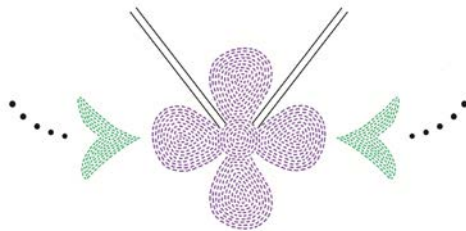


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Vancouver, British Columbia
The Saa-Ust Centre**



PUBLIC

Wednesday July 25, 2018

Statement - Volume 28

[Indigenous Woman], In relation to her Aunt

Statement gathered by Kate Langham

International Reporting Inc.

II

ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 7 of Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice, which provides for anonymity for witnesses who participate in the inquiry, Chief Commissioner Marion Buller ordered that the name of the person who provided this statement be rendered anonymous in this transcript and any related documents. This order was made August 20, 2018.

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Statement gatherer: Kate Langham

Documents submitted with testimony: none.

Vancouver, British Columbia

--- Upon commencing on Wednesday, July 25, 2018 at 11:08

MS. KATE LANGHAM: So, this is Kate Langham, statement gatherer for the National Inquiry of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. It is July 25th and we're here at Saa-ust Centre in Vancouver, and it is 11:08 a.m. And, we will start with the official statement portion.

[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: So, now I introduce myself?

MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: To the camera?

MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Oh, okay. Or wherever?

MS. KATE LANGHAM: Just -- or you can talk to me.

[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Yes.

MS. KATE LANGHAM: Whatever you want. Whatever is comfortable.

[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Oh, I guess -- yes, you will be omitting stuff after, so ---

MS. KATE LANGHAM: Sure.

[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- do I have to say my name on this part?

MS. KATE LANGHAM: You don't ---

1 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Okay.

2 MS. KATE LANGHAM: --- have to ---

3 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Sorry. I should have
4 asked about that before.

5 MS. KATE LANGHAM: --- but you can, because
6 then I can -- we can just go back afterwards and blank that
7 out ---

8 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Okay.

9 MS. KATE LANGHAM: --- and then put your
10 initials ---

11 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Yes.

12 MS. KATE LANGHAM: --- or spirit name, or
13 whatever.

14 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: (Indiscernible).

15 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes. So, you don't have
16 to worry, you don't have to over think this part ---

17 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: No.

18 MS. KATE LANGHAM: --- we'll catch it for
19 you.

20 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: So, my name is
21 [Indigenous], I'm from [Indigenous territory in B.C.]. I
22 currently live in Vancouver, I'm 37 and -- I don't know how
23 much I have to say because I was hoping you guys would have
24 questions ---

25 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Oh, okay.

1 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- you know, like
2 directive questions, but ---

3 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

4 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- I've done research
5 before, where this is how it's done, it's like qualitative
6 research ---

7 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Absolutely.

8 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- right, and you get
9 more out of it than directing people on what to say ---

10 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

11 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- right?

12 MS. KATE LANGHAM: And, we just want to be
13 really respectful and allow you the space to, sort of, say
14 what it is that you came here to say.

15 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Yes.

16 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

17 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: So, now I guess I just
18 start with ---

19 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

20 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- what I have to say.
21 Oh, God. I don't know where to start right now. So, my
22 auntie went missing. I won't say her name because it's
23 going to be up to her daughter to say her name and stuff.

24 And, the first thought of her I had was like
25 an awesome -- like, she was -- she was one of our fun

1 aunties we considered when we were younger. And, every
2 time she came to visit us and when she came to town, it was
3 -- she would, like, you know, take us -- take us out of the
4 house, you know, and she would want to do stuff with us,
5 and it was always a good -- it was always a good -- a good
6 positive person to be around and, like, a good role model.
7 And, you know, then that's the first thought I had of her.

8 And then the second thought was she was
9 always missing. I remember my mom saying how she was
10 missing, and I remember my mom actually coming up here a
11 few times, leaving us in Prince George, you know, to look
12 for her and stuff, and she never, ever found her. They
13 never found her and it was always distressing on her. And,
14 it was a little bit distressing on me but, you know, being
15 so young, I didn't really understand what they meant, you
16 know, or how serious it was ---

17 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

18 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- you know, up until
19 I got older and -- I remember actually going out to the
20 Pickton farm and they found some of her DNA, and then they
21 told my mother, like, really bad news after a while, saying
22 that it wasn't enough of her DNA to charge him, which to me
23 is, like, huge -- huge disrespect, you know, and it just
24 contributes to why women --you know, why Aboriginal folks
25 are going missing because, you know, them saying that and

1 the courts and the justice system deeming that is just
2 another slap in the face, saying that she was meaningless,
3 you know? And, that we are meaningless, you know?

4 And then further impacting things like --
5 like, how I felt about myself, you know? About how I --
6 you know, how I respected myself, you know? It affected
7 all of those things, you know, hearing that. And then
8 feeling it as well, and then seeing it, you know, with my
9 mother and, you know, how it impacted her and how it
10 impacted her family, like, tremendously even more, like her
11 daughters and ---

12 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

13 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- everything. And,
14 also, like -- like, I ended up, you know, through my life
15 and all these -- you know, these places that didn't really
16 -- that weren't made for us; these systems, like, you know,
17 the government system, the police, the RCMP, the health
18 care system, you know, the whole justice system. Like, all
19 these systems that weren't created for us or they weren't
20 created with us in mind, you know?

21 Indigenous folks as -- like, as a whole
22 suffer from, you know, colonialism. And, I'm going to be
23 straightforward, they tried to kill us and wipe us out.

