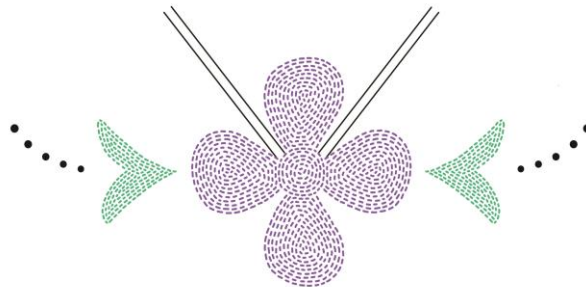


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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 Public Hearings
Rendezvous Room, Four Points Sheraton
Moncton, New Brunswick**



PUBLIC

Tuesday February 13, 2018

Public Volume 44(b)

**Pamela Fillier and Fred Fillier,
In relation to Hilary Bonnell**

**Heard by Commissioner Michèle Audette
Commission Counsel: Christa Big Canoe**

II

APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations	Julie McGregor (Legal Counsel), Stuart Wuttke (Legal Counsel)
Government of Canada	Marie-Eve Robillard (Legal Counsel), Tania Tooke (Paralegal)
Government of New Brunswick	Heather Hobart (Legal Counsel), Maya Hamou (Legal Counsel)
Eastern Door Indigenous Women's Association	(Non Appearance)
Gignoo Transition House Inc.	(Non Appearance)
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Saturviit Inuit Women's Association, AnânuKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women's Association and Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre, as a collective single party	(Non Appearance)
Government of Prince Edward Island	Ruth M. DeMone (Legal Counsel)

**III
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Public Volume 44(b)
February 13, 2018
Witnesses: Pamela Fillier and Fred Fillier
In Relation to: Hilary Bonnell (daughter)
Commissioner: Michèle Audette
Commission Counsel: Christa Big Canoe
Grandmother, Elder: Bernie Poitras-Williams, Elder
Mii gam'agan, Elder Imelda Perley Opolahsomuwehs
Clerk: Trudy Mckinnon
Registrar: Bryan Zandberg **PAGE**

Testimony of **Pamela Fillier and Fred Fillier**. . . . 1
Reporter's certification 84

IV
LIST OF EXHIBITS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
Witnesses: Pamela Fillier and Fred Fillier		
Exhibits (Code: P01P10P0103)		
1	Video displayed during public Testimony of the witnesses (MP4 Format, 5 minutes 9 seconds, 9.83 MB)	2
2	Folder containing 42 digital images Displayed during the hearing	28

1 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13th, 2018

(3:01) p.m.

2

3

CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Good afternoon
Commissioner Audette. I would like to
present the next participants that will
be sharing their story with you today.
Beside me is Pamela and beside her is
Fred. This is Pamela and Fred Fillier.
They will be sharing the story of their
daughter, Hilary Bonnell.

11

12

Just quickly, for the purposes of the
video as well, I'm just going to
introduce myself as Commission Counsel,
which means I'm the lawyer that works
with the families to help them tell
their story and it's a pleasure to be
here, and a guest in this beautiful
Territory. Where - what we would like
is to have - a request to have the
family promised in before they share
their story.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24 PAMELA FILLIER GIVES A PROMISE

25

FRED FILLIER GIVES A PROMISE

1

2

CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So just to start,

3

and I just explained that both Pamela

4

and Fred will be talking about Hilary.

5

As we heard, Pamela this morning, was

6

part of the opening and explained that

7

Hilary was 16 at the time of her

8

murder. And before we get into the

9

details of the murder and all of the

10

things that the family went through, we

11

wanted the opportunity for Pamela and

12

Fred to share, share some fond memories

13

about Hilary and talk about her

14

strengths and contributions.

15

16

PAMELA FILLIER: I don't even know

17

where to start.

18

19

CHRISTA BIG CANOE: You can start

20

wherever you like.

21

22

EXHIBIT NUMBER 1: A copy

23

of a video displayed

24

during the testimony of

25

the witnesses (MP4 format

1 5 minutes, 9 seconds,
2 9.83 MB)

3

4 PAMELA FILLIER: She was a very
5 good singer. She could sing really
6 beautifully. She loved to dance. She
7 loved her friends, she had lots. Lots
8 of friends and she loved to shop. That
9 was one of the biggest things that
10 clued me into something being wrong
11 because she would never miss going
12 shopping. She, she loved it. I took
13 her shopping one time and she started
14 singing a song and in the song it was
15 saying spending all your money on me,
16 spending time on me and she looked at
17 me and she laughed. And she said, and
18 it's true eh mom, I'm spending all your
19 money, because she was having a very
20 good day shopping. Yeah.

21

22 But she'd bring home stray animals
23 constantly. I remember going outside
24 and there's this straggly looking dog
25 and of course you can't say, I couldn't

1 say no. So I would end up with a lot
2 of dogs and a lot of cats, finding cats
3 on the railing and it would be her
4 bringing, bringing these little stray
5 animals home. She was a wonderful
6 little girl. She really was.

7
8 I remember when I had first started
9 seeing Fred and his girls could stay up
10 really late and my little girl would
11 try to stay up really late too. And
12 they'd laugh because she'd always fall
13 asleep before midnight and they'd,
14 they'd be able to stay up because they
15 weren't an only child and Hilary was an
16 only child until, until I met Fred.
17 And then she had the joys of being a
18 sister.

19
20 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So Pamela, can
21 you tell me where you're from and a
22 little bit about the community you're
23 in and the community that Hilary grew
24 up in?

