I've -- I was scared. And I phoned my mom and I was crying and I was telling her about it. And she said, phone IAAW, phone Muriel Stanley Venne. I phoned her, she turned me away.

> > MR. FRANK HOPE: Who is that?

MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: She's with the Institute for Advancement of Aboriginal Women here. They just named a building after her, or something. She turned me away. Phone me to Child and Family Services. They turned me away. There's nothing that they can do. I phoned the cops, nothing that they can -- "Do they look

like they're over 18?" Well, this is fucking sickening,
like, somebody -- somebody's got to do something. Like,
these women don't know what a digital camera is. They have
no clue they're on the internet.

Paul Barnsley from the Windspeaker, who happens to be the executive producer of APTN, who's actually here right now. He heard my story, and he came down to Calgary and he seen me. And we went driving around looking for these women. And he helped me get that website taken off. But nothing was done about it. So I messaged that guy who made the -- the website because he had his email, if you like my website blah-blah. So I made a fake profile on the email, and I, yeah, sent him a message. And I said, "I really liked your website. I do this with my friends when they're passed out. I put things inside." Like, I was really sick. And he gave me his name and his address, wanted to meet me. And I gave that to the police. And that's how it started for me.

These agencies that are out here right now, they didn't want to touch any of this stuff, not at all.

And something in the back of my head was, like, "Isn't that what, you know, like, what we're supposed to be?" Then -- then all these women started -- they had already been starting to been found in -- in fields and things. And then I moved up to Edmonton here, and there was an article

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in the newspaper, Terri-Lynn House (ph) had went missing. 1 This woman was from Devon, she -- the mom, and this woman 2 had went missing. Nobody would listen to her. So me and 3 this other women, she's a white lady, we went out to visit 4 her, and we got her picture, and within three days we found 5 this woman. She was out in Prince George. We went on the 6 news, like, was on the radio and stuff. And we found her. 7 It took us three days. And that's where, like, it all 8 9 started.

> Like, really -- like, that's where I really fell into it. And that's why I -- really had to start to -- to take a look at my life. Like, if I'm even doing this kind of stuff, I can't be smoking crack and selling my ass and that kind of thing. So I really struggled, like I'm doing now. I'm living in an abusive relationship at the time, you know. I'm in the newspaper for doing this kind of stuff. Paul Barnsley was really supportive of me, and he still is today. Like, he -- he -- I haven't seen him yet. I haven't seen him for many years, but he's here somewhere.

> But for me, when my sister got murdered, I was angry because how dare she get taken from me after all the work I fucking did, and continue to do. I was mad. In 2007, I wasn't going to do the walk. I was like, fuck that. Sorry for swearing. I swear a lot. I'm like, fuck

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1	that. I ain't doing shit, man. I'm going to drink and
2	have fun, and party. And but I didn't because the
3	families were asking me, "Are you going to do a walk this
4	year? Can you do the walk this year?" And I'm like, fuck.
5	So I did it. This time I didn't go home and get high. So
6	I went home and I had two beer. And that's when I started
7	to sober up again. Like, that was from the beginning,
8	like, 2007, that I started to really think, like, this is
9	where I need to be. These families need me. And this is
10	what I'm going to be doing. I knew I was going to do this.
11	And I started to work with the Prostitution
12	Awareness and Action Foundation of Edmonton. And I started
13	to work with two vice officers from the EPS, who
14	actually that's that's why I stopped selling my body
15	was because of them. They saved my life. And I actually
16	nominated Jim Morrissey as a Man of Honour because he's the
17	first man in my life that never sexualized me. And never
18	wanted anything sexual from me, or tried to be creepy that
19	way. And it really scared me.
20	MR. FRANK HOPE: Who's he for?
21	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: He's a vice officer
22	from EPS. He's retired now. His name is Jim Morrissey.
23	And when I nominated him for Man of Honour, I stated that.
24	[One line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]. You know what I
25	mean? And this man did not sexualize me in any way. He

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had no expectations of me whatsoever. I could just be me,

and not have to worry about him creeping me out, or trying

to do something to me. And that was really hard because I

had to look at him differently too. Not like as a mark, or

what I can get free from him. Like, I -- that's where I

had to start to learn how to respect men. And be respected

as a woman.