24 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

25 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** You know, their

1 intentions were not good. And then they created all these
2 systems from those intentions and with those behaviours in
3 mind, like, they didn't want us, you know? They didn't
4 want to see us and they ultimately just -- they did. They
5 took all our land, first, by biological warfare. They gave
6 us diseases that they had cures for and they didn't give us
7 those cures. And then they said, oh, well, they were wiped
8 out by small pox, or these diseases that they gave us, you
9 know, intentionally, so that they -- because they knew they
10 couldn't take everything. They couldn't -- they couldn't
11 take things or discover things if there were people already
12 there, so they had to kill them -- they had to kill us,
13 tried to. And then they tried to wipe us out through just
14 plain old killing us.

15 And then residential schools. They tried to
16 kill our children and kill their spirit. And, now, there's
17 these systems that they created with those intentions in
18 mind are still alive today and they still marginalize us,
19 they still kill us, the health care system, the justice
20 system. I would say the whole government because -- even
21 part of this process, I believe, doesn't -- isn't created
22 for us or by us, because ultimately, with all these
23 statements and with all these -- what are they calling them
24 now? These suggestions that the Commissioners are going to
25 come up with, are going to be presented to a mostly male,

1 mostly white government that are going to create laws for
2 us to help us, which doesn't make sense to me.

3 Like, if anything, we should be able to
4 create our own laws and say what's for us, not them pick
5 through and weed through years and years of work, and then
6 decide what's best for us. So, it's still not by us -- by
7 us, for us, you know? Because they're still going to --
8 you know, they may take something that I say and then
9 reword it, and then say, oh, well, you know, because this
10 person said that, we're going to create this law or this
11 policy. It's not my words, you know? It's not us figuring
12 out what's best for us.

13 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

14 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** So, I mean, I
15 definitely want that noted ---

16 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

17 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- you know, because I
18 believe that is an ultimate flaw in all of this. And,
19 honestly, by throwing so much money and resources toward,
20 honestly, something that a lot of us have been living with
21 our whole lives, that if -- like, for an example, I'm going
22 to say this, and I hope I don't offend too many people and
23 I hope that -- you know what honestly? I'm not -- I'm
24 passed the point of offending people or organizations that
25 don't want to accept things.

1 A lot of the women that are going missing on
2 the Highway of Tears, I'll use that as an example, are
3 doing sex work. They are starving to leave their community
4 for a little while and have some fun, and the only way they
5 can do that is by doing sex work along the highway that is
6 dangerous, and deadly and isolated. And, by us ignoring
7 that is only going to further push them, marginalize them
8 into darkness, because if they were able to talk about it
9 with their community or amongst each other, they would find
10 ways to be safe, you know?

11 Like, I was working in an organization,
12 [Organization 1], and I'm still very involved with them,
13 and one of the workshops they do is called Occupational
14 Health and Safety, and it's for sex workers, and it's --
15 they teach them techniques about how to stay safe and how
16 to remain safe in a world that is -- you know, that is not
17 very well lit, I would say. And, us ignoring those facts
18 is going to marginalize women even more, because if we're
19 not able to talk about it with them, they're not able to
20 talk about it, then they will just feel nothing but shame
21 in what they're doing. And, a lot of organizations -- and
22 I understand where they're coming from, that the reason
23 that we're so disproportionately -- our numbers are so high
24 within sex work and sex trafficking is because -- because
25 of colonialism and because of all these systems that are

1 working against us, you know, to keep us down and the -- I
2 forgot where I was going for a second.

3 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** The disproportionate
4 numbers of sex trafficking ---

5 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Yes. And ---

6 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

7 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** But, these people that
8 have these mentalities to where they think that sex workers
9 -- because I was a sex worker. I worked -- I used to work
10 a block away from where my auntie went missing, which
11 really scared the hell out of me a lot.

12 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

13 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** But, by these
14 organizations that walk around and think that we suffer
15 from false consciousness, that we don't know what's best
16 for us, that they want to -- need to save us will only push
17 us farther away from them. And, all of these folks that
18 walk around getting money, and these organizations that get
19 money for -- to walk around, and push people away and tell
20 them that they're stupid and that they don't know what --
21 they're not thinking right, and that if they were thinking
22 right, they wouldn't be doing what they're doing. And,
23 it's like, no, they wouldn't be doing what they're doing if
24 they weren't -- if all these systems weren't working
25 against us, you know, and pushing us away. And, they

1 become part of that system.

2 So, that's why I wish that they would, you
3 know, talk to some people, some folks and, you know, really
4 understand that. You know, I'm doing what I'm doing -- if
5 I'm doing sex work, if I was to look at it and acknowledge
6 it like it was work instead of saying that I'm -- you know,
7 I'm stupid and I'm dumb, I would be able to access more
8 help and to look at my skills and say, you know, I've
9 actually got a lot of skills and I've learned a lot of
10 skills from that, and working from there, you know?
11 Instead of saying, you know -- like, looking at me like I'm
12 dumb or I'm stupid.

13 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

14 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Yes. It happens all
15 too often and it really -- it really bugs the hell out of
16 me. Especially when somebody who was doing sex work for so
17 long, comes out of it and comes out the other end, and
18 says, oh, no, women -- they fight against the laws, these
19 laws that these people are trying to create to keep women
20 safe. They fight -- they work against those laws. They're
21 just the same as everyone else. They start marginalizing
22 folks, they start putting women in danger, and they start
23 making them feel like they're nothing, you know? And then
24 that leads to isolation, which leads to being missing,
25 which leads to being murdered, which leads to a lot of

1 things.

2 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

3 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: You know? Oh, I'm
4 sorry. I'm going to turn that off.

5 MS. KATE LANGHAM: That's okay.

6 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Tanya, can you actually
7 get that?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mm-hmm.

9 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: (Indiscernible) over
10 there.

11 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Do you want me to -- do
12 you want me to pause it and you can ---

13 --- RECORDING PAUSED

14 MS. KATE LANGHAM: We'll just resume after
15 our minute break there.

16 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Yes. So, I talked
17 about that. Talked about sex work.