25

1 PAMELA FILLIER: I'm from Burnt
2 Church, Esgenoopetitj. And that's,
3 that's where Hilary grew up. She was
4 so smart, she started talking at such a
5 young age. My, my sister was taking a
6 video of her when she wasn't even
7 walking, she was just at that point
8 where she'd grab you and stand up and
9 stuff and she didn't even notice until
10 she looked back on the video that my
11 little girl had reached up to her and
12 said "auntie". And she wasn't, she
13 wasn't even a year old.

14
15 And she liked to cook with me.

16
17 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So you were
18 saying when you and Fred first met and
19 were together that all of a sudden she
20 was a sibling. Can you tell me a
21 little bit more about the family, like
22 you and Fred are a blended family, who
23 are your children?

24
25 PAMELA FILLIER: What's that?

1

2

CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Who are your
children?

3

4

5

PAMELA FILLIER: His oldest is
Amanda Fillier. Emily Fillier. She's
the same age as Hilary. It hurts me
because I think of how hurt they are.

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

I really thought I was going to find
her. I remember looking on the tv and
you see a mom crying, crying for their
daughter or their son. And I would sit
there and I would cry cause I hurt for
them. I'd even go in the other room
and I'd, I'd hug my little girl, being
grateful that she was and that she was
okay.

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

I never thought I would be that mother
on tv crying for her little girl. It's
not a easy road, it really isn't.
Everybody tells you, time heals. Time
will heal. Time doesn't. Time don't
heal, it just reminds me of all those
landmarks I miss. Graduation, prom,

1 marriage. For her to even become a
2 mother.

3
4 She also has a step brother named
5 Mathew Fillier. We were told Hilary
6 had been found and that she was dead on
7 his birthday. So every year on his
8 birthday he has to be reminded that his
9 sister was found. He'll always have
10 that bad memory for his birthday. And
11 then when Hilary was 13 I had
12 Frederick, my, my youngest son. Well
13 my youngest child, my only. He
14 remembers her a little bit but not
15 much. But he still, he still cries for
16 her. He still feels that, that
17 absence.

18
19 She was just so full of life, like she
20 lit up my house. She really did. We'd
21 sit in my bedroom and we'd play that
22 game karaoke wars where the game would
23 score you and I, I beat her. But we
24 would have so much fun, like I'd pick
25 songs and she would pick them and she

1 just really loved life. She truly did.
2 She loved every bit of it.

3

4 The last Christmas we had, she said mom
5 I don't even know what to ask for, I
6 have everything. I wish I wasn't
7 sitting here. I wish I was just
8 watching from my couch.

9

10 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: I noticed you,
11 you have this lovely picture. We're
12 seeing pictures up on the screen of
13 Hilary at various ages but you also
14 have a lovely picture frame here. Can
15 you tell me little bit about this
16 picture frame and, and maybe about the
17 one picture in particular, the one
18 where she's dancing.

19

20 PAMELA FILLIER: That's my
21 favorite one because that picture, it
22 shows her. It shows that fun loving
23 carefree little girl. How anybody
24 could look at her and want to hurt her
25 is beyond me. She never even got

1 spanked in her whole life, she never
2 experienced physical pain. That was
3 probably the first and last time she
4 felt physical pain.

5
6 Her friends had actually done that up
7 for me for her birthday. They, they
8 brought that to me along with a
9 birthday cake for Hilary. She had some
10 really really good friends. Some of
11 them were just life long friends. I
12 remember one time I had a, a dozen
13 lobster delivered to me and she got on
14 the phone and she called her friend
15 Alanna, they were friends ever since
16 they were like this big, they grew up
17 together. And they were so young, they
18 weren't even 10 years old and they sat
19 there and they went through that dozen
20 lobster like it was nothing. I never
21 seen such small kids eat so much
22 lobster. But they sat there and had
23 their lobster day and they loved it.

24

1 I loved going tubing with her. We
2 would take her tubing and at the end of
3 tubing there's this bridge. It is so
4 high. I mean I could never ever jump
5 off it. When you look up she looks so
6 tiny up there and she jumped off the
7 bridge. We videoed her doing it
8 because she was so brave. Just got up
9 there and jumped off the bridge. And
10 then sassing me because I wasn't brave
11 enough to jump off that bridge. But
12 she was.

13
14 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So, well thank
15 you for sharing those fond memories.
16 And I know, like the next thing we're
17 turning to is not easy for you so
18 please take your time. Can you start
19 with telling us when Hilary was first
20 missing? Can you please tell the
21 Commissioner how you came to know that
22 she wasn't where you thought she would
23 be?

24

1 PAMELA FILLIER: Okay. Well I'll
2 start off with she had called me three
3 o'clock in the morning, Saturday to
4 remind me that we were going shopping
5 the next day. So I asked her if she
6 was okay, she said she was. The last
7 thing we said to each other was "I love
8 you". The next morning I woke up and I
9 had such a strong feeling to go to
10 tabusintac. I just couldn't shake that
11 feeling. I just really wanted to go
12 for a drive in the woods in tabusintac.
13
14 So we went and I saw my, my ex-step
15 mother. She was down at her camp so we
16 went and we sat there with her for
17 awhile. And I told Fred, I said I have
18 such a bad feeling. And then my step
19 mother got a phone call and she got off
20 the phone and she said Joseph's died.
21 So I figured maybe that's it. So then
22 we start walking to the truck and I
23 stopped and I looked at him and I said,
24 that's not it. I had a bad feeling and
25 I couldn't shake it.

