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 Chateau Nova Hotel Yellowknife, Northwest Territories



Thursday January 25, 2018

Statement - Volume 220

Jaylene Delorme, In relation to Toni-Lynn Buggins-Godin

Statement gathered by Yvonne Johnson

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#### NOTE

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#### III

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statement Volume 220 January 25, 2018 Witness: Jaylene Delorme	PAGE
Testimony of Jaylene Delorme	1
Reporter's certification	. 26
Statement gatherer: Yvonne Johnson	

Documents submitted with testimony: none.

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories 1 2 --- Upon commencing the statement on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 8:40 p.m. 3 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Today is January 25, 4 2018. It is 8:40 p.m. We are taking the statement of Jaylene 5 6 Delorme, and she has her support person, her mother, Debra 7 Buggins. They are going to talk about the death of her sister, Toni-Lynn Buggins-Godin. She is ready to start. 8 9 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: I wanted to talk 10 about victim discrimination within the healthcare system. My 11 sister had really bad sores on her feet. I am not totally sure 12 about the story around how she got those sores, but she had really bad sores on her feet where she was in her early 13 14 thirties and walking with a walker because she couldn't walk on 15 her own. 16 She would go to the hospital to try and get healthcare with -- like, try to get help managing the pain 17 18 and getting her feet better, but due to her history with 19 addictions, she wasn't getting the help she needed. Thev weren't properly medicating her to accommodate her pain. 20 21 Because of that, she resorted to using drugs because when she would smoke -- her drug of choice was crack -- she would be 22 23 able to not feel that pain. 24 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Sorry. Something is 25 not working. Sorry. Go ahead.

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1 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: She wasn't getting 2 the help that she needed. After resorting to drugs -- you know, it was not something she could afford to do all the time 3 to manage her pain. She wasn't getting help within the 4 healthcare system in the NWT. She was covering her own costs 5 6 to go to Alberta to get help from the healthcare system there 7 where they were properly helping her. 8 On one of her trips to Edmonton, her last trip, 9 she connected with one of her friends from school, and she ended up buying crystal meth. That crystal meth killed her. 10 11 She went into cardiac arrest seven times within half an hour, 12 and then was, I think, dead on arrival at the hospital. 13 MS. DEBRA BUGGINS: She died later there. 14 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: She wasn't at the 15 hospital for very long though. 16 With that, also within myself, I was in the hospital at one 17 point. I had a herniated disc in my back that had taken a 18 piece of my spine bone with it, pinched my sciatic nerve, and 19 caused me to have a foot drop. I was laying in a bed for four 20 days, not able to sit up, and a wheelchair after that for ten 21 days, not able to walk. I had crutches for a week after that. 22 With that story, when I was in the hospital, they had to send me for a CT scan before they -- they didn't 23 24 know what was wrong with me. They thought it was just 25 sciatica. I was in so much pain, I couldn't handle it. I, as

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well, have a history with drug addictions. When I was asking 1 2 the doctors to properly medicate me -- as well, on my file the history with addictions is there -- one of the doctors had told 3 me that he is not going to give me anything just to get me 4 high. He did, after my CT scan come back -- he did come back 5 6 and apologize to me for what he had said because he realized 7 the severity of what was going on.

8 But due to my history with addictions and my 9 sister's history with addictions, we were both discriminated against within the healthcare system. I was lucky enough to 10 11 figure out what was going on and get the proper healthcare, and 12 she wasn't. Because of that she passed away. If she wasn't discriminated against and they had helped her and didn't look 13 14 at her as an addict, she may still be here today.

15 The other part of her story that I wanted to 16 tell was she spent a lot of time in the justice system in jail. 17 They held her in a holding cell for two weeks here in 18 Yellowknife not letting her shower, not letting her see 19 daylight, and it was very inhumane.

20 They had sent her to Fort Smith where there 21 was a lack of programming. There is, like -- I, myself, was in 22 Fort Smith only for a short period of time, and they did offer some acupuncture and stuff like that, but there was no healing, 23 24 no cultural aspect to it at all to help a person with a healing 25 journey and to reintegrate them into the community on a healthy

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path. Because of that, she had actually escaped the Fort Smith jail, and it took them nine months to find her in New Brunswick, married, and she ended up serving the rest of her time down there. She moved back home healthy. She had reclaimed her relationship with God as a Baptist Christian and was very, very strong within her religion.