18 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

19 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: And, I honestly believe
20 -- like, I'm going to say this, and I hope it gets written
21 and people take it in heart, that they do need to look to
22 us, the women that are currently working on the street, the
23 women that are hitchhiking and doing sex work, the women
24 that are most vulnerable and at risk of being missing and
25 murdered need to say what is best for them.

1 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

2 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** And, they need to help
3 -- they need to create these laws. They need to come from
4 our own mouths, you know, not people with saviour
5 mentalities, not people that think -- think we suffer from
6 false consciousness. And, you know, I get that, I get why
7 they think that. You know, I get why a lot of women in
8 organizations are saying they don't call it sex work, they
9 call it sex trafficking or -- I forgot what they call --
10 prostitution, you know?

11 And, it's just like -- you know, it's
12 another thing that really bugs me about things like that,
13 is that these words, you know, instead of calling what it
14 is, they got to -- they got to step around it and they've
15 got to try to name it something else, just like -- just
16 like when they tried to kill us all. Instead of calling it
17 murder and biological warfare, they called it illness ---

18 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

19 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- or they called it
20 genocide, you know? Or a lot of times, you know, people
21 just use colonialism to sum that all up, and it's all these
22 words that -- you know, words that aren't even ours.
23 They're English words that get in the way of us just saying
24 what it is. Just like when people say unceded, it really
25 bugs me. It's, like, no, this is their land, why don't we

1 just say -- not unceded, we say "their land". We
2 acknowledge -- we acknowledge the Coast Salish people, the
3 Musqueam, the Tsleil-Waututh and the -- oh, fuck, I forgot
4 the other one. Oh, don't put "fuck".

5 But, anyways, it's their land. Why not just
6 call it the Coast Salish people's land? They've never
7 given it a -- you know, by calling it unceded and using all
8 these words that step around the actual fact, it's another
9 reason that pushes everyone, you know, especially
10 Indigenous folks, to be marginalized. You see it all over
11 the world, you know?

12 Like, everywhere where there's somebody who
13 isn't light-skinned, they need to be marginalized and they
14 need to be, like -- you know, like murdered, and they need
15 to take their resources and they need to make them into
16 slaves because they need somebody to clean up their shit
17 after they're done, you know? And, it's always been that
18 way here.

19 (Indiscernible) talk about? What next?

20 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Can I just ask when your
21 aunt went missing?

22 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** I'm not sure exactly
23 when.

24 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

25 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Like, everybody's

1 really unclear of that.

2 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Even if it's his own --
3 right? Like, no ---

4 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** No, everybody's really
5 unclear of that.

6 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes, okay.

7 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Like, nobody really
8 knows.

9 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

10 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** They know that when the
11 whole Pickton thing was going on, they found some of her
12 DNA; right?

13 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

14 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Yes, along with a lot
15 of other women's DNA that he didn't get charged with, but I
16 feel that anybody -- anybody's DNA, who they found there,
17 that went missing was -- you know, was probably killed
18 there.

19 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

20 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** You know, and who knows
21 what they did with the remains. Like, they could be -- he
22 could have burned them. Like, who knows; right?

23 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

24 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** They know. And, it
25 wasn't just him.

1 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** That's right.

2 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** I believe -- honestly,
3 like that's another thing that is a huge slap in the face,
4 you know, to us. Another thing that the justice system and
5 the government system worked against us in a way, because
6 they pinned it on a person who isn't even developmentally
7 able to pay rent or to take care of themselves properly.

8 And, I know for a fact, I've heard from
9 other women that have been there, that have escaped and
10 were able to be -- are still alive today, that they had
11 parties going on there, they had afterhours going on there,
12 that police people were attending that live out in that
13 area, and they're all white and they're all men. Police,
14 RCMP that were out there, that attended those parties.
15 There were government people that attended those parties.
16 I'm sure there were a lot of people in these systems that
17 are, like I said, deep-seated in racism, misogyny, and they
18 want to harm us because they look at us like we're nothing.

19 And, you know, that's another thing about --
20 this us being viewed as nothing by people who are lighter
21 skinned, you know? I hate saying "white folks", because I
22 feel like it erases their identity as well. You know,
23 there are a lot of people say "settlers", but I'm just,
24 like, no, settlers sounds too friendly, because you weren't
25 a settler when you were killing me ---

1 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

2 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- you weren't a
3 settler when you were giving me diseased products so that I
4 can -- my family can die, you weren't a settler when you
5 were trying -- when you were abusing my father, no. You're
6 a fucking, you know, murderous, hateful person. And, these
7 people that did that a long time ago, their children and
8 their ancestors are living here now, they've passed on
9 those teachings to all of those kids, because if you -- I'm
10 going to say this and I hope that people really take it
11 into account, especially all the settlers or the light-
12 skinned folks out there. You believe that you don't feel
13 that way anymore, but if you look at your friendship circle
14 and your close friends, what colour are they? You know,
15 how do you feel about them? What makes you feel uneasy;
16 right?

17 Light-skinned folks don't like it when I
18 bring that fact up because a lot of the folks that I know
19 -- some of the folks that I know, that are light-skinned,
20 are -- all their friends are white and it's so much easier
21 for them to get along. Like, if you work anywhere and
22 then, you know, there's you and then there's other folks,
23 but -- you see it even in the workplace, automatically they
24 can connect and feel comfortable with each other, you know,
25 because they just feel safe.

1 And, sometimes it's not their fault, you
2 know, they're very much products themselves of living under
3 a system that, you know, kind of, holds you down, you know?
4 Because you're only -- you know, by the time you reach 5
5 years old, you've already developed a lot of your -- you've
6 already developed a lot of your morals and a lot of all
7 those other things. And, if your parents were racist and
8 they were only -- trusted other white folks, and you only
9 saw negative images and negative behaviours of Indigenous
10 folks or people of colour everywhere, then that's what
11 you're going to believe your whole life and it's going to
12 be hard -- I'm going to be honest, even with myself, how we
13 were born and raised on a reserve and we were raised around
14 other Aboriginal folks my whole life pretty much, even
15 seeing a black person, you know, or an African -- someone
16 of African descent was difficult because, you know, you
17 only -- we only saw negative images of them on the TV, we
18 only -- we never even -- we never met anybody who was
19 darker skinned than we were. And, my mother even, and
20 father, would use old terms, you know, like they would call
21 them the "N" word, you know, because -- they wouldn't say
22 it to their face and they didn't know it was racist
23 themselves, they were just saying that because that's what
24 they were taught.