1
2 So I tried to call her and I couldn't
3 get through so I figured, you know,
4 she's a teenager, maybe she wants to
5 stay with her friends one more night.
6 So I had my sister, on Sunday, go look
7 around for her and she couldn't find
8 her. So I ended up going down and I
9 went to every single place that she was
10 at. Every house that she went to I
11 went. And it always stopped at that
12 family. That's where my search always
13 ended because there was nothing further
14 passed that. And when I went looking
15 for her, the last house I went to, I
16 asked the girl, I said did you see
17 Hilary anywhere. She said I didn't see
18 Hilary in over a week, but her sister
19 just told me that she was with Hilary
20 all night.

21
22 So then we called the police and
23 nothing. I thought if I told them I
24 can't find my daughter that they would
25 look for her. But they didn't. But my

1 community did. Big groups of them went
2 all over looking for her. I mean they
3 literally kicked people's doors in. I
4 will always be grateful to my community
5 for doing that. They searched for her
6 and still the police weren't searching.

7
8 I called, after I called the media then
9 they started looking. One Officer had
10 even told me, Pam - and I got along
11 with this Officer really good. I got
12 along with a couple of them really well
13 but this one told me, she's like Pam
14 that's the best thing you could've
15 done. She said you forced them to look
16 cause every time I called and I asked
17 if anyone was looking for her, oh well
18 it's this one you have to talk to, you
19 gotta call back tomorrow, they're not
20 here. And when I called back they tell
21 me it's another one.

22
23 But they did start looking after, they
24 did and they are the ones that got
25 Curtis to admit what he did to Hilary.

1 But they should've reacted when I
2 called the first time. I shouldn't had
3 to try to shame them or something to
4 get them to do what I needed them to
5 do, what they're supposed to do. So
6 that started a long search. She went
7 missing September 5. She wasn't found
8 till November 13 and I remember we were
9 in town that day and we were asking
10 more people to help us.

11
12 I think we went to the Army Reserve to
13 ask them to come and help us, and they
14 were going to. And then he stops us
15 and he said the police want you to go
16 to the church. He said this is where
17 we stop or something like that, like
18 they weren't going to come with us
19 cause they said I had to speak to the
20 police first.

21
22 So when I walked in the church there
23 was an Officer standing at the end in
24 front of the altar. And when I got to
25 him he just looked at me and gave me

1 back my tobacco offering. That's when
2 he said they found my little girl. My
3 first question was, where is she? I
4 don't even remember what he said after
5 that. I just remember shoving them and
6 trying to fight them, trying to rip the
7 pews out of the floor boards. I damned
8 God in his own church cause I was so
9 angry cause I felt like I was giving
10 him my faith to find her and bring her
11 back to me.

12
13 At that moment I felt like there was no
14 God. That was the hardest day of my
15 life. That changed me. It changed me
16 for the rest of my life. It's not the
17 same anymore. It's like all the air
18 just gets sucked right out and you feel
19 so alone. I never had hate in my
20 heart, I never hated anybody and it's
21 awful to say but I do have hate in my
22 heart. Cause if I would sit here and
23 say I don't I'd be lying.

24

1 This guy didn't have no remorse. I
2 remember sitting in my trailer during
3 the weeks that we were looking for her
4 and one night I was at the trailer
5 alone and this truck kept coming in to
6 the driveway and doing burn outs. Then
7 he would take off back down the road
8 and turn around, not too far, there's
9 just a road there so it's obvious that
10 that was meant to, I don't know,
11 intimidate me or something, I don't
12 know because I still didn't know who
13 had took my daughter. But here's this
14 truck spinning, taunting me. And I, I
15 didn't know. I didn't know who took my
16 daughter. But he knew and he had no
17 remorse.

18
19 To go as far as to follow the people
20 that are looking for my little girl and
21 to stand beside them and pretend that
22 he's looking for her too. And after he
23 grabbed Hilary he didn't even stop
24 there. He grabbed another little girl,
25 which is what led to him revealing

1 where Hilary was. Because he had
2 grabbed this young girl who was also an
3 acquaintance of my daughter and he took
4 her home and he violated her but she
5 got away. And while she was on the
6 road she stayed on her cell phone with
7 her friend and Curtis kept driving back
8 and forth.

9
10 It makes me think, what if that little
11 girl wouldn't have been on her cell
12 phone, would he have said I'm going to
13 grab her so she doesn't tell. Cause
14 that's how, that's how he got caught
15 and that's a shame, that another little
16 girl had to be raped for mine to be
17 found. He shouldn't have the
18 opportunity for parole. A person like
19 that shouldn't have that opportunity.
20 And I think it's unfair that he's not
21 on the dangerous offender's list. It's
22 not fair.

23
24 My little girl can't come home, he
25 shouldn't be allowed to ever go home.

1 If he comes out, I believe in my heart
2 he'll do it again because he did it
3 again after he did what he did to my
4 little girl. If he had any remorse he
5 wouldn't have went out and done it
6 again. He shouldn't have that
7 opportunity to come out.

8
9 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: I know it's not
10 easy to, to talk about him but just for
11 a little context can you please tell me
12 a little bit about, like Curtis? Cause
13 you were saying he did it before, he
14 did it after, just to help people
15 understand a bit of the background.

16
17 PAMELA FILLIER: Okay. One of his
18 cousins had told me that he had drugged
19 and raped her also. He's also been
20 charged for brutally attacking the
21 mother of his children. He raped her.
22 And then he beat this other guy, I
23 think he put him into a coma or
24 something, like he's - Hilary is not
25 the first offence this guy has ever

1 committed. Like he's, he's fought
2 people in our community where I've had
3 a person come up to me and he felt so
4 bad. He said he felt guilty because he
5 said he should've went to his parole
6 hearing and he should've spoke up.

7
8 But I don't, I don't blame, I don't
9 put any blame on him or anybody else
10 that didn't feel strong enough to go
11 and face him and say it all again.
12 I'll say it again and again and again.
13 I'll say it till there's no breath
14 left.