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7 As well, with myself, along the same lines, I was in the young offenders facility here in Yellowknife, the 8 9 North Slave Young Offenders male facility in open custody where a few doors down they had a young man who was in there for 10 11 sexual assault against other girls. I have been a victim of 12 sexual assault on multiple occasions since I was a young child, the most recent one being in 2015. The guy had actually gotten 13 14 found not guilty because I am bigger than him.

MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Because you are bigger?

MS. JAYLENE DELORME: Yes. The argument from the defence was how can he remove my clothes if I was dead asleep. Then after that, it was -- the other argument was I got caught cheating, so I called rape, which wasn't the case at all. The guy that I was seeing at the time I actually called right after I had gotten the rape kit done, and he came to the hospital to see me.

24 When I had just turned 18, I filed a human 25 rights complaint against the government and had settled out of

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1 court. We settled out of court. They were supposed to
2 implement [redacted - confidential settlement term] because
3 they were forcing me to speak in groups about issues that I had
4 when I was the only female in there speaking to a bunch of men
5 about my sexual assault. We settled out of court, but
6 [redacted - confidential settlement term].

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7 I feel like there isn't -- so I quess this is one of the recommendations that I want to make is that that 8 9 needs to be done within the justice system for females and for males, but especially on the female side because there is a 10 11 lack of it. There is a lack of proper treatment facilities and 12 ceremony within the North to help people on their healing journey and to help them onto a healthy path when they are 13 14 released from the facilities. It is almost like throwing them 15 into a shelter and just releasing them right into the same 16 thing with no tools to get through it. It doesn't make it 17 easy. It was very hard for me.

I left there, and I returned to the same lifestyle of drugs and alcohol. There was actually a time where I fed one of my sister's relapses to pay for my own addiction. That is something that I am not proud of, but it is something that I can't take back.

As well as, the other recommendation would be that, within the healthcare system, the discrimination needs to stop. Whether it is discrimination towards a person with

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addictions, discrimination to an Indigenous person, or sexual-1 2 based discrimination, it needs to stop. And they need to have 3 appropriate training for physicians, nurses, mental health workers to be culturally aware and to have situations with 4 dignity and pride. 5 6 MS. DEBRA BUGGINS: Is it okay if I ask 7 something? 8 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: Yeah, sure. 9 MS. DEBRA BUGGINS: I just want to ask, I 10 remember that when they had you in jail here at the young 11 offenders and you were with males. 12 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: Mm-hmm. 13 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Females with males. I just can't comprehend that. But did they ever change that, do 14 15 you know? 16 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: There is no female 17 young offenders facility in the North, so the females and 18 housed with the males. 19 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: It used to be in 20 Inuvik and then they shut it down; right? 21 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: Because of the 22 shifting from the permafrost in the ground and the building was 23 actually falling apart. I was there for three months in open 24 custody, and I was there one time also for a month in secure 25 custody, and you can hear the walls and the floors cracking at

6

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night. At one point, actually, because of the shifting, one of 1 2 the doors got jammed, and I got stuck in the room one time. 3 MS. DEBRA BUGGINS: That was in Inuvik? 4 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: Yeah. I know that they are building a facility within Fort Smith. Great. Build 5 6 a facility. But add the cultural component. Add the ability 7 to heal and the access to it. It needs to be now, not: "I need ceremony." "Okay, okay, okay. In a few days. We will do 8 9 it." No. I need ceremony. I need it now. I don't have a few 10 days. 11 That is where a lot of the suicide crisis 12 too comes in. When youth are asking for help, or anyone -- I apologize. I am very focused on youth a lot -- it needs to 13 happen now, we can't wait. Waiting is what is leading to the 14 15 loss of our youth and the loss of our people to addictions, to 16 suicide, to mental health. And it is a huge problem within our 17 country. It is not okay. 18 There was just a young girl that had 19 committed suicide because she was in the child welfare system. 20 This happened on Monday in Manitoba. Her mother was trying to 21 spend time with her. Her mother did have addiction problems, but they were trying to -- "You can't see her." This young 22 23 girl committed suicide, and that is not okay. That is not 24 okay. 25 I don't know what I would do without my mom. I am fortunate