25 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

1 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** You know, that's what
2 people were using and -- you know, that's another thing
3 that -- point that I, kind of, want to bring up here about
4 the media.

5 Media has a huge impact on how someone
6 feels. It's -- when I was younger, I stopped -- by the
7 time I was 17, I stopped reading magazines. I used to read
8 fashion magazines all the time and I always felt like shit
9 afterwards and I never knew why. And then I realized, I'm
10 like, oh, all these images that are -- I'm seeing are
11 images of white women, you know, of white people, of light-
12 skinned people, you know, people of European descent and,
13 you know, not seeing yourself anywhere on a -- in a good
14 light on stuff that you're paying high dollar for really
15 impacts you.

16 You know, and all those magazines, and even
17 for the European descent women, they're made to drive you
18 crazy, because you look at them and you look at any
19 magazine, and you'll see it, it says, 10 ways to look
20 slimmer, and then after that, it says, brownie recipe, and
21 then after that it says, you know, how to fix your hair in
22 a proper way. It's, like, no, these are things that were
23 -- they are, like, those tools that the people in power,
24 you know, which I mean by people with money, use to keep
25 everybody down and to keep us thinking that we're nuts and

1 that we always need something different to improve
2 ourselves.

3 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

4 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** You know, we always
5 need to be someone else, you know? And, the media has a
6 huge, huge profound effect on everybody's mental state out
7 there, you know? And, they're trying. They're trying.
8 APTN is a good example of that. But, even them, if you
9 look at their programming, it's all stuff that's, like,
10 copied, but it's brown, you know? It's like -- like,
11 everything that they do is based on some other show. It's
12 like, okay, well, let's just copy, you know, say, for
13 example, the CBC. Let's copy how they do it, and then
14 let's do our own.

15 And, I understand why they're trying to do
16 that because they're trying to say, like, look, we can be
17 just like them, but we're not. We're not like them. I
18 hope that we never, ever think that we think less of other
19 people, you know? Because, like -- you know, it's -- and I
20 do get why they're doing that. Like, the reason that
21 commercials and stuff are created, they're created to try
22 to get somebody to buy something from a store, and they're
23 only catering to the people that have money, that aren't
24 marginalized.

25 So, it's like something that just keeps

1 playing on itself, you know, because now -- okay, they
2 won't bother putting a commercial with a person in colour
3 in it, because they know that people of colour are kept
4 down and they don't have very much spending money. The
5 people who have a lot of spending money and money to waste
6 are people who are light-skinned, people who are European
7 descent, you know? So, they cater to them.

8 So, it's like this whole system that, you
9 know, wasn't created for us, wasn't by us, but we buy into
10 it because we're very much -- I'm very much urban. I
11 consider myself very urban. I don't think I'll ever stop
12 living in the city. So, media on ads, and magazines and
13 things at bus stops are always going to impact me, but it
14 just matters on how I digest it, you know? It's like -- I
15 just mostly look at things like that, like they're not made
16 for me, so I'm not going to take anything from it, you
17 know?

18 Sometimes they do upset me, you know, like
19 little things, like, that upset me. Like, if it's an ad of
20 an organization that, you know, (indiscernible) people
21 suffer from false consciousness or they think that they
22 don't -- they're like a saviour behaviour, you know?

23 And, the church is another one. I don't
24 believe, ever, ever anywhere that the church -- any church.
25 Any church, because they all have that saviour mentality,

1 they need to save everybody, especially Indigenous folks.
2 You know, I don't believe that their apologies will ever be
3 accepted. I don't think that they can ever apologize for
4 what they've done and to everyone. Like, how can they
5 possibly apologize to me, or my niece or somebody who lives
6 across the world from me, properly? They cannot. They can
7 only try to work forward and, honestly, giving us back what
8 they've took, including the government.

9 They need to give us a house. They need to
10 give us a house so that our family can live together, you
11 know, which draws me to another point. Currently, a lot of
12 my family is homeless and we cannot afford a house. We
13 never could. And, by us having to struggle and to try to
14 access and apply for housing that is going to be adequate
15 and affordable for us, it separates us a lot, you know?
16 And, you know, that's one thing that European folks of
17 descent, you know, that live here, that's one thing that
18 they definitely benefit from, that keeps them together and
19 it keeps them strong and well, you know, and it's one thing
20 that is keeping us separated.

21 If we were able to, like, access a house
22 that we can live at for -- while all the kids go to the
23 same school, because as you know, as everybody knows, if
24 you're able to access the same school, the same doctor, the
25 same everything your whole life, your continuum of care is

1 long-term. And, your whole life is, like, 100 percent
2 better if you're able to access the same doctor, the same
3 school, if you're able to stay in the same community, start
4 making -- developing relationships with your neighbours,
5 you know? Things like that just increase, and you know,
6 that's one thing that is keeping us, especially urban
7 folks, from not getting those, you know? We don't get
8 those. We don't get those things. We don't benefit from
9 that, you know?

10 And, I don't know what else to say right
11 now.

12 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Those are really great
13 points.

14 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Yes.

15 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** You're extremely
16 articulate and intelligent, and yes.

17 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Well, I've lived in
18 this.

19 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Absolutely.

20 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** I mean, you can ask
21 anybody ---

22 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Absolutely.

23 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- who's like me, and
24 they will know the same thing.

25 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

1 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** They'll be like, oh,
2 these are all things that I know, that keep us separated.