15
16 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So Curtis had
17 previously been in jail for some time,
18 if I understand.

19
20 PAMELA FILLIER: Yes. Five and a
21 half years my husband is telling me.

22
23 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So - and, and you
24 - there was an understanding that in
25 the community he had, he had caused

1 some other harm, like he was violent
2 and harmful and.....

3

4 PAMELA FILLIER: Yes.

5

6 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: you're talking
7 about a person who came to you after,
8 after you lost Hilary and said, gee I
9 wish I had gone to the parole - was
10 that so that he would've been held
11 longer or in hopes that he would've
12 been held longer for the offence he was
13 convicted of?

14

15 PAMELA FILLIER: Exactly. In
16 hopes that they would've kept him in,
17 in jail.

18

19 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And it may seem
20 like an obvious question but I notice
21 that both Curtis and Hilary have the
22 same last name, is there a family
23 connection somehow?

24

1 PAMELA FILLIER: I was, I was
2 married to Curtis' uncle. So Hilary
3 and Curtis were first cousins.

4
5 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Now you talked
6 quite a bit about how the community
7 came together for you. We know that
8 Hilary was missing September 5th and
9 that you didn't, that she wasn't found
10 until your son's birthday in November,
11 and the community helped. What were
12 the types of like searches, or what
13 were the community members doing to
14 help look for Hilary? One point you
15 said kicking down doors but did they
16 actually, what did those searches look
17 like and how were family members and
18 community members helping?

19
20 PAMELA FILLIER: Okay. The first
21 searches they had done was where they'd
22 get a bunch of people and they'd all
23 stand in a line and they'd start
24 walking into the woods and stuff and
25 they'd be asking other community

1 members if they'd seen Hilary. Then
2 when they heard, like there was rumours
3 about another guy saying that maybe,
4 maybe she was there because this guy
5 was known for hurting girls or
6 whatever, but my daughter was never
7 there.

8
9 But the community went there and
10 searched, like any, any lead that they
11 would hear they would go and they would
12 look. Like they got in their vehicles
13 and people would load other people into
14 their cars and they would go all over
15 the place looking for her, looking in
16 camps, looking in dirt roads and they,
17 they really went above and beyond.

18
19 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And this whole
20 time that you're searching for your
21 daughter, obviously you're holding out
22 hope you're going to find her. And I
23 know it was difficult for you but what
24 were, what were some of the - I mean
25 besides the obvious, like you yourself

1 searching, what were some of the
2 barriers and obstacles you were finding
3 to getting information out more or what
4 helped to get more information out
5 about Hilary missing?

6
7 PAMELA FILLIER: Going to the media
8 helped getting it out more because it
9 made it so that it wasn't just our
10 community that was looking for her. If
11 anything I felt like Hilary brought,
12 brought Canada together because where
13 there was racism and fighting there was
14 none. Like were the Native people and
15 the French people would fight, they
16 weren't fighting.

17
18 Everybody was together looking for her,
19 not just, not just for church but
20 everywhere. Everywhere was looking for
21 her.

22
23 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: I know that at
24 one point before Hilary was found
25 family members were also using things

1 like social media in trying to get
2 posters across the country and
3 fundraise for billboards. Can you tell
4 us a little bit about that?

5
6 PAMELA FILLIER: Ah, my sister had
7 fundraised for billboards and the
8 leadership had helped with flyers. So
9 we sent, we sent flyers out. That's
10 basically all they could've done.

11
12 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Like posters,
13 like a missing persons poster?

14
15 PAMELA FILLIER: Yeah. Yeah, they
16 had some, we had some really big sized
17 ones.

18
19 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Yeah.

20
21 PAMELA FILLIER: We had our, our
22 truck was actually like a driving
23 billboard. We had posters that were
24 about that high all over the truck and
25 we would drive all over.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Now I know everyone can imagine it's a nightmare looking for her and it might seem basic but can you tell us, like what your days were because while you were looking for her I'm guessing you couldn't work, you couldn't do other things.

PAMELA FILLIER: No.

CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So what, what were your days like during that time?

PAMELA FILLIER: Well we would search until the sun came up. So we'd only get a few hours sleep and we'd get up and we'd go search again. That's what my days were, every day I looked. Every night I looked. If I was able to be awake in the day time I would look but we would search all night.

1 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Commissioner
2 Audette, I have a unique request. The
3 - and we're going to talk about it but
4 there's a video that was made during
5 the time that Hilary was missing, in
6 fact there were a few videos made on
7 social media. And this is while the
8 family and the community were still
9 looking for Hilary and they were still
10 holding out hope they were going to
11 find Hilary.

12
13 And I'm going to actually ask Pamela
14 why it was so, why it's so important.
15 She wants the video to be shown but
16 what we're actually going to do is
17 we're going to request to leave the
18 room. The family is going to request
19 to leave the room while the video plays
20 and we're going to ask for a five
21 minute break after that. But first, I
22 would like Pamela to explain why she
23 thinks it's so important that we, the
24 National Inquiry, show this video and

1 that people understand why doing things
2 like this is important.

3
4 PAMELA FILLIER: Okay. The reason
5 I'd like for everyone to see the video
6 is there's going to be a lot of
7 pictures of her up and you could see,
8 you could see her spirit. You could
9 see how much love she had. I need
10 people to see what a wonderful little
11 girl she was and how loved she was and
12 how much I miss her so much.

13
14 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And it's one of
15 the things too, if I understand
16 correctly, for Pamela is Fred is it's
17 not just a memorialization or
18 commemorative but that it's just
19 important for everyone to watch to
20 celebrate that life, to recognize how
21 important life is. But because it is
22 very emotional for the family, they're
23 requesting a step out and following the
24 video a five minute break, but if we
25 could reconvene.