1 enough to have two moms and two moms that support me and push me to go to where I need to be in life. That support needs to 2 be out there and accessible at the drop of a hat, whether it is 3 through -- I am going to use Ontario as a form of it -- a Tele-4 Elder, you know, like Telehealth, Tele-Elder. It is a cultural 5 6 component where you can just pick up a phone and they will 7 connect you with an Elder, and you can just talk. That has 8 been proven to be beneficial. Those things need to be 9 available. 10 The justice system -- females should not 11 being put with males. There is a lot with -- males as well 12 have experienced sexual assault, but you know mixing that when 13 \_\_\_ 14 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Do you mean that 15 offenders should not be put with victims? Is that what you 16 mean specifically? 17 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: No. I guess that 18 would be beneficial, but it is the mix of the sexes. 19 Personally, I have been sexually assaulted by males, and they 20 put me on a unit where there was a male in there for a 21 sexually-related offence just a few doors down in open custody where our doors weren't locked. I was showered in intake where 22 23 they do the lice treatments daily. I was forced to participate 24 in groups. If I didn't participate then I wasn't doing my 25 work, so I wasn't going to get that one third at the end out

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1 because I wasn't ready to reintegrate into the community, so 2 they weren't going to allow me to. 3 After I had done the human rights complaint, 4 they made a rule that no youth are to talk to media. I was fortunate enough that my dad works with the media. When I was 5 6 out on reintegration leave doing community service hours at the 7 youth centre, he sent a reporter to interview me, and it went from there. But they had made that rule afterwards, that no 8 9 youth are to talk to media. 10 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: While you are in 11 custody. 12 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: Yeah. I had a lot of 13 issues after making that complaint with them allowing me to 14 contact a lawyer, talk to them, with them allowing me to 15 contact the -- what is it called -- Human Rights Commission. 16 When I would ask to make a call, when it is my right -- they 17 are supposed to allow me to call -- "Oh sorry, not right now." 18 Even though I would ask again, and I would ask again, and they 19 wouldn't allow me to call. That is not okay. 20 I feel like if these resources were 21 available, that my sister would have taken advantage of them. 22 I would have taken advantage of them. I am fortunate enough that I was able to push past all of those hurdles and get 23 24 myself to where I am today. I am not sure, if my sister was 25 alive, if I would have done it because there was a lot of

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1 seeing her struggle and wanting to make something of myself for her kids that got me to where I am today. Today I am doing it 2 for me because I want to be somewhere. But my sister -- you 3 know, I was seven years old and I saw her sticking a needle in 4 her arm and that was the first time that my mom had realized 5 6 that she was using drugs. 7 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: (inaudible). 8 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: We told her. She 9 came home after my sister was watching us and said, "Why is Toni-Lynn sticking needles in her arm?" That is when she found 10 11 out that my sister was a drug user at 18. She is 11 years 12 older than me. 13 I remember her coming home strung right out. I can remember the smell of her clothes after she would use 14 15 drugs. You know, I, myself, got into it. That is when I 16 really realized what that smell was. It wasn't an easy path 17 for myself. I have really -- I had a hard time after my -- to 18 this day, I still have a hard time with the fact that I fed my 19 sister's addictions to feed my own. You know, growing up, that is something I said I would never do. I did it. I fell into 20 21 that path. I feel like I don't know where I would be today if 22 my sister was still here. I miss her. 23 I wouldn't wish what happened to her upon 24 anybody or anyone's family. I really wish that she was here 25 today. I really wish that those discriminations within the

10

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1 healthcare system and the lack of resources within the justice 2 system weren't an issue. It is 2018. Those things should be 3 available at the drop of a hat, like I said.

Also, with when I was sexually assaulted in 2015 and the guy was found not guilty, during the trial, one of the jurors was dismissed for sitting there and sticking his fingers to his head and going like that. He wasn't interested. He didn't care.