3 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

4 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Actually, my friend --
5 oh, I shouldn't say her name. But, one of my good friends,
6 she, like, always listens to me and she doesn't -- she
7 doesn't really, like, read as much as I do, or she doesn't,
8 like, open her eyes to the whole world. And, I always tell
9 her that, I said, whenever you're thinking something and
10 it's bugging you, like women going missing, who are doing
11 sex work, you've got to look at the bigger picture, you've
12 got to go outside of that and say, you know, like, well,
13 why are they going missing? What brought them to this
14 state, you know? What brought them to addiction or alcohol
15 use or -- you know? And, to me, it always just stems from
16 all those things that I've said ---

17 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Absolutely.

18 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- you know, them not
19 receiving positive images of themselves, people not getting
20 enough resources on remote communities. Because I know so
21 many -- so many women, and it's tragic, because all these
22 women are so beautiful and so intelligent, they end up
23 leaving their hometown and -- because they just can't live
24 there anymore for whatever reason or because it's so deep-
25 rooted in dysfunction that they have to leave for their own

1 safety ---

2 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

3 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- and they end up
4 coming to a big city and they just end up getting used by
5 the whole city. You know, and then you build up this shell
6 and this, like, exterior of, you know, I just got to be
7 hard, and I've got to be this and I've got to be that to
8 keep myself safe here as well.

9 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

10 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** And then you get places
11 like -- like, feminist organizations that say you're
12 stupid, and that say you're dumb, and that say -- that say
13 you don't know what you're thinking, you're not thinking
14 properly, or you're doing this because of colonialism.
15 And, it's like, yes, ultimately, it is because -- because
16 we were almost killed. Yes, it is. You know, and it's
17 just like, you know, people can't think properly when
18 you're telling them that they're dumb; right?

19 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Of course.

20 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** You know?

21 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

22 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Yes.

23 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes, I shut down before I
24 even get started.

25 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Yes.

1 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

2 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: I think I've said as
3 much as I could. I'm, like, feeling ---

4 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

5 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- so emotional.

6 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes, it's a lot; right?
7 I know it brings it all out there. So, I'm wondering --
8 I've heard, as you're speaking, some really clear
9 recommendations for the Commission and I'm wondering if you
10 want to pull those out in that framework.

11 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Of course.

12 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Like, I heard -- I heard
13 very clearly the recommendation around "for us, by us; by
14 us, for us".

15 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Yes.

16 MS. KATE LANGHAM: And, that, sort of,
17 applied to a whole bunch of areas that you were speaking
18 about.

19 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Especially the laws.
20 Like, sex work laws.

21 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes. Right.

22 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: You know, those are
23 huge in the media and those are definitely things that they
24 need to think about ---

25 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Absolutely.

1 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- you know? Like,
2 they need to think about how can we keep people from going
3 missing who are doing sex work? Well, number one, you can
4 acknowledge them as a person and you can say, I don't --
5 you know, I believe that you know what you're doing, we
6 need ways to make you safe. And, you know, one of those
7 ways, like especially when I think about the Highway of
8 Tears, is by giving them a bus system, so maybe they can do
9 the sex work in the city.

10 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

11 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Where there's more
12 organizations that are dedicated to keeping them safe and
13 well, and identifying who they are.

14 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

15 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** You know, instead of on
16 a highway of -- where there's, really, nothing -- like,
17 there's nobody around ---

18 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

19 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- and they're getting
20 picked up by strangers.

21 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

22 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Another one would be,
23 you know, educating the youth on what it is, on what sex
24 work is, because I think all too often youth can get, kind
25 of, conned into it ---

1 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Sure.

2 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- you know, by other
3 folks that are, you know, very unwell, you know, that
4 aren't well in their mind, that aren't well in -- well in
5 their bodies, that aren't well in any way.

6 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

7 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: And then they can
8 become trafficked, but then they end up becoming addicted
9 and then they start doing it on their own, because they --
10 that's all they've learned, that's all they know.

11 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

12 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: You know?

13 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes. So, I heard you
14 speak really clearly around, let's treat sex work as work.

15 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Yes.

16 MS. KATE LANGHAM: And then there's the
17 occupational safe and healthy -- is that -- that would be
18 another recommendation?

19 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Oh, God, yes.

20 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

21 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: I always tell this at
22 [Organization]. I'm, like, Sheri, you need to be -- you
23 need to get funding so that you can deliver this ---

24 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

25 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- workshop that

1 they've developed. It's taken them, oh, God, like probably
2 15 plus years they've been developing this program.

3 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

4 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** And, it's awesome,
5 because I've taken it three times, but ---

6 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

7 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- they need to
8 deliver that to these small communities, you know?

9 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** So, that's
10 [Organization1]?

11 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Yes, [*spells name of*
12 *Organization1*].

13 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

14 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** It's an acronym for --
15 oh, shit. You know what, I haven't -- I haven't even said
16 it.

17 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** That's okay. We can
18 figure it -- but they're based here in Vancouver?

19 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** They're based here in
20 Vancouver.

21 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay. Yes.

22 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** And, delivering these
23 to smaller communities ---

24 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

25 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- whether -- you

1 know, and going under the guise of, you know, as a workshop
2 for everybody to attend ---

3 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

4 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- you know, including
5 men.

6 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

7 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Because I believe that,
8 especially in smaller communities, a lot of feminist
9 organizations believe that they shouldn't be helping the
10 men, but if you take all the women out of a community and
11 give them tools to become well and you deliver them back to
12 an unwell community ---

13 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

14 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- they're just going
15 to get more stressed out, there's going to be more
16 fighting, there's going to be more abuse all around, which
17 will benefit nobody. It will benefit nobody. You've
18 wasted your time, you've wasted your money, you've wasted
19 your resources ---

20 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

21 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- because you don't
22 have -- you need the mentality of fixing the whole
23 community as a whole and together. Together. Because
24 often a lot of these -- I've had the privilege of speaking
25 to an elder before -- every elder is a privilege when I

1 take something from them.