And to this day, like, I have a lot of respect for myself. I don't have one-night stands. I don't sleep around. I honour my relationship, and I never used to be like that. I'd be, like, "Meh, he won't find out." You know what I mean? And that's -- that's basically, like, I really, really did my hardest. I worked with 'john school.' I educated men that had been convicted of buying prostitutes. I went and I tell them my story, and how I healed. And, like, the effects of what they're doing by purchasing women. I educated these men on that issue. And then I've also rallied against prostitution being legalized. And I'm very, very candid about it. I'm like, "So if you think that prostitution should be legalized, do you think I should charge more because I'm a hundred pounds heavier than the woman next to me? Or should I charge less because you have more teeth than I do?" You know what I mean? How do you put a price on flesh? How do you put a price on a person? You can't.

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I also go into schools and I educate youth on 1 prostitution. I ask them what they think prostitution 2 looks like. They have no clue. I'll ask older kids, not 3 young kids because with the younger ones, it starts with 4 bullying. Then it goes into acceptance, wanting to be 5 accepted by your peers. And what are you going to do to be 6 accepted? Which most of the time, having sex with boys. 7 With Aboriginal -- well, with women, not just Aboriginal 8 9 women. And then it gets into something later on, when it comes to prostitution. It's okay to have sex with somebody 10 in a bar for drinks. Take him home that night, and have 11 sex with him. 12 But when I do my talks, I'll say stuff like, 13 "How many of you will have anal sex?" Everybody kind of 14 laughs. Because when you're a prostitute, the moment that 15 door is closed, whether you do it or not, it would --16 they're going to do it because that door is closed. You're 17 a part -- you're -- they bought you. No different than 18 buying a car. If I want to buy a car, and I want to smash 19 that car into a wall, I can do it because I bought it. I 20 paid for it. And that's a mind thing a -- a lot of these 21 johns -- they can do whatever the fuck they want because 22 23 they paid for you. And as brutal as that sounds, I do it in an age-appropriate way. Like, I don't speak like that 24 to little kids, obviously. 25

And that's where my passion is, is education. 1 My passion is going into schools and educating on this 2 issue. Respecting each other. Respecting yourself. 3 Knowing that purchasing and selling sex is not right. 4 Ι call it flesh-trade. Buying flesh and selling flesh. 5 God. It's not right. And I'm very, very -- I get my point 6 across because, you know, I've been to many schools and 7 I've worked with a lot of youth. And they get it because I 8 use my own story. Because nobody can take my story away 9 and say I'm lying. It's my story, and I can share it. 10 And I struggle a lot too because I get 11 accused of taking money, and stealing from family members 12 when I'm supporting them, which is bullshit. You know, 13 I've went and done workshops for free, out of my own pocket 14 because I believe in it. You know, I've been paying people 15 16 to do workshops -- paid for my time and my mileage, which is fine. You know, and I struggle with that sometimes. 17 How do I ask for that money without feeling like I'm 18 cashing in on people's lives, you know? Like, I struggle 19 with that. That's been the biggest struggle. 20 I went to -- I was working up in Fox Lake for 21 about four years. I go fly up there, usually around 22 23 National Addictions Awareness Week, and I go and talk to those young women. And talk to them about the grooming, 24 the prostitution, what it looks like, how these guys will 25

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lure you into go partying and buy you nails, and buy this. 1

And then, "You need to pay me back." And that's where 2

they'll go out on the street, and get you hooked on the 3

4 drugs, whatever, right.

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MR. FRANK HOPE: (Indiscernible). 5

MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: And I got an email 6 from a young woman, her cousin came to the city and she got 7 away, her cousin didn't. And she said, "Thank you because 8 9 I remembered what you said." And I don't know what ever happened to her cousin. But that to me was enough, like, 10 that's even enough right there. I saved somebody. But 11 those are things, like, you know, I've been involved with 12

> I went out to Ottawa last year, actually twice. I went to Winnipeg to the roundtable. And I was fucking pissed off because a lot of these people that were speaking, they're so malicious and so angry. And that's their stuff, but I don't believe in putting it on people. I don't believe putting it on Carolyn Bennett, for instance, she's not the one that did this to us -- to women. And she's not the one that is hurting us. You know what I mean? She's trying her best. And to me, I'm grateful for that. [32 lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55].

some of them and saying we're going to the Inquiry stuff.