1

2

So I'm going to suggest once we leave

3

the room we come back at 10 to 4:00,

4

the family and I, but to please have

5

the AVA play the video for those in

6

attendance and those that would be

7

watching live or on an archive video so

8

they could see Hilary in life.

9

10

PAMELA AND FRED FILLIER EXIT HEARING

11

ROOM WITH CHRISTA BIG CANOE

12

13

A VIDEO OF HILARY BONNELL IS PLAYED

14

15

EXHIBIT NUMBER 2: A

16

folder containing 42

17

digital images displayed

18

during testimony of the

19

witnesses

20

21

R E C E S S

22

U P O N R E S U M I N G:

23

24

CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So, so

25

Commissioner Audette, thank you for

1 letting the family have that request.
2 They knew that seeing the video might
3 be too difficult for them. They know
4 that some more of the story they want
5 to share is also difficult and tough
6 and they wanted to save some of their
7 strength for that.

8
9 And we're just going to circle back to
10 one point, the point is, Pamela when
11 you were in the church was the reason
12 that the RCMP told you in the church
13 that they thought that was a safe space
14 for you? That's the first question.
15 The second part is, at the beginning we
16 heard you had to go to media to get the
17 RCMP engaged, by the time that you guys
18 found Hilary what was that relationship
19 like?

20
21 PAMELA FILLIER: The relationship
22 was totally different. In the
23 beginning I was, I was really
24 disappointed with the police in their
25 lack of reacting as quickly as I needed

1 them to. But in the end I ended up
2 loving a few of them just like they're
3 my own family. Joannie Peradis was one
4 of the officers that I've grown to care
5 about. And Gabbie Devote, Gabrielle
6 Devote was another one. There was
7 Laroque Fortaine, he was another one.
8 Rock Fortaine. There was so many in
9 the end that I felt totally different
10 about them. Like some of them they
11 just felt like, it felt like they were
12 going through the journey with me and
13 it just, I felt a bond with them in the
14 end. In the beginning no, but in the
15 end I could see that a few of them,
16 their hearts, their hearts were in it.
17 It was a.....

18
19 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: I believe you
20 were telling Commissioner Audette that
21 on September 5th or the morning after
22 you went out to a camp. You went to a
23 specific space and you had visited
24 with, and you hadn't been to that area
25 for a long time. And - but you felt

1 drawn to it. Can you tell us a little
2 bit more about that, and can you also
3 tell us how close that actually was to
4 the location where they found Hilary?

5

6 PAMELA FILLIER: Well the area
7 that I had felt that I needed to go to
8 that morning, Hilary was like 10
9 minutes away. If I would've just,
10 instead of going straight, if I
11 would've just turned off this way, she
12 was buried in there about, I think a
13 mile. Not even a mile, yeah, not even
14 a mile in the woods.

15

16 Just, it's a rough road so if you drive
17 with your car from where we were, it
18 would take you maybe 10 minutes to get
19 to where, where Hilary was.

20

21 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And how, how
22 close or how far away is that from the
23 community, from Burnt Church?

24

1 PAMELA FILLIER: From Burnt Church
2 it's about a 20 minute drive.

3
4 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So the - where
5 Hilary was buried wasn't actually right
6 in the community, it was outside of the
7 community?

8
9 PAMELA FILLIER: Yes. Well that's
10 actually, there's an area of tabusintac
11 that's actually native land and that's,
12 that's where he buried her.

13
14 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So I know that
15 the next part is difficult too so I
16 want to start with you had told
17 Commissioner Audette that the media was
18 super helpful. They were helpful in
19 trying to fundraise for billboard, they
20 were helpful so that you could get the
21 police's attention but is it fair to
22 say sometimes they're helpful and
23 sometimes they're hurtful? So
24 leading.....

25

1 PAMELA FILLIER: Yes.

2

3 CHRISTA BIG CANOE:up to the trial
4 you - we'll talk about the trial
5 specifically but leading up to the
6 trial sometimes some of the information
7 the media, was it fair say, was
8 sensationalized or sort of written as
9 fact when it was Curtis' position?

10

11 PAMELA FILLIER: Yes.

12

13 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Yeah.

14

15 PAMELA FILLIER: Yes.

16

17 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And that made it
18 difficult to read things in the
19 newspaper that weren't necessarily
20 true?

21

22 PAMELA FILLIER: It made me angry.

23

24 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Okay. So if we
25 could maybe turn our attention to the

1 trial, because even before you get to
2 the trial, what happens in the process
3 as a family member going through the
4 justice system? What, what else
5 happened? Like how long did it take to
6 get to trial? What were some of the
7 things while you were waiting to find
8 out whether or not Curtis would be
9 convicted of murdering your daughter?

10

11 PAMELA FILLIER: It was a - I
12 think he's, he's got a better memory at
13 saying that. I've.....

14

15 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: That's fine.

16

17 PAMELA FILLIER: My nerves are so
18 bad that I have a hard time to.....

19

20 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So Fred can you
21 actually help us out here just with the
22 timeframe?

23

24 FRED FILLIER: Gladly, yeah.

25 Well when he was arrested it was around

1 November 13th and we waited almost two
2 years for the trial. But there was a
3 pre-trial before that, a *voir dire* and
4 it, it was an 11 week process, of *voir*
5 *dire*. It - I was sitting in the
6 courtroom every day from 9:30 to 4:30
7 then an hour and a half lunch break.