2 And, he mentioned how he does on his own
3 time, he used to -- he gets funding for it now, but he
4 would go to smaller communities where he's from and deliver
5 workshops on how to -- for men only, how to talk to women,
6 how to treat women properly, because often, you know, we
7 didn't -- the only skills that we got are now what's passed
8 down from our ancestors which were all mostly in
9 residential school.

10 So, the men were taught to hit and abuse,
11 and that's it -- and molest. And, same with the women, you
12 know, that's all we were taught, so that's all we're going
13 to know. And, you know, you can only -- when you have
14 kids, you can only teach them what you know; right? And,
15 if you don't know much, then, you know, they're going to be
16 a -- unfortunately, a statistic as well, you know?

17 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

18 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** That's one thing that -
19 - those are things that they definitely need to do.

20 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

21 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Like, they have to do
22 them and they have to start it, like, 10, 20 years ago.

23 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes

24 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** And, you know, it's
25 another thing too, is that they need to acknowledge that

1 it's going to take time. I say this to myself all the
2 time. It took me -- I stopped being an addict at 31 --
3 30/31, but it took me 30 years to try to destroy my life.
4 It might take me 30 years to become well. So, I mean, if
5 they've been destroying us for 125 years, then it's going
6 to take them 125 years to make us well as a people, as a
7 whole ---

8 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

9 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** ---- and they need to
10 acknowledge that it might take longer. And, we need to
11 acknowledge it as well ---

12 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Absolutely.

13 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- because a lot of
14 times, folks -- you know, everything is so easy to us and
15 so prevalent, we know how to fix the problem, but we need
16 to acknowledge that it's going to take some time as well.
17 But, when it comes to resources -- and the government has
18 all the resources, and money and stuff that we need to
19 live, because I need to -- I need money to live, I need to
20 pay rent, I need to eat, it costs money for my food ---

21 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

22 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- I need to pay
23 bills, you know? Like, it's going to take a lot of money
24 on their behalf ---

25 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

1 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- to make us well,
2 because we very much live and -- are dictated by that
3 today. And, as much as -- I hate to say this. As much as
4 a lot of Native folks out there are saying we don't need
5 it, we need it.

6 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

7 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** You may not need it if
8 you're living out in the forest and you're okay and
9 comfortable living that way, I don't live that way, I don't
10 think I'll ever live that way. You know, it would be nice
11 and ideal if I was raised that way, and if that's all I
12 knew, but no, this is all I knew and this is as good as I
13 can do, and my people need me here.

14 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

15 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** So, it's going to take
16 money, you know, to get well. And, I really hate the
17 government when they're saying, oh, well, we're putting
18 this much in. This is how the media plays into those
19 things and how the people, as the general public, play into
20 it, because then people who aren't affected by it, like
21 light-skinned European descent folks, they'll say, oh,
22 well, no, they've put \$50 million into it. They should be
23 fine. And, it's like, no, no, no. Like, no, no, no, no,
24 no, no, that's fucking nowhere near enough. Nowhere.
25 Nowhere near enough.

1 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

2 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Maybe for one day.

3 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

4 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Right? Maybe one day;
5 right? And, that's another thing that really slaps us in
6 the face, by them -- the government and the media allowing
7 that to be played and saying -- saying, oh, well, no,
8 putting it in the way -- in the sense of, oh, no, we've put
9 this much money toward it, let's downplay it and ---

10 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Check the box.

11 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- tell everybody --
12 yes, and check the box.

13 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

14 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: And, say, we've thrown
15 some money at it ---

16 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.

17 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- it's good enough.

18 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.

19 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Right? It never will
20 be.

21 MS. KATE LANGHAM: No. And then the other
22 one I heard really clearly from you was around the housing.
23 And, like, a long-term housing.

24 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Mm-hmm.

25 MS. KATE LANGHAM: And, around the social

1 determinants of health care.

2 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Yes. Like, the
3 continuum of care, like you're able to access -- you can
4 get to know your neighbours, for crying out ---

5 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Absolutely.

6 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Nowadays, you know, I
7 hate to say it, but I'm even the same way. I don't even
8 know my neighbours very well ---

9 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes. Yes.

10 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- and I've been there
11 for seven years.

12 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.

13 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: But, that's because of
14 my own social issues, you know, stuff that I've learned ---

15 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

16 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- you know, have to
17 be unlearned, but ---

18 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

19 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- you know, I wish I
20 can stay there for the rest of my life, but it's not
21 adequate.

22 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.

23 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: It's a slum house, it's
24 a slum building, and all of my complaints fall on deaf
25 ears, so I don't even bother complaining anymore, you know?

1 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** So, like, viewing housing
2 more as, like, a commitment rather than, like, an
3 initiative ---

4 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Yes.

5 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** --- right?

6 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** They definitely need
7 more. Like, they need way more.

8 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

9 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Like, I mean, if my own
10 family and my nephews, who are -- who aren't adults yet,
11 are homeless due to the fact that there is major shortage -
12 - housing shortages for Indigenous folks, it just shows me
13 that there's not enough.

14 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

15 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** And, they need to build
16 10, 20 times more, and they need to make it adequate.

17 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

18 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** And, they need to stop
19 putting these policies that weren't created for us on this
20 housing.

21 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

22 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Like, saying things
23 like, oh, no, you can't -- like, a lot of folks -- like,
24 traditionally, fires are our go-to thing, we burn food, we
25 burn sage, we burn a lot of things. We need -- we need our

1 own communal ceremony space and not one just for the land
2 of the people that made it. Like, I live on Coast Salish
3 land, I need my own ceremony space. No, we need one that
4 we can all access and share, but we need to get permission
5 from them first because ---

6 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

7 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- it's their land,
8 and we need to acknowledge that they need to do -- they may
9 need to do their ceremonies on it before we start, but
10 maybe one we can share, you know? We need that. We need -
11 --

12 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

13 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** We need a place where
14 we can burn a fire, where we can burn our food for our
15 ancestors, where we can burn sage, where we can burn --
16 traditionally, we would burn the clothes.