Every other walk across Canada, is around

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Métis and Aboriginal, which is fine. Like, everybody does 1 it their own. Like, I got the one in Winnipeg started, my 2 cousin Lucy (ph) did it. My friend, Suzanne (ph), started 3 it in Calgary. These people from Thunder Bay, they asked 4 if they could do one, you know. I got one started in Maple 5 Ridge. Like, people would ask me, and I'd tell them. 6 These were the rules that I was given, no advertising, you 7 8 wear red and purple to honour the women. Red for the love, 9 purple for royal -- it's like, purple's for royalty, holding these women in high regard. And I always stood 10 behind those rules, but they were -- what was told to me 11 from Vancouver. And I'm angry about losing the walk. 12 really bothers me. 13

But in a way it doesn't because it kind of gave me that permission to say, I'm free. I can get high, and I can just do whatever the fuck I want now. I don't have nothing to hold me back. Because when my son died in 2014, I had to come and do the walk in -- in February. In two weeks -- not even a -- two weeks, a week after that, the first walk with -- my son died January 1st. February 22nd my son's dad froze to death in Winnipeg. March 23rd, the next month, my son's best friend hung herself because my son died. And it just -- one after the other. I picked up again in March of 20 -- March of 2014, I started smoking crack again. By August of 2014, I begged my mom to come

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and get me because I was going to die. I was being fucking 1 eaten alive by bed bugs. I didn't even know what they 2 were. It was so gross. 3

MR. FRANK HOPE: Where were you? 4

MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: Here in Edmonton. mom came and got me. And I never left. I stayed with my mom for a while and my boyfriend moved down to St. Paul with me. And I was going to go back to school and, you know, I was going to start working again. And thinking of getting in there and, you know like, getting my life together. And my boyfriend and I had broken up that time, and I got introduced to crystal meth, which is way cheaper than crack. And I could be normal. Like, I don't react to it the same way. And so I started to do crystal meth. I started to inject it first, and then smoke it.

And I was working still. Like, I've always been a functioning addict. Like, for years when I did the walk, there's been years where I was sober, where I was still drinking, when I was injecting drugs. You know, but I always did it. I always showed up, and I always did what I had to do for my community, no matter what. Even when my son died, I couldn't even talk, but these people who had been there for so many years, they talked for me. And I'm free right now, sort of. The only thing that's holding me back is my conscience, and that calling. Like, I know

there -- I have more work to do. I know I do. I know it

because I feel it. And I -- I'm brought into things, like,

there's always a workshop, "Can you speak?" Well, I can't

say no. You know, and I -- I -- I do what I have to do to

maintain, but I still do my work.

And I believe in my heart that my -- like, I said, my Creator doesn't punish me for, you know, that smudge is there. I won't use my mom's smudge because my mom's sober and clean. I have my own smudge and it -- it could be dirty to her. She'll think -- she thinks it's dirty because I use drugs and alcohol. But you know what? I still need to smudge. I still need to feel my Creator's love, whether I'm using or not. I still need to go to that place where I was raped, that place where to -- my Creator's is who He is. And I still sing those songs that I learned when I was a little girl. I still use my Indian name. I don't drink, but I abuse drugs.

And I still follow the concept of the 12 steps, I really do. I follow those principles because those principles are very important. I wouldn't -- people wouldn't know I was an addict unless I told them. And that's something that I fight with a lot because I'm living this life -- two different lives. Where in one hand, I'm, you know, so helpful and, like, supportive and things. But the other hand, I'm still hurting. I'm really hurting.