9 The guy that sexually assaulted me was a good friend of mine. I considered him like a brother to me. 10 11 His father and him rented rooms and had lived with us for a 12 short period of time here in Yellowknife before I moved. He 13 had nowhere to go, so I allowed him to spend the night on my 14 couch. There was a witness. One of my friends that lived 15 across the hall was at the trial and testified that he had to 16 tell -- I am not sure if there is a ban on publications, so I 17 am not going to mention names. But he had to tell him to stay 18 off my bed and to stay away from me because I was intoxicated 19 to the point where I just passed out.

20 When I woke up the next morning, he was on 21 top of me, and I froze. I curled up for a few minutes, and I 22 just got up, got dressed, put my jacket on, and I left my own 23 apartment. I left my own home. I went -- and he was like, 24 "Where are you going?" I said, "I will be right back." I went 25 to the hospital, and I told them I needed a rape kit done. My

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1 counsellor at the time had actually come to the hospital that 2 morning.

12

After that, they had let me go, and I went to the apartment, and I couldn't lay in my bed. I couldn't stand being there. I cranked the song, "Only God Knows Why" by Rascal Flatts. I put it on repeat, and I turned it right up. I lay on my floor and I bawled until I passed out.

8 When I woke up -- my mom was concerned 9 because I had turned my phone off as well. She had called the RCMP to check on me because of what a difficult situation I was 10 11 in and worrying about where my mental state was at. The keeper 12 of the building -- an amazing lady who helped me through a lot of it afterwards -- she had let the RCMP into my apartment 13 14 because I wasn't answering the door. The music was blasting. 15 She was aware of what had happened. She, kind of, just -- and 16 she lived right below me, so she heard my music, but she just, 17 kind of, ignored it and was letting me be.

18 When the RCMP showed up and she was 19 concerned, she let them into my apartment and they gave me the 20 option of going to see my counsellor, who wasn't able to see 21 me, to go to my mom's, who at that point I was upset because 22 she had called the cops -- rebellious times -- or go to the hospital and speak to a doctor. So I did. Out of a fear of a 23 24 doctor thinking I was suicidal -- because I wasn't suicidal, I 25 was hurt -- I put on a stone face, and I said, I just can't

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1 wait to see him hurt the way he hurt me. They sent me to the 2 psych ward for his safety because he was released back into the 3 community. 4 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: So he was charged? 5 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: He was charged. He 6 spent 16 months --7 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Was he convicted? 8 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: No. They found him 9 not guilty because I am bigger than him. 10 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Right. Right. Right. 11 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: Yeah. He spent 16 12 months in jail, so he did spend some time in jail. I have come 13 to terms with that. 14 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: But it wasn't for 15 that? 16 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: No. He was on remand for that. 17 18 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Okay. 19 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: He was released and 20 then he breached. 21 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Okay. 22 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: So then he got 23 remanded. He spent about 16 months in jail until the jury 24 found him not guilty. It was due to the fact that I was bigger 25 than him. How could he take my clothes off is what it was.

13

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To this day, I still see him all the time. 1 2 It is one of the hardest things I face. I cross the street when I see him. I can't stand looking at him. I go into panic 3 attacks. I can't breathe. I can't. It just takes me right 4 back to that. You know, it is like it had just happened, and I 5 6 can picture it. I can picture the way my apartment looked. Ι 7 had to move out of that apartment to another one. But even that, I couldn't handle being in that building. 8 9 It was right after that, that I fell into addictions really bad. About four months straight, every night 10 I was doing cocaine to the point where my mom had to take me to 11 12 the hospital one time because, using it, my stomach lining -and I was spitting up blood. Even that, that didn't change 13 14 anything. About a week later, I was right back at it. 15 I had a big breakdown at one point where I 16 was, like, I am done with life and I wanted to commit suicide. 17 I had these bubble packs of medications. I had taken them all. 18 I took all my Ativan. Taken everything. My brother {Brother], 19 he was two years older than me, he was there and -- I don't remember any of this. This is what he told me. He was 20 21 sticking his fingers down my throat to make me throw them up, and I was biting his fingers. It got to a point where there 22 was another girl, who was a little bit bigger than me, 23 24 literally had to sit on me because when the cop -- they had 25 called the cops to get me to the hospital. I was fighting with

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the cops to the point where I had punched a cop in the face. I 1 2 was kicking the cops. One of the cops, I was told, had somewhat hit me back, but it wasn't the intention. They were 3 trying to block my hit. And so she had to sit on me to stop 4 5 me.