8
9 So we went to the *voir dire* for the 11
10 weeks and then we waited another year
11 for the actual trial which was, I
12 believe, around 10 weeks of the same
13 thing, from 9:30 in the morning till
14 4:30 in the afternoon. Sitting on a
15 hard wooden bench, listening to the,
16 the worst things you could ever
17 imagine, you know, about your, your
18 daughter.

19
20 And it's one of the hardest times of
21 our life. The actual hardest time of
22 my life was that day at the church when
23 the police told Pam and she's a little
24 bit off on that day because when we
25 went to the, the church to meet with

1 the two Officers she had to go pee. So
2 she ran across the parking lot to the
3 Band office to pee and the two chief
4 Officers and me, we stood in the lobby
5 of the church waiting for her to come
6 back.

7
8 And I talked to them a little bit, you
9 know, just casual conversation but when
10 I saw Pam coming back is when I clued
11 in because I saw the lamb coming to the
12 slaughter. I saw Pam coming towards us
13 and I looked at the two top cops and I
14 looked at them and I said no. And they
15 ignored me and I knew. They walked
16 her, they walked us to the alter and
17 they held his hands out and held Pam's
18 hands, and he didn't say a word to her.
19 I didn't even see him hand her back the
20 tobacco, all I saw was Pam saying, you
21 found her didn't you, and the cop shook
22 his head like this, nodded it once yes.
23 And then she said, she's dead isn't
24 she. He went like this, and then she
25 went berserk.

1

2

And that moment is the worst moment of my life, seeing her go through that much pain. There's no words for it. I couldn't do nothing, I couldn't help her, I just let her - I fell to the floor more or less myself and she just went crazy in the church. And I remember her yelling out cursing God and I remember yelling out that it wasn't God who did that it was the devil. And to me that saved her a little inch of belief in God, you know, cause that wasn't God who done all that act that was the devil.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

And that's about all I got to say on that right now. There's.....

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Actually can I ask you a bit more about the timeframe? So - because you do have a better memory of it because you recounting, you knew off the top of your head the weeks certain processes took. During

1 those weeks you're sitting there from
2 9:00 til 5:00 on that hard bench,
3 again, are you able to work? Are you
4 able to provide support for your
5 family? Can you tell us a little bit
6 about what you do?

7
8 FRED FILLIER: I'm a self
9 employed locksmith. I've been self
10 employed now for 30 years. It's just a
11 proprietorship, it's just me so I'm the
12 sole provider, I guess, for the family
13 is the way I look at myself. I know
14 I'm really not, Pam is too but I take
15 that, that duty on myself very
16 seriously and during the search, I
17 probably put a month into it, I ran out
18 of money. I was broke. People was
19 giving me gas money to fill up my truck
20 and we were going to a certain house to
21 feed us and we, we'd wake up around ten
22 o'clock in the morning to 11:00 and
23 we'd start searching until six o'clock
24 the next morning. We wouldn't stop.

25

1 Like 18/20 hours a day we'd search.
2 And then we'd go to our camper, which
3 we moved down in that area so we could
4 sleep in that area cause we lived, we
5 didn't live in the same area cause
6 Hilary just went to her home town
7 because it was labour day weekend and
8 her and her friends wanted to have a
9 little harrah before they went back to
10 school. And the next day we were to go
11 down and take her shopping for school
12 clothes.

13
14 And the, the pre-trial, well after we
15 heard what happened I was unable to
16 work. I was mentally and physically
17 totally - there was nothing left to me.
18 I couldn't even help my kids mourn.
19 There was four other kids in the family
20 and I failed them during that process,
21 I couldn't do much. I'd help take care
22 of the little one who was only four at
23 the time, but a lot of things I don't
24 remember.

25

1 Where did I get the gas money to drive
2 to town every day, 30 miles to go to
3 court. And I have a little shop in
4 town where my house was in town, in the
5 back of my house there's a small shop,
6 it's just like a room for my trade and
7 we'd drive to town, we'd go into the
8 courtroom, do our thing. Then we'd
9 have the hour and a half lunch and I
10 was so broke I was buying cans of tuna
11 and leaving it at the shop so at lunch
12 time I'd take her to get her whatever
13 she wanted and then I'd go and eat my
14 can of tuna to have my lunch to go back
15 to the, to Court.

16
17 And I don't think I've eaten a can of
18 tuna since because I probably ate 30 or
19 40 cans of it during the pre-trial and
20 trial. But it wiped me out. I ended
21 up having to sell my home in town
22 because I was so behind on my taxes
23 with the Government and bills. So
24 those, those weeks of being in a
25 courtroom where we had, we had a lot of

1 emotional support but what I need to
2 see changed in Canada is we're family
3 members of the victim.

4
5 When they're spending endless hours and
6 days in a courtroom they need to be
7 nurtured. They need to be fed and they
8 need a place to rest during this trial,
9 during the trial or during the *voir*
10 *dire*. Because I don't even remember
11 who took care of my kids back then, it
12 was so - I think my parents did, I'm
13 pretty sure they did.

14
15 But it was such a traumatic moment
16 where we were just going day to day and
17 sometimes minute by minute of what
18 we're going to do next. And I remember
19 when the trial was over - no, actually
20 it wasn't when the trial was over, it
21 was after the funeral was over, we went
22 back to our house in town and someone
23 came from another Reserve with a
24 truckload of groceries and they brought
25 it into our house, put it in our

1 kitchen and to this day I still don't
2 remember who they are. I'm very
3 thankful for that and it's kind of
4 embarrassing but it was help that
5 family members needed when they're
6 going through something this traumatic.