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And sometimes I struggle about wanting to live. I really
 struggle a lot.

because my mom lost her baby, my brother. She lost my son, which was her -- one of her -- she loves my son since she raised him. She helped me raise him. I was always in my son's life. Always. I just wasn't present. They'd come visit me when I was home. My son was two-spirited, had been all his life. I knew he was two-spirited, even when he was a little boy. We embraced that, you know. We come from a very loving family where we all sweat together, and we all ceremony together. But now that the Elders are gone, it's not like that anymore.

There's work that -- you know, I'm ready to go into treatment. And I'm ready just to -- but I have a lot of fear. There's a lot of fear around it because I have a lot of anger in dealing with that grief. Because it doesn't -- I went to treat -- I went to detox in March, and I started to straighten out, like, sober up, like, no drugs, no morphine. So it's a physical thing then when there's no morphine. My body really reacts harshly. And I started to sober up, and I could feel it in my belly. I started to have anxiety, and it took three nurses and a doctor to calm me down. And they were giving me drugs to do so. And I knew, I can't do this, and I walked out.

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1	Because I knew I'd run out of there if I got to that
2	certain point and I run. I won't never come back. I
3	will escape in any way I can, whether it be sex, drugs, you
4	name it, I'll do it. Because I don't want to face it yet.
5	I mean, I'm starting to feel like I want to, but then I
6	I'm scared to, right.
7	MR. FRANK HOPE: To sober up?
8	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: Yeah.
9	MR. FRANK HOPE: Yeah.
10	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: To deal with
11	things
12	MR. FRANK HOPE: Yeah.
13	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: straight.
14	MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.
15	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: Especially, around my
16	boy. My boy's death was really hard. I have a hard time
17	with it still.
18	MR. FRANK HOPE: I appreciate your honesty.
19	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: I have to be honest
20	because I have to be accountable to myself. And I mean I
21	come in here for a reason. I have no reason to lie to you
22	guys. I have to be straight-up because it's reality. It's
23	my reality. I mean, I don't think you guys are going to
24	hold that against me, or tell on me. I think if you told
25	my mom, she already knows anyways. Because she said, "You

have tracks all over your arms." "No, I don't." This is, 1 like, two days ago. Because I think that my mom 2 internalizes things, and even said, "I'm angry about" -3 about her husband. He had nothing to do with her. I was 4 5 just saying, I fight because I want to be there for my mom, but I'm trying to be there for myself, never mind. 6 But I just wanted still -- like, I will take 7 care of my mom still. Like, not -- I don't -- I try to do 8 9 the best that I can. Sometimes I don't think I do enough for her. I mean, she gets upset because she knows that I'm 10 using, and she's powerless, I don't know. But this issue, 11 my mom has stood behind me throughout it all. She's an 12 Elder. She works with women. She's been my Elder for the 13 14 walk for many years -- all -- all the time. My mom was so 15 proud of me. She had a lot of pride for the things that I 16 was doing. And I disappointed her when I stopped being 17 engaged. So she told me she wants me to -- a good life before she dies. Like, she wants me and my son to be okay 18 because we're the only ones that are close to her. 19 20 [22 lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55]. But this Inquiry stuff is, like -- like I 21 22 said, I was opposed to it. But I'm a very -- I'm the kind 23 of person who thinks that the Creator puts things there for a reason. And we have to let it be the way it's supposed 24

to be. I have no control over it, and I have to manifest

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it, and I freak out. I do get really freaked out by

everything. I can -- like, I was ready to run out of here.

I was, like, "Fuck this, I'm going home. Give me my

4 mileage check." And I'd -- "See you later," kind of thing.

5 But I knew in my heart that I needed to do this. And I

knew I needed to talk about it.