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6 They took me to the hospital. There was an 7 amazing doctor within Hay River who has been there for years. She is the only one -- her name is Dr. Boudreau (ph). She was 8 9 there. It was the first night that I had ever had any interactions with her. You know, she told me the next day, 10 11 because I didn't remember anything, I kicked her in the 12 stomach. I told my mom that I would be better off if she was dead. Those are things that I can't ever take back that I wish 13 14 I had never said.

15 They had to sedate me and strap me to the 16 bed, and I remember when I woke up I was strapped down to a bed 17 and Dr. Boudreau walked in and, "oh, the princess is awake," 18 bringing light to a situation.

19 With that, that was the start of a wake-up 20 call. I started to slow down. I didn't stop, but I slowed 21 down. A few months after that, one of my friends who passed 22 away eight months after my sister of a drug overdose as well, was in my apartment and we were using. And she had lost a few 23 24 grams of cocaine, and she had actually unzipped my futon 25 mattress because there was a zipper on it and ripped it right

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open and went through every single layer because she thought I had taken something and hid it there. I broke right down, and that was it for me. I was done from there.

16

The next day I decided to move, to move to 4 Manitoba. It took a couple of months before I was actually 5 gone. It was about a month, a month and a half, and I was out 6 of my apartment, moved out. Then I went on a trip with my mom 7 through B.C., and from there I flew to Manitoba, and I lasted 8 9 in Manitoba for three months. I never changed -- because I was still an NWT resident, so I came back because I was going to go 10 11 to school there.

12 I came back to get some stuff in order and 13 my healthcare leave of absence forms and whatnot. So I was 14 coming home to spend six weeks here, and I was supposed to fly 15 out of Edmonton back to Winnipeg on March 9th. And my sister, 16 I was supposed to drive down with her on her medical trip a few 17 days before and spend a little bit of time with her and then 18 fly out. And last minute she was like, "Oh, I am sorry. There 19 is not going to be enough room." She had made up the excuse, 20 and then I found out afterwards that it wasn't true, that there 21 was no room because there was somebody else coming or something 22 like that. The quy that she drove with had told me afterwards 23 that he didn't know why, but she didn't want me to go. 24 We were trying to switch my flights, but the initial day that I was supposed to fly out was the morning that 25

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1 my sister had passed away, so I stayed back, and I did some 2 housesitting for my mom. There was nobody around. I had a 3 friend staying with me when I found out that my sister had 4 passed.

5 There was a guy that is involved with our 6 family that had called, and he said there is something wrong 7 with Toni-Lynn. I am going through my head, there were many 8 times when she ended up in the hospital, and I am like, "Okay, 9 what did she do now?" is my thought. He was like, "Oh, she is 10 dead." Those were his words. "She is dead." That was how I 11 found out my sister had passed. I just froze.

12 Thankfully, one of my close friends, 13 [Friend] had spent the night at my mom's. Initially, when they 14 asked if anyone was with me, I said no because I am never 15 supposed to have friends over at my mom's without permission, 16 but [Friend] happens to be one of my friends that my mom 17 actually likes. There is no conflict within her work there. 18 Thankfully, she was there.

I spent the next two days trying to figure out how to get up to Yellowknife to be with my family, be with my niece and nephew. From there, my life changed. I helped take care of my niece and nephew for about a year and a half. A few months after my sister had passed, I wanted to make something of myself, so I applied to an early learning child care education intro course, which gave us, like, our first

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1 day, our food safe, everything we needed to open a day care -2 I think it was unlicensed day care. I don't know. I can't
3 really remember.

