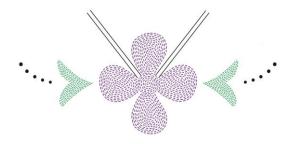
National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls



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



PUBLIC

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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Documents submitted with testimony: none	

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

- 1 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: She wasn't getting
- 2 the help that she needed. After resorting to drugs -- you
- 3 know, it was not something she could afford to do all the time
- 4 to manage her pain. She wasn't getting help within the
- 5 healthcare system in the NWT. She was covering her own costs
- 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
- 10 ended up buying crystal meth. That crystal meth killed her.
- 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,
- 23 they had to send me for a CT scan before they -- they didn't
- 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

1 well, have a history with drug addictions. When I was asking

3

- 2 the doctors to properly medicate me -- as well, on my file the
- 3 history with addictions is there -- one of the doctors had told
- 4 me that he is not going to give me anything just to get me
- 5 high. He did, after my CT scan come back -- he did come back
- 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
- 10 against within the healthcare system. I was lucky enough to
- 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
- 13 discriminated against and they had helped her and didn't look
- 14 at her as an addict, she may still be here today.
- 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.
- 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
- 23 some acupuncture and stuff like that, but there was no healing,
- 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

- 1 path. Because of that, she had actually escaped the Fort Smith
- 2 jail, and it took them nine months to find her in New
- 3 Brunswick, married, and she ended up serving the rest of her
- 4 time down there. She moved back home healthy. She had
- 5 reclaimed her relationship with God as a Baptist Christian and
- 6 was very, very strong within her religion.
- 7 As well, with myself, along the same lines,
- 8 I was in the young offenders facility here in Yellowknife, the
- 9 North Slave Young Offenders male facility in open custody where
- 10 a few doors down they had a young man who was in there for
- 11 sexual assault against other girls. I have been a victim of
- 12 sexual assault on multiple occasions since I was a young child,
- 13 the most recent one being in 2015. The guy had actually gotten
- 14 found not guilty because I am bigger than him.
- MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Because you are
- 16 bigger?
- 17 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: Yes. The argument
- 18 from the defence was how can he remove my clothes if I was dead
- 19 asleep. Then after that, it was -- the other argument was I
- 20 got caught cheating, so I called rape, which wasn't the case at
- 21 all. The guy that I was seeing at the time I actually called
- 22 right after I had gotten the rape kit done, and he came to the
- 23 hospital to see me.
- When I had just turned 18, I filed a human
- 25 rights complaint against the government and had settled out of

- 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].
- 7 I feel like there isn't -- so I guess this
- 8 is one of the recommendations that I want to make is that that
- 9 needs to be done within the justice system for females and for
- 10 males, but especially on the female side because there is a
- 11 lack of it. There is a lack of proper treatment facilities and
- 12 ceremony within the North to help people on their healing
- 13 journey and to help them onto a healthy path when they are
- 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
- 19 lifestyle of drugs and alcohol. There was actually a time
- 20 where I fed one of my sister's relapses to pay for my own
- 21 addiction. That is something that I am not proud of, but it is
- 22 something that I can't take back.
- As well as, the other recommendation would
- 24 be that, within the healthcare system, the discrimination needs
- 25 to stop. Whether it is discrimination towards a person with

- (Ioni lynn buggins Godin)
- 2 based discrimination, it needs to stop. And they need to have

addictions, discrimination to an Indigenous person, or sexual-

- 3 appropriate training for physicians, nurses, mental health
- 4 workers to be culturally aware and to have situations with
- 5 dignity and pride.
- 6 MS. DEBRA BUGGINS: Is it okay if I ask
- 7 something?

1

- 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
- 14 just can't comprehend that. But did they ever change that, do
- 15 you know?
- MS. JAYLENE DELORME: There is no female
- 17 young offenders facility in the North, so the females and
- 18 housed with the males.
- 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

- 1 night. At one point, actually, because of the shifting, one of
- 2 the doors got jammed, and I got stuck in the room one time.
- MS. DEBRA BUGGINS: That was in Inuvik?
- 4 MS. JAYLENE DELORME: Yeah. I know that
- 5 they are building a facility within Fort Smith. Great. Build
- 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
- 8 need ceremony." "Okay, okay, okay. In a few days. We will do
- 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
- 13 apologize. I am very focused on youth a lot -- it needs to
- 14 happen now, we can't wait. Waiting is what is leading to the
- 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.
- 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,
- 22 but they were trying to -- "You can't see her." This young
- 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
- 2 me to go to where I need to be in life. That support needs to
- 3 be out there and accessible at the drop of a hat, whether it is
- 4 through -- I am going to use Ontario as a form of it -- a Tele-
- 5 Elder, you know, like Telehealth, Tele-Elder. It is a cultural
- 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 --
- MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Do you mean that
- 15 offenders should not be put with victims? Is that what you
- 16 mean specifically?
- 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
- 22 where our doors weren't locked. I was showered in intake where
- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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.
- 4 Also, with when I was sexually assaulted in
- 5 2015 and the guy was found not guilty, during the trial, one of
- 6 the jurors was dismissed for sitting there and sticking his
- 7 fingers to his head and going like that. He wasn't interested.
- 8 He didn't care.
- 9 The guy that sexually assaulted me was a
- 10 good friend of mine. I considered him like a brother to me.
- 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

- 1 counsellor at the time had actually come to the hospital that
- 2 morning.
- 3 After that, they had let me go, and I went
- 4 to the apartment, and I couldn't lay in my bed. I couldn't
- 5 stand being there. I cranked the song, "Only God Knows Why" by
- 6 Rascal Flatts. I put it on repeat, and I turned it right up.
- 7 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
- 10 RCMP to check on me because of what a difficult situation I was
- 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
- 13 of it afterwards -- she had let the RCMP into my apartment
- 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.
- 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
- 23 hospital and speak to a doctor. So I did. Out of a fear of a
- 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

- 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 quilty 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.