17 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

18 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** We would burn clothes
19 and belongings of people. I can't do that anywhere.

20 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

21 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** I mean, I can go into
22 Musqueam, maybe.

23 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Sure.

24 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** I mean, maybe with the
25 fire ban ---

1 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

2 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- there won't be
3 allowed to be one, but maybe that's what they need to
4 consider when they think of spaces like that ---

5 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

6 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- of a communal
7 ceremony spacing, and to think of, well, how can we make it
8 so that people can burn here, whether we have a fire ban or
9 not?

10 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

11 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Because we, as
12 Indigenous folks, really respect fire and we're not going
13 to leave it smouldering, we're not going to burn the
14 fucking forest down.

15 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

16 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: You know, we know how
17 to respect fire and we always have.

18 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

19 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: So, I don't know.
20 That's another suggestion ---

21 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes, I got it.

22 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- that they need to
23 do, the ceremony space.

24 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

25 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: I feel that's a huge,

1 huge disconnect when you leave the reserve to the city.

2 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes, in the urban
3 context.

4 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Yes.

5 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes, for sure.

6 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: God, I'm getting too
7 hot. You're starting to sweat too. Take your sweater off.

8 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Would this be a good
9 place to end then?

10 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Yes, I think so.

11 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

12 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: I mean, unless you have
13 another question, I could probably...

14 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Well, we can pause, if
15 you want ---

16 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Yes.

17 MS. KATE LANGHAM: --- and then see. Yes,
18 let's just pause right now.

19 --- RECORDING PAUSED

20 MS. KATE LANGHAM: So, it's 11:56 and
21 we're ---

22 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Yes.

23 MS. KATE LANGHAM: --- going to just resume
24 with another portion here. So, you were speaking about
25 systems and I'm wondering about your experience with the

1 health care system ---

2 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Yes.

3 MS. KATE LANGHAM: --- and if there's
4 anything that you want to say about that.

5 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: A lot. There's a lot.

6 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

7 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: I'll try to make it
8 shorter or as long as I can.

9 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

10 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: But, the health care
11 system is another system that is -- like I said, all these
12 systems are deep-rooted in misogyny, in racism, and they're
13 all -- most of the folks that are in there are all people
14 who aren't us. So, they don't know what it's like to be
15 us, or they don't care, or their parents were racist
16 themselves, or they just see us like a parasite, like we're
17 damaging ourselves, but they don't really understand why,
18 and if they understood why, they wouldn't look at us that
19 way.

20 So, currently, I have heart failure, but
21 I've always known. Every dealing -- most of the dealings
22 I've had with the health care system were negative in the
23 sense that they would downplay what I had. Like, when I
24 spoke to my cardiologist, he said that this is not
25 something that just developed overnight, it's been ongoing

1 for years.

2 And, I remember the first time I was in
3 emergency two years ago, and they looked at my history, and
4 they saw drug use, and they saw anxiety and panic issues,
5 and PTSD, they instantly sent me home with an Ativan and
6 they said, you're having an anxiety attack, and really, it
7 was my heart failing. And, if they had caught it at that
8 point, it probably wouldn't be at the state I am now.

9 So, every time I go now, they -- it's the
10 same thing. They think I'm having anxiety, they think I'm
11 having a panic attack, they think that -- they ask me if
12 I'm doing drugs and I'm not, you know? I'm not. And, I
13 did use to and the reasons I did do them was because I was
14 self-medicating, because the health care system wasn't
15 created for me, I only experienced racism when I went, so I
16 never bothered going back. So, I knew that I needed to --
17 to medicate myself in a way that was not harmful -- more
18 harmful toward me, you know?

19 And, maybe I didn't choose the right
20 medication, but it's because I didn't have a proper doctor,
21 it's because my continuum of care was very short, meaning
22 that I wasn't able to see the same doctor for an extended
23 period of time due to being not adequately housed.

24 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

25 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** And, not adequately

1 being in the same place. And, I'm going to say this, and I
2 hope it's written down and I hope they hear it because I
3 still haven't right the person to complain to.

4 Native Health Care, I've been going there
5 for years. All the staff at the front desk are not Native,
6 none of the doctors are Native. And, I get why, you know,
7 maybe we don't -- there's not a high enough portion of us
8 finishing medical school, maybe there's not a high enough
9 portion of us accessing college and university, and being
10 able to work in spaces like that.

11 But, the staff there constantly talk about
12 their moral judgments out loud in front of all the patrons
13 that are coming. And, I hate to say it, but it's all the
14 white women and the women that are not of colour who are
15 the ones that are saying these things. And, the Executive
16 Director is a white woman who did call me and did say that
17 -- she basically said I was lying. She said I didn't hear
18 what I was hearing. So, again, she just shut me down by
19 saying that I'm lying and that I'm -- she didn't say it in
20 those words, but she said I didn't hear what I was hearing,
21 and that I misheard them. And, that she said, oh, well,
22 we've talked to these staff before, you know, and that's --
23 that's just -- you know, that's a health care system that
24 was created for me, Native Health? No, it wasn't.

25 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right. Yes.

1 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** It wasn't. It never
2 was and it never will be. I'm sure the staff that work
3 upstairs are a lot different, because I noticed all the
4 staff that work upstairs in the cancer care and the elders
5 program are all Native folks, they all smile. I've never
6 heard them say anything inappropriate. It's all the staff
7 that are not people of colour that work there, that are
8 talking about their moral judgments about people. They
9 even commented on my niece when we went there and they kept
10 saying how we need more youth, and we do have youth
11 doctors, and we have a youth program and -- she's never
12 going back there. Not with those staff there. Not if
13 they're going to comment on what she's wearing, you know,
14 or about her behaviours or about my behaviours ---

15 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Or anything ---

16 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- as negative.