But from there, you know when you apply for 4 things, and you can check off that "student" box, it just makes 5 6 things so much better. I was accepted by Daughters of the 7 Vote, which is an initiative by Equal Voice Canada to get more young women involved in politics at every level of politics. I 8 9 got to sit in my MLA's seat in the legislative for two days and sit in on very private meetings and learn with other young 10 11 women across the North.

12 From there, I left there just so full of 13 inspiration. It just took somebody giving me that one 14 opportunity and accepting me for who I was because I have 15 always been open about my history. It changed my life. I 16 don't think I would have been -- I don't think I would be where 17 I am today, also, if I wasn't given those opportunities, if 18 somebody didn't take a chance on me.

That is one thing is people are always scared to take a chance on people, especially, "Oh, you have got a history of addiction. Oh, stay away from there." You know, that is not an okay mindset. It is someone giving me that opportunity that was able to take me away from it. I was still drinking a lot by then, like going out with friends drinking.

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To this day, I do still have the odd drink, but I don't think I even get drunk anymore. I don't care to go out. I don't care to go to parties with my friends because, a lot of them, there are all the drugs and everything there. I kind of keep to myself. I am what you would call, I guess, a hermit. I stay home. I don't care to go out. When I am travelling, I go out with some

19

8 ladies from the board and have a few drinks, but that is about 9 it. I am way too scared to drink in a city and in unfamiliar 10 places. Actually, in the end, a few of our board members are 11 doing a dry February. There is this challenge to raise money 12 for cancer, cancer research. So we are collecting sponsors to 13 sponsor us. It is for staying sober for the entire month of 14 February.

15 I am really honoured that I am at that point 16 in my life today where I can say that I can do that, and it is 17 not going to be a challenge. Just things where, before, a week 18 used to be a challenge, not drinking. There were nights where we would drink a couple of Texas mickeys in a night. Me and 19 one friend would drink a Texas mickey in a day, two of us in 20 21 eight hours. My life is -- I wouldn't imagine being where I am 22 today.

When I was elected as National Youth Rep for the Native Women's Association of Canada, I cracked. One of the staff there was like, "Are you crying?" It wasn't exactly

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happy tears. It was, I wish I could share that moment with my 1 2 sister. I wish that drugs didn't overtake her life the way they did. The coroner said her death was an accidental 3 4 overdose. This may be in her final recommendation, that the drug dealers, they need to be held accountable, especially when 5 6 you know who they are. We know her name. I know her face. I 7 know exactly who sold her those drugs. Maybe she didn't put 8 that pipe to my sister's mouth, but she still sold it. She 9 still contributed, and it is killing people.

10 I, myself, was a drug dealer at one point to 11 feed my own addiction. They need to be held accountable. 12 There needs to be some kind of -- I don't know if you would call it a murder or a homicide or manslaughter or whatever, but 13 14 maybe a contribution -- what do they call it -- accessory to 15 the fact. There needs to be some justice there because, for a 16 long time, people were going around saying my sister committed 17 suicide.

18 She had plans for the future. When we got 19 her notebook back, she had notes that she wanted to buy [Daughter], her daughter, a giant dollhouse, and [Son] a big 20 21 train set. She had plans for the future. She had difficulties within her marriage, she did, but she wasn't giving up. But 22 she was in pain. She couldn't walk. She couldn't be the mom 23 24 she wanted to be, and a lot of it was because of the healthcare 25 system, because they discriminated against her because of her

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1 history.

2 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: From the drugs. 3 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: From the drugs. You know, that shouldn't be an issue, especially if there are 4 doctors monitoring it. If there are doctors monitoring it, 5 6 then why are we discriminative? Why discriminate against 7 someone with addictions, especially if you are there, you are monitoring it, instead of you sending them back out into the 8 9 world full of pain and unable to do daily tasks and they feel hopeless. 10 11 MS. DEBRA BUGGINS: And I believe that, 12 because she couldn't get help from the system because she was labelled a drug addict, then she went to the streets to get it. 13 14 I think lots of people do that. 15 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: The last night I 16 spent with her, we were at my mom's, and she was smoking crack 17 that night. My sister had this way of, "Just don't tell. Just 18 watch. Tell me if Mom is coming." And you couldn't say no to 19 her. There were many times where she had asked me or our older 20 sister [Sister], "Can you go get me T1s? I really need them. 21 Come on. Just one bottle." You couldn't say no to her. I 22 don't know what it was, but you couldn't. I don't -- she had this thing about her. Nobody could say no to her. Nobody. No 23 24 matter what. Of course, what am I doing? I am standing there 25 watching for Mom.