7
8 I never imagined how deep it could be,
9 of pain and weakness and stress and
10 there's no words for it. And so when
11 someone else goes through something
12 like what we went through and they have
13 to spend a lot of time in a courtroom
14 they, they should be uplifted and
15 supported so they can spend their time
16 in a courtroom and have a place to rest
17 after in case they have to drive to the
18 city where the court - you know,
19 there's a lot of places where family
20 members would have to drive to a
21 courtroom which is, you know, in
22 another city. That caused a lot of
23 stress for us.

24

1 That really does need to change. Thank
2 you.

3

4 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Fred, one more
5 question. One more question.

6

7 FRED FILLIER: One more, that's
8 it?

9

10 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: One more, that's
11 it. And I know you talked about the
12 financial burden and you talked about
13 how tough it is but what were some of
14 the other struggles during that
15 timeframe? Like you did talk about how
16 difficult it was for you emotionally,
17 because you were sometimes hearing some
18 of the worst things or what you guys
19 believed were untrue things. What was,
20 what were the toughest things and can
21 you tell me about how did you access
22 services? Or were they even available
23 to you?

24

1 FRED FILLIER: I did. I went to
2 Victim Services. Well Victim Services
3 was with s quite a bit during the pre-
4 trial and the trial. They would sit
5 beside us in the courtroom and say,
6 well this is going to happen next and
7 so prepare yourself, it's going to
8 hurt, you know. That was nice. But
9 my, my two daughters and my son were
10 troubled quite a bit from a previous,
11 my previous relationship and I asked
12 Victim Services if you could do
13 anything for my kids, to help them.
14 And they told me they couldn't do
15 nothing because they weren't family and
16 that hurt my heart so much that I gave,
17 I gave up on Victim Services.

18
19 She was a nice lady, she's still there
20 today. She's a great person but her
21 protocol is that, is that mandate, well
22 they can only help the immediate
23 family. But we were a married blended
24 family, like my, my children were -
25 Hilary was nine years old when I met

1 her and my kids met her at that age and
2 I had a daughter that was nine as well.
3 And Hilary was 16 so there was seven
4 years of love to grow and we were -
5 Hilary was the glue that put us all
6 together.

7
8 She was the happiness in the home and
9 she was the kooky little girl that made
10 us all laugh and love each other. I
11 kind of lost track of what I was just
12 saying is, there's so much - Victim
13 Services, they, they couldn't help my
14 kids because they weren't family
15 members. And when I heard that from
16 her I didn't show any emotion, I just
17 said okay, thank you. I was already
18 hurt beyond anything so anything anyone
19 ever said to me wouldn't matter anyway
20 because I was already floored.

21
22 So I just let it go and I tried to
23 figure out how I could do it myself
24 but. You know the first two years
25 since Hilary was so suddenly taken from

1 us, our four year old Frederick, he was
2 four at the time, and every single
3 night for two years - this was one of
4 the hardest things that I had to go
5 through, one of them was watching Pam
6 in the church and the second one was
7 mourning myself heavily, very very very
8 heavily. There's no words to describe
9 watching her suffer and my kids suffer
10 and then trying to deal with my own
11 suffering.

12
13 But my four year old son, every single
14 night before bed he'd start crying for
15 Hilary and his arms would go up to the
16 sky like that, and he's say Tia come
17 home, I need you now. And telling me
18 he wants to be an angel with Tia and me
19 telling him she's - I'm holding him and
20 rocking him in my arms and telling him
21 it's okay, Tia's in heaven now and, and
22 she's an angel. But for two years that
23 was, that was really really hard to
24 console my son.

25

1 And to this day, he still needs
2 consoling. He still sleeps with me.
3 Hilary used to put him to bed at night
4 and, and he got attached to that so it
5 transported to me being the one to put
6 him to bed at night. I'd put him under
7 my wing and, and you know, I'd rub his
8 back, I rub his head. And he's 12
9 years old now and I'm still doing it.
10 I kind of miss my wife for that but,
11 you know, that, that's okay, my son is
12 more important and we went through hell
13 so I can, I can deal with it. But
14 trying to help my children where I
15 cannot help them is, is a big problem
16 cause it still exists today.

17
18 My daughter Emily is 23. She's 24,
19 she's the same age as Hilary and she
20 has some issues and I can't really talk
21 about them but they're related to
22 severe trauma. And my older daughter,
23 Amanda, she's 27, she's three years
24 older than the other two, she was two
25 years in university to be a

1 psychologist and she got three, three
2 years into it and she failed the third
3 year because it was a year after the
4 murder and she had to take a year off.
5 But she finally got her degree after
6 five years of sociology. She didn't
7 get to go back and finish the rest
8 because now she's \$60,000.00 in the
9 hole for student loans and stuff.

10

11 And before all this I was self
12 employed, I owned some properties and
13 the house that I was in, and there was
14 a house beside it, I was going to sell
15 them, put my kids through school. But,
16 with that trauma and everything
17 happened I ended up getting a huge tax
18 bill and a, a lien put on my home and I
19 had to sell the home before it was
20 taken from me to pay off the lien.

21

22 And there was a little bit of money
23 left so I bought my wife a nice car to
24 get her out of the house, a nice black
25 convertible and got her a little bit

1 but I lost my home. It was paid for,
2 it was 23 years we lived in that home
3 and it's gone. But, that's, that's
4 kind of irrelevant, you know, it's, I
5 just feel when families go through
6 something like this they need to be
7 supported through the Courts because we
8 didn't ask for this. She didn't ask
9 for that and they, they need to be more
10 supportive in other ways than - which
11 our Victim Services are doing now.

12
13 Even having a room at the Courthouse, a
14 family room where there's lunch
15 available and a couple of couches where
16 they can stretch out for about an hour
17 and a half or they need a break from
18 hearing harsh testimony, they can go to
19 that room and rest. I, I believe every
20 Courthouse in Canada should have that
21 for things like this.