- 1 To this day, I still see him all the time.
- 2 It is one of the hardest things I face. I cross the street
- 3 when I see him. I can't stand looking at him. I go into panic
- 4 attacks. I can't breathe. I can't. It just takes me right
- 5 back to that. You know, it is like it had just happened, and I
- 6 can picture it. I can picture the way my apartment looked. I
- 7 had to move out of that apartment to another one. But even
- 8 that, I couldn't handle being in that building.
- 9 It was right after that, that I fell into
- 10 addictions really bad. About four months straight, every night
- 11 I was doing cocaine to the point where my mom had to take me to
- 12 the hospital one time because, using it, my stomach lining --
- 13 and I was spitting up blood. Even that, that didn't change
- 14 anything. About a week later, I was right back at it.
- 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
- 20 remember any of this. This is what he told me. He was
- 21 sticking his fingers down my throat to make me throw them up,
- 22 and I was biting his fingers. It got to a point where there
- 23 was another girl, who was a little bit bigger than me,
- 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

- 1 the cops to the point where I had punched a cop in the face. I
- 2 was kicking the cops. One of the cops, I was told, had
- 3 somewhat hit me back, but it wasn't the intention. They were
- 4 trying to block my hit. And so she had to sit on me to stop
- 5 me.
- They took me to the hospital. There was an
- 7 amazing doctor within Hay River who has been there for years.
- 8 She is the only one -- her name is Dr. Boudreau (ph). She was
- 9 there. It was the first night that I had ever had any
- 10 interactions with her. You know, she told me the next day,
- 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
- 13 dead. Those are things that I can't ever take back that I wish
- 14 I had never said.
- 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,
- 23 was in my apartment and we were using. And she had lost a few
- 24 grams of cocaine, and she had actually unzipped my futon
- 25 mattress because there was a zipper on it and ripped it right

- 1 open and went through every single layer because she thought I
- 2 had taken something and hid it there. I broke right down, and
- 3 that was it for me. I was done from there.
- The next day I decided to move, to move to
- 5 Manitoba. It took a couple of months before I was actually
- 6 gone. It was about a month, a month and a half, and I was out
- 7 of my apartment, moved out. Then I went on a trip with my mom
- 8 through B.C., and from there I flew to Manitoba, and I lasted
- 9 in Manitoba for three months. I never changed -- because I was
- 10 still an NWT resident, so I came back because I was going to go
- 11 to school there.
- 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 guy that she drove with had told me afterwards
- 23 that he didn't know why, but she didn't want me to go.
- We were trying to switch my flights, but the
- 25 initial day that I was supposed to fly out was the morning that

- 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
- 20 out how to get up to Yellowknife to be with my family, be with
- 21 my niece and nephew. From there, my life changed. I helped
- 22 take care of my niece and nephew for about a year and a half.
- 23 A few months after my sister had passed, I wanted to make
- 24 something of myself, so I applied to an early learning child
- 25 care education intro course, which gave us, like, our first

- 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
- opportunity and accepting me for who I was because I have 14
- 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.
- 19 That is one thing is people are always
- 20 scared to take a chance on people, especially, "Oh, you have
- 21 got a history of addiction. Oh, stay away from there." You
- 22 know, that is not an okay mindset. It is someone giving me
- 23 that opportunity that was able to take me away from it. I was
- 24 still drinking a lot by then, like going out with friends
- 25 drinking.

- To this day, I do still have the odd drink, 1
- 2 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 3
- lot of them, there are all the drugs and everything there. I 4
- kind of keep to myself. I am what you would call, I guess, a 5
- 6 hermit. I stay home. I don't care to go out.
- 7 When I am travelling, I go out with some
- ladies from the board and have a few drinks, but that is about 8
- 9 it. I am way too scared to drink in a city and in unfamiliar
- places. Actually, in the end, a few of our board members are 10
- 11 doing a dry February. There is this challenge to raise money
- 12 for cancer, cancer research. So we are collecting sponsors to
- sponsor us. It is for staying sober for the entire month of 13
- 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 23
- 24 the Native Women's Association of Canada, I cracked. One of
- 25 the staff there was like, "Are you crying?" It wasn't exactly

- 1 happy tears. It was, I wish I could share that moment with my
- 2 sister. I wish that drugs didn't overtake her life the way
- 3 they did. The coroner said her death was an accidental
- 4 overdose. This may be in her final recommendation, that the
- 5 drug dealers, they need to be held accountable, especially when
- 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.
- 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
- 13 call it a murder or a homicide or manslaughter or whatever, but
- 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
- 20 [Daughter], her daughter, a giant dollhouse, and [Son] a big
- 21 train set. She had plans for the future. She had difficulties
- 22 within her marriage, she did, but she wasn't giving up. But
- 23 she was in pain. She couldn't walk. She couldn't be the mom
- 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

- 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.

- 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

- 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.
- 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.

- 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.

- 1 I am originally from Lac La Biche. Yeah.
- MS. JAYLENE DELORME: You can stop the
- 3 camera if you want.
- 4 MS. YVONNE JOHNSON: Okay. We are done our
- 5 interview. It is 20 after 9, and we will stop there.
- 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