17 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

18 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** You know, I may go
19 back, but the next time I go back, I will be recording
20 their asses and I'm hoping that maybe if -- the only way
21 that I can change them now is to put them on social media
22 and to shame them publicly, because it seems right now
23 that, because they're unionized and because of the -- they
24 have all these protections, that they can't be accountable
25 for what they're saying. Yet, what they're saying is -- it

1 prevented me from going back for three years to see a
2 doctor, because I wanted my continuum of care to continue
3 with my doctor there, that I've been seeing for years and I
4 was a patron there for a long, long time. And, before, I
5 never used to listen to them, you know, when I was ---

6 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Sure.

7 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** When I was very unwell
8 ---

9 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

10 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- I didn't really pay
11 attention to what they're saying. It was when I started
12 becoming well that I started hearing what they were saying.
13 And, them saying those things -- and including at the
14 emergency room. I remember being at the emergency room,
15 all the nurses were white, and they laughed when they said
16 -- myself and I had two other people with me, and the rules
17 are posted on the wall, it said one visitor in the
18 emergency area. They kicked both my visitors out. I said,
19 what does it say on the wall? And, all she did was say
20 that I can go wait in the waiting room as well, if I
21 wanted. And, I said, no, I can't, because my legs have to
22 be elevated and I should be laying down when I feel these
23 symptoms, because I could be heading toward heart failure
24 or a heart attack.

25 She let me lay there. But, I looked around

1 the waiting room and all the other folks in there were
2 European descent folks, they all had visitors. Not one of
3 them got asked to leave. And, it was only us. And, this
4 was just, you know, a couple of weeks ago.

5 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

6 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: And, these are ---

7 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Which hospital?

8 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: It was in Burnaby, but
9 it happens ---

10 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

11 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- at every hospital.

12 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

13 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: They look at us -- my
14 nephew has it right on. My nephew has developmental
15 disabilities, and he says they look at us like we're
16 animals. He said, I don't trust white people because they
17 look at us like we're animals, and they do, unfortunately,
18 and it's because of -- because when they're around all
19 their other peers, working, even if they don't feel that
20 way, they don't step up and say something to those other
21 people. They don't say, no, no, they're allowed visitors.

22 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right

23 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: Or, no, no, no, you
24 shouldn't laugh at them. They laughed at me and said, oh,
25 it's only anxiety. Ha-ha. And, they didn't smile at us.

1 They didn't smile at me. But, yet everybody else, they
2 treated with dignity and respect. And, when you're in an
3 emergency room, you really need those, and this is -- I'm
4 37 and this has happened my whole life. I don't expect it
5 to change overnight, I do expect them to start being held
6 accountable and I do expect that the government reforms
7 their unions in there to say that, no, just -- if they're
8 saying racist shit that's going to get somebody killed,
9 they need to be, like, definitely held accountable.

10 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

11 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** They shouldn't be like,
12 oh, no, we need to protect them because they're part of a
13 union.

14 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

15 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Fuck that.

16 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

17 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** That's another system
18 that wasn't created for us, the unions.

19 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

20 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** So, they need to hold
21 them accountable and they need to do something immediately
22 about it and address it immediately when it's in that --
23 when somebody's life is at risk, because that's something
24 that's just going to keep us down and to keep us saying,
25 no, it doesn't matter.

1 And, do you what happened when I left that
2 hospital? I left without them even properly treating me.
3 I said -- I told my niece, I said, get in here, I said,
4 help me out -- I could barely walk. Help me out, I'll lay
5 on the bench outside the hospital and wait for someone to
6 pick us up, and we did. You know, and they probably didn't
7 give two shits about it, you know, and they shouldn't
8 because I was leaving anyway. I mean, like, I wasn't going
9 to stay where somebody wasn't going to treat me with
10 dignity or respect that I was deserving of.

11 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

12 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Because I only -- I
13 try to treat people as much as possible with dignity and
14 respect until they cross me.

15 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

16 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** And then I know that if
17 they're not going to treat me with the same things, I'm not
18 going to treat them with the same things. And, they had
19 signs there saying that if I was to become abusive, I could
20 be asked to leave. So, I couldn't even stand up for myself
21 ---

22 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

23 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- because I read that
24 sign and I know that if I spoke up and told them that they
25 weren't treating me right, that they can just -- they can

1 say something even more off key to me and set me off, and
2 then ---

3 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Flip it around.

4 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- I'll leave.

5 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.

6 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: And then they can say,
7 oh, no, that person isn't being respectful of us, now
8 they're being hostile. And, now I probably have that in my
9 medical chart, is hostile toward medical staff.

10 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Mm-hmm.

11 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: You know? I think
12 that's another thing about the health care system that
13 needs to be addressed, whether or not we were hostile
14 before, maybe it's because we're suffering from all these
15 -- from almost being killed ---

16 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.

17 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- we're suffering
18 from a whole bunch of social problems, maybe we need to
19 take those off peoples' charts ---

20 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Right.

21 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- so that the next
22 person who picks up my chart can just say, oh, no, they've
23 got a good state ---

24 MS. KATE LANGHAM: Yes.

25 [INDIGENOUS WOMAN]: --- they can -- I can

1 come in for my knee and they can say, oh, no ---

2 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

3 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** --- she needs her knee
4 worked on.

5 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

6 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** She doesn't need her
7 psyche worked on.

8 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** For sure.

9 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** You know, those are
10 things that they need to address, I believe, in the health
11 care system.

12 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Right.

13 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** You know?

14 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Yes.

15 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** Oh, I think that's all
16 I need to ---

17 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay.

18 **[INDIGENOUS WOMAN]:** That's all I can do.

19 **MS. KATE LANGHAM:** Okay. I'm just going to
20 pause here and then I'll get you the consent form.

21 (PROCEEDING ADJOURNED).

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LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Shirley Chang, 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.



Shirley Chang

August 10, 2018