Touch the things that, you know like, I don't even know what I was saying, but, like, I still don't know what I'm going to be saying. It just comes out because that's how I speak. Whenever I do a speaking engagement at a workshop, I don't come with papers to read off of. I come there speaking from my heart. And whatever I -- I say, I say. I don't know what's going to come out of my mouth, but I know that everything ties into something and I don't know when, or how, but one day I'm going to look back on it, and I'm going to find the reason why these things have happened. And why I'm losing my friends, and why --

MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: -- I'm losing people that I love because there's a lot. I actually told my dad, when my brother died last year, "When are you going to get things right? How many of us do you have to fucking lose before you realize it's time to say sorry, and stand up and be a fucking man?" I said, "Because I don't want to die young." I said, "You have two of us left, and one you just

MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

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disown. So that leaves me." I said, "And I've lost my 1 brothers. And I don't know if it's because of you, because 2 of the things you've done, or how you treated us, or what 3 reason, but it's time to make things right." And I -- I 4 5 think he was crying. Do you know why I'm so mad at him too? When 6 my son died he didn't -- when my brother died, he just, 7 "Take care of everything." And he fucked off and went 8 9 drinking. He's 80-years-old. My brother -- my little brother died in [M.]'s namesake, he didn't go to the 10 funeral. He didn't go to, like, my son's funeral. His 11 wife gave me shit because I didn't put her name on the 12 obituary. "Ahh, what the fuck do you want?" Like, no. 13 Like -- like, ugly. "Like, you're not even his grandma. 14 You didn't even, like, talk to my kids. What makes you 15 think you should be on the -- the -- you know?" 16 MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm. 17 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: But that -- it -- it 18 just -- it's just so much more than just missing and 19 20 murdered women with a lot of us. Like, a -- a lot of people that are probably here, I think, it comes down to --21 I believe that every death, no matter how it is, whether 22 it's a suicide, an accident, a murder, a rape, there's a 23 reason behind why it happened that way. It's a learning 24

experience, but am I learning from this? And I can't say

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that I thank the Creator for that reason because I've lost
people and it hurts. But I thank the Creator for putting
me in the path that I'm in and what I've experienced
because for every death that has touched me, I've learned
something different from it.

And I've -- I felt differently about every
single one of them. Some of them have been very, very hard

single one of them. Some of them have been very, very hard to deal with, some of them, not so hard. It is what it is. And I'm always -- I try not to be so truthful because I'm very straightforward, like, I just say it how it is. And I don't really think about my deliverance sometimes. And people sometimes -- like, that's why I can't have a job in an office, or working in a professional place because people sit there and they talk about their kids. And -- "And what about you?" "Oh, my son's dead, my brother's dead, and you know, my sister was murdered." And you know, like, people don't understand that. People hear my story and they're, like, "Oh, my God." And I'm like, "No, it's not like that." Like, it's not -- I don't -- I'm not trying to be negative, but that's the kind of -- that's what I have to live with. This is my reality.

I don't fit into the norm. I don't fit into an office environment. Definitely don't fit into McDonald's, or retail. Even though, I'm good at selling things. I could sell anything. That's why right now my

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transition is public education. Like, I need to take 1 myself, ground myself, and get healthy again. Get off the 2 drugs, and start sharing my story, and putting that apart. 3 I started writing my book, and it's called, Pretty Little 4 5 White Girl, because that's what was told to me when I was being abused. "You're such a pretty, little white girl." 6 I still get called that to this day -- but not little, but, 7 "You're so pretty." You know, pretty white girl. Even 8 9 though, I'm not white. My dad is Blackfoot, and my mom is half Cree. My granny was white. 10 And my spouse, he's learning too. He's --11 he's incarcerated right now. I swear I'd never would be 12 in -- a jailhouse wife again. My childhood crush. I was 13 17 when I met him. We finally hooked up in 2015, and the 14 kids grew up together. They're from the same community. 15 And we both -- he had a really hard time. He's still 16 loggie (ph), he doesn't even work. But he had a hard time 17 with me being his girlfriend because I'm so realistic, and 18 I'm not phoney. And I'm -- wasn't out to get anything from 19 him because I have my own money, my own vehicle, you know, 20 like, a very independent person. I've always been like 21 22 that. 23 And for him, he's so used to having women that need this, or he had to take care of this, or 24 whatever. And so he really pushed me away, but I don't 25