21

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1 We begged Mom that night to let us get a 2 bottle of wine or two and drink them. My mom doesn't drink. She doesn't smoke. She doesn't do drugs. You cannot have 3 alcohol in her house, and we are begging her. Mom is like, 4 "No, no, no." But then Toni-Lynn comes out with this coffee 5 mug. And she always had her coffee mug because she was always 6 7 drinking coffee, but this time it was full of Kahlua. I am sitting there, and I am like, if you are doing what you are 8 9 doing, I am sitting here drinking this. We had music playing, and that was when I 10 realized that the drugs were taking that pain away for her. 11 12 She came out of the room and put some music on, and she was dancing. She was walking --13 14 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: That is mine. And I 15 am trying to hide it. 16 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: It is totally fine. She was dancing and there was no pain. There was no pain in 17 18 her face. It was me, my mom, my sister, and my niece. And she 19 had no pain. She danced. We had a lot of fun that night. That was when I realized that she had gone 20 21 back to it so she wouldn't be in pain, so she could walk. There were times when she came back -- she had moved back to 22 Yellowknife, and so she would come up and her husband was 23 24 somewhat monitoring her drug use, but I don't know how many 25 times at Dad's house she would get high. And Dad would get

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1 upset with her. In her -- she was high when -- I don't know 2 what she did, but she broke so many toilet seats. It came off 3 that hinge or whatever you would call it. I don't know how, 4 but it always happened. 5 The discrimination needs to stop. The 6 resources need to be available. And the drug dealers need to 7 be held accountable. Those are my recommendations. 8 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Thank you. 9 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: Thank you. Really, 10 thank you. Because without you guys, I wouldn't be able to 11 even have this platform to be able to share that about my 12 sister. 13 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: It is so honouring all 14 these stories that we collect. It is such a beautiful place to 15 be. We get to be a part of it and be witness to all of it. It 16 is so honouring. Thank you so much. 17 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: Thank you. 18 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: I don't know how they 19 say it here. 20 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: Mahsi cho. 21 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Mahsi cho. 22 MS. DEBRA BUGGINS: Mahsi cho. In the 23 Chipewyan language --24 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: The (inaudible) use 25 mahsi cho.

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24 Statement - Public Jaylene Delorme (Toni-Lynn Buggins-Godin) 1 MS. DEBRA BUGGINS: And in the Dogrib 2 Tlicho language. 3 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: Yeah. I can say "thank you" in five Indigenous languages. 4 5 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: I bet you can't say it 6 in Cree. 7 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: Hay-hay. 8 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: No, not quite. That 9 is not really Cree. 10 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: It is not? 11 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Not really. I don't 12 know where that came from, but it is not a Cree word. And we don't say thank you, like thank you. We say kinanaskomitin. 13 14 It is bigger. It is bigger than "thank you." It is like, I 15 salute you. I celebrate you. I am grateful for you. All of 16 those things put together. It is a really big deal to say. 17 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: That is almost like 18 in the Mi'kmaq culture when they are looking at one person and 19 they say wela'lin, but when they are looking at a bunch of people and they say wela'lioq. 20 21 MS. DEBRA BUGGINS: You are Cree from 22 where? 23 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: I am from northern Alberta. I am from Wabasca. 24 25 MS. DEBRA BUGGINS: You are from Wabasca.

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Statement - Public 25 Jaylene Delorme (Toni-Lynn Buggins-Godin) I am originally from Lac La Biche. Yeah. 1 2 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: You can stop the 3 camera if you want. MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Okay. We are done our 4 interview. It is 20 after 9, and we will stop there. 5 6 --- Whereupon the statement concluded at 9:20 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I have, to the best of my skill and ability, accurately transcribed from a pre-existing recording the foregoing proceeding..

Andrea Stark, Court Reporter

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