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know why. Don't even ask me why I stayed loyal to him. He 1 cheated on me. He did everything under the sun, other than 2 beat me. And I'm still with him. Now, he's changed. 3 He -- he wants to sober up. He is sober now. He's 4 incarcerated. I've supported him. I've taken care of the 5 house and he wants to start a boxing club. He's a Golden 6 Gloves boxer. He wants to work with youth. He comes from 7 a very abusive background as well. And he's talking about 8 9 it now. Yeah, we used to talk about it. He's 45. And he knows my history. And he -- he 10 admires me. Like, "Baby, you're so smart." He said, "I 11 want you to go to school. I want you to become a lawyer, 12 like, you can do it, or a social worker. Like, you're so 13 smart, hunny." Like, I went and I talked in front of the 14 15 Judge Lester, and "You teach -- teach at St. Paul last week?" Because he sentenced [Spouse] for his seven 16 There's seven impaireds and driving while 17 impaireds. suspended. And, you know, I'm not saying he's an innocent 18 man. And he took responsibility for those things. 19 20 And I stated to that judge, "There's an overrepresentation of Indigenous men in jails because of you 21 22 guys. It's not because of them, it's because of you guys. You guys are choosing to put them in jail and not into --23 to programming to deal with their shit." They denied bail. 24 And bail is -- legally, bail is only to be denied when 25

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somebody is a threat to the society -- to society. That's 1 what it is. Because I -- I'm -- I'm a researcher. And 2 they shut me down. But I'm, like, "No. No. No. No. No. 3 I have the chance to speak here in this courthouse on 4 behalf of my spouse, and I'm going to do so." And I did. 5 At the end of it, they -- he only got sentenced to three 6 months, which seven impaireds and driving while suspended, 7 he should've got seven years, if not more. 8 9 But, you know, like, I didn't do it because I was trying to stick up for him, I did it because it's 10 what's right. Sticking up for -- and standing up for 11 somebody that can't stand up for themselves. And I told 12 [Spouse], "You need to take responsibility for your shit 13 because I'm not fucking going to sit here and defend you, 14 15 if you can't take fucking responsibility for yourself. You're 45-years-old, you know better." I said, "Enough is 16 enough. Like, fucking grow up." You know what I mean? 17 "Yes, dear." And all of a sudden he became docile and I'm 18 just, like, "Are you okay?" You know, because he's no 19 20 longer being aggressive with me. Like, he'd never hit me or anything. But I believe in doing the right thing. 21 Because there's some -- there is things that I was taught. 22 And that's taking responsibility for my actions, not lying, 23 and saying, "Yeah. I did do that. What?" You know, and 24 was something that I'm -- I've -- not saying I'm teaching 25

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him, but he sees that. And he's starting to do that, but I 1 mean, what it comes down to now is, what do I need? And 2 how do I deal from this? 3 I don't have any expectations of the Inquiry. 4 I don't expect any kind of money, I don't expect any kind 5 of acknowledgement. Nothing. You know what? Just telling 6 my story and saying how I feel, and where I'm at with 7 things, is enough for me because there is what? Hundreds 8 9 of people here that are going to say something. I can quarantee that there's going to be people that -- they're 10 going to stick out. And there's going to be people --11 their story is going to stick out too. I mean, I know that 12 mine will because I'm coming here, you know, honestly with 13 no expectations and I don't want anything. 14 What I do want though, is I want the youth to 15 have a chance to heal. And not have to go through what I 16 went through. I want to give that youth -- the youth that 17 chance to -- to listen to myself -- women like me, and 18 family members like me. To say, like, this is real. You 19 20 know what? What's happened to you as a child, probably happened to me. My story is your story. Just different 21 22 people involved. 23 I truly believe that all these things that

happened to me, and I try not to do that, oh, poor me

because I think that it's all a learning thing. And

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there's a reason why these -- like, every time that 1 something's happened, it's like, okay, I'm going to have to 2 use this for something now. The fuck I'm going to use it 3 for? And why it's happening. And I'm pissed off, and, you 4 know, what -- what the --- you know. But I know there's a 5 reason why. And I try to -- it takes me a bit, but I'll 6 accept it. And that's how it is with me. Like, it takes 7 me a bit of time. 8

My son's death was really hard. And I know my son's safe now. I know he'll never get beat up or gaybashed. My son hasn't come to visit in any dreams, just once. That makes me angry because we were close. It bothers me that my son hasn't come visit me. I hope it's because of no drugs, I don't know. We'd always promised each other, if one of us were to go, that -- he would just go and just leave me like that? It bugs me, but I have to accept it. I think he's scared that I'm going to give him shit, I don't know. I think about things like that. I pray to him all the time. I give him shit because he hides things on me, I know he does. And I accepted his God shots, it's what it is. I do have gifts I was given. have the gift -- gift of clairvoyance, which is another subject, but I do read tarot cards. My Indian name is "Blue Butterfly." And in Saulteaux that means, it's (speaking in Native language). And in Blackfoot, which is

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1	blue butterfly. And I'm I was chosen to bring calmness
2	to the tornados, and the storms. My calm nature calms
3	people. While there's a tornado over there, you see this
4	old butterfly going from flower to flower, and you feel
5	that calmness. And even though there's turmoil over there,
6	I'm over here. I was given that when I was 11 years-old by
7	Don Daniels, in Long Plains, Manitoba. I met Peter
8	O'Chiese, and then stuck with him when I was a little girl.
9	MR. FRANK HOPE: I know that name.
10	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: M'hm. He was a very
11	strong Elder.
12	MR. FRANK HOPE: Yeah. Yes.
13	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: But that's the way I
14	was raised. I was being raised it was almost like a
15	residential school, cultural camp
16	MR. FRANK HOPE: Right.
17	MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: because there was
18	a lot of what's that humiliation teaching, like, we
19	got humiliated when we were being taught a lesson, kind of
20	thing. Looking back on it, I I appreciate it. But at
21	that time, I'm, like, "I will never do another fucking set
22	of dishes if I ever live. Just because I'm a woman doesn't
23	mean I have to fucking do dishes. I can cut wood just like
24	my brother can." You know what I mean? I rebelled. I was
25	a huge rebellion, and my uncle, I think, still carries that

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resentment from me being such a little asshole. But you know what? There was no way I was going let a man tell me

3 that I can't be what I want to be.

And that's the whole thing about Sally, and
my mouth. I would fight against -- if I didn't feel right
about something, I would say so. And it pisses people off.
But that's okay.

8 MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: Because I don't believe that just because I'm a woman, anything should be different. I should be able to do anything I want to do. And I do do anything I want to do. And that's just how it is and I -- I'm struggling right now, like, I really am struggling. Like, I don't feel the urge to drink or anything like that.

I've been -- well, August 26th, my house got kicked in. A masked man came into my home and he shot at me, and he shot at my dogs. And I actually moved the barrel of the gun over, and he shot the back of the wall. And he stole my wallet. When he dropped my wallet on the floor, I took a hammer and I fucking nailed him right in the back with all my might. And his -- his mask fell off, and he looked at me, but I didn't recognize him, but he's from Saddle Lake. And he took off running. I thought it was a joke. Like -- I'm, like, "What the fuck just

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- 1 happened here?" You know what I mean? I called the
- police. The police have not arrested these guys. I know
- who did it. I told the police. They didn't do nothing. I

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- 4 could have got killed that night.
- 5 MR. FRANK HOPE: Here in the city?
- 6 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: Here in -- Saddle
- 7 Lake --
- 8 MR. FRANK HOPE: In -- oh -- oh, in Saddle
- 9 Lake.
- 10 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: Where -- where I
- 11 live. My purse, my -- my wallet. All my I.D., my keys and
- my purse were found at one of those guys' houses. The cops
- told me to go get it myself. "Go get it yourself." "Well,
- how's that evidence?" I said. If I'm fucking doing it
- 15 myself, I might as well throw the sheep to the wolves, kind
- of thing. You know what I mean? Like, this is ridiculous.
- 17 Like, the -- one of the guys got arrested on Sunday. I
- 18 phoned the police to see if he got charged with that home
- invasion. They never answered me back. It's been three
- 20 months. So I struggle with that. Like, I'm not sleeping
- 21 at night because I'm scared to sleep. Until the sun comes
- up, I don't go to sleep. Yeah, it's been a really --
- MR. FRANK HOPE: (Indiscernible).
- 24 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: Like, my spouse being
- in jail. He -- it's his house, and he's fucking mad.

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Like, they tried to shoot me. There's a hole just above my 1 bed, about this big, where that bullet went. It wasn't 2 even in the news. So -- there's so much -- I'm surprised 3 I'm alive today. Some days I just think, I got horseshoes 4 somewhere. I don't know where they are, but they're 5 somewhere. I'm not scared to die. I'd love to be with my 6 baby. And I imagine that sometimes. But I can't commit 7 suicide because my brother committed suicide a year ago. 8 9 And that broke my mom, and it broke me. MR. FRANK HOPE: Yeah. 10 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: And I don't ever want 11 my mom to go through that. So I just -- I'm just -- I'm a 12 human doing, I'm not a human being right now. And I'll get 13 back to that. Just doing what I can to live, and to --14 through -- get through the day, for another day. And 15 16 that's pretty much it. 17 MR. FRANK HOPE: Okay. So just in closing, just thinking about your sister, and Rachel, and the many 18 women that you've known that have lost their lives. How 19 are you going to honour their lives? Commemorate --20 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: Honestly, I would 21 like to have an international day of healing for all 22

missing and murdered women of the world. I went to do that

for the Healing Our Spirits conference worldwide in Hawaii,

back in 2011, no --25

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1 MS. DOREEN WASKEWICH: No.

2 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: Maybe it was '08 or

3 '09. I can't remember what year it --

4 MR. FRANK HOPE: It's important about that,

5 yeah.

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MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: But what happened 6 7 was, I wanted to incorporate February 14th, which is a day of love, as an international day of healing for all missing 8 9 and murdered women of the world. And I wanted to go to Hawaii and tell my story, and talk about my healing because 10 at that time, I was healing. And I ran into Dog the Bounty 11 Hunter, and he was willing to help me because it was in 12 Honolulu that time. He told me to go down to his office, 13 and he would help me promote it. And I was ready to do 14 that, but then he wanted to charge me, like, \$600 for a 15 16 table, and I, like, it -- it just didn't turn out the way 17 it was supposed to.

And on top of that, people were saying that I was having my AGM in Hawaii. I don't even have a -- a friggin' board. I'm just me by myself. What the hell is an AGM? You know what I mean? Like, and -- like, it was just that lateral violence.

23 MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

24 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: It's just like, fuck

25 man. You know? But that's -- that to me, like, is

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honouring these women. Like, how else -- by collecting 1 them all together, bringing their spirits all together --2 MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm. 3 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: -- to say, look, 4 there's so many of us all over the world. There are so 5 many women that have lost their lives in one way, shape or 6 form. And standing up and doing something in that way, in 7

their memory. Because you know what? People are --8 9 \$40,000,000 to come and speak at the Inquiry and spend this money on whatever they're doing, is it going to mean 10 closure? No. You know what we needed for closure? We 11 needed a headstone for my sister. And someone donated it 12 to us. That was our closure. And that's what we wanted, 13

15 MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

and we got it.

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MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: What other family members need, I don't know. They're going to get it someday. It may not be through this. But they will get it. And -- and that to me is important. And it's like, what do you need for yourselves who are in this position here. What do you need for closure? Is that what you guys are asking these people? Are you guys asking family, what do you need for closure in your daughter's case? Because every one of us is going to have something different. And there may be things that you guys can do for closure, but

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- that's a very important question to ask each and every one
- of these family members. What do you need for closure? I
- got my closure when I got my sister a headstone. Because I
- 4 needed her to be -- I needed to be able to find her because
- I can never find her when I go to the graveyard.
- 6 MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.
- 7 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: But it was important
- 8 for us to have that.
- 9 MR. FRANK HOPE: Is it good to end that then?
- 10 MS. DANIELLE BOUDREAU: (Indiscernible).
- 11 MR. FRANK HOPE: Just -- just to mark the
- 12 time, it's 4:39 p.m.
- 13 --- Upon adjourning at 4:39 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

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

Amanda Muscoby

March 13, 2018