22
23 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you. Thank
24 you, and I only did have to ask one
25 question and you covered it all. That

1 was good. No, it's important because
2 you're building in some of your
3 recommendations and it's important the
4 Commissioner hears how you lived
5 through this experience and what it,
6 like we all know the ultimate cost but
7 what about all of the other costs. Did
8 you want to add anything to that
9 Pamela?

10

11 PAMELA FILLIER: No, he pretty, he
12 pretty much covered, he covered it.

13

14 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So there's - I
15 don't want to, I only want to spend as
16 much time as you want on this. We've
17 already heard Fred talk about the fact
18 that parts of the trial were brutal
19 because you were listening to really
20 tough testimony. I understand there
21 was a number of preliminary motions,
22 there was the pre-trial, the trial,
23 this takes two years. At the end of it
24 Curtis is found guilty.

25

1 PAMELA FILLIER: Yeah.

2

3 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Yeah. And then I
4 understand he tries to appeal it.

5

6 PAMELA FILLIER: Yes, he tried to
7 appeal it and nobody told us that he
8 was trying to appeal the decision. How
9 we found out is a reporter had asked my
10 husband, are you guys going. And Fred
11 said we didn't know anything about it
12 and it was on my daughter's birthday,
13 April 28. And we wouldn't have even
14 known, we wouldn't have even been in
15 that courtroom if it wasn't for that
16 one reporter that took it upon herself
17 to message Fred and ask him if he was
18 going.

19

20 And I thank God that she did because I
21 feel they should have told me because I
22 have a right to be there. I have a
23 right to know because this guy took my
24 daughter's life. I have a right to sit
25 in there and say no, he doesn't deserve

1 another chance. He's already gotten
2 chance after chance after chance. And
3 even to me, even with what he's been
4 given, he still has a chance because he
5 has a chance to get out. My daughter
6 didn't have that chance and neither
7 should he.

8

9 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Do you recall how
10 long he was sentenced for?

11

12 PAMELA FILLIER: I believe 25
13 years but they say, I think after 16,
14 15 or 16 years that they could apply
15 for parole or something. I totally
16 don't agree with that.

17

18 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So my, my math's
19 not great on a quick spot but I'm
20 thinking that's about six or seven
21 years from now, potentially. Seven
22 years from now that he'll be eligible
23 for parole. Earlier you were telling
24 the Commissioner that somebody who had
25 experienced assault from him had wished

1 that they had gone to the parole
2 process. A lot of families don't know
3 much about parole processes.

4
5 What are your guys' plans in seven
6 years from now when he's eligible for
7 parole?

8
9 PAMELA FILLIER: I plan on being
10 there. I plan on saying my peace. If
11 I have to get down on my knees and beg
12 them not to let him out I will. I
13 will. If they let him out, shame on
14 them. Shame on the Canadian Government
15 for letting that monster out to begin
16 with. Shame on them. That shame
17 belongs on the Government for letting
18 him out. His file said high risk to
19 re-offend. What part of that do you
20 not understand?

21
22 I mean it's, it's English and that's
23 their first language, they should
24 understand high risk means oh chances
25 are he's going to go and do this again

1 but we're going to let him out anyway.
2 I paid for that. For the Government's
3 mistake. Me and my little girl and my
4 family, we paid for that and we pay
5 everyday and it's not fair. It's not.

6
7 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Because, because
8 you're already talking about this,
9 you're a fairly strong advocate and
10 you've spoken out lots about, you've
11 spoken out lots about how you believe
12 laws should be changed. So I just want
13 to give you the opportunity to, to
14 tell, to tell the Commissioner, what do
15 you think needs to be changed in the
16 law?

17
18 PAMELA FILLIER: I think we need
19 tougher laws against rapists and
20 pedophiles and if you kill someone you
21 shouldn't have that chance to come out.
22 You really shouldn't. We need tougher
23 laws against these major crimes because
24 these are not little things. They,
25 they really aren't. People are losing

1 their lives and people are getting away
2 with murder.

3
4 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: There was one
5 picture up earlier that went by, there
6 was a picture of you, you guys, I think
7 it looks like you're in front of
8 Parliament Hill or, or in front of
9 Ottawa somewhere and you're holding a
10 sign. I don't know.....

11
12 PAMELA FILLIER: That's on
13 Parliament Hill.

14
15 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Yeah, I don't
16 know if we could pull that picture up.
17 But you've done a lot of advocacy,
18 you've been a strong woman, you've been
19 a strong husband supporting talking
20 out, speaking about these issues and
21 you feel driven to do so because you're
22 so passionate about the laws, that's
23 fair to say.

24

1 Here we go. So this day, can you tell
2 us just a little bit about this day?

3
4 PAMELA FILLIER: We're standing on
5 the Hill saying the same things we say
6 at every meeting. Sometimes it's - you
7 feel like nobody hears you. Because
8 I've been saying what I'm saying for so
9 many years now that it's started to
10 feel like nobody's listening.

11
12 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And the
13 quotation.....

14
15 PAMELA FILLIER: That's what those
16 things are all about, is trying to get
17 our Government to open their eyes, look
18 out your window, we're right here.

19
20 FRED FILLIER: Could I say
21 something about changing the laws just
22 briefly?

23
24 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Yeah.

25

1 FRED FILLIER: I want to add to
2 this because I feel this is extremely
3 important to changing the laws of
4 rapists and pedophiles. And I'm not
5 too good at giving examples so I'm
6 going to give an example, say of me.
7 Say if I raped somebody and I violated
8 their civil rights, that's basically
9 what I do and I, I scar them for life.
10 So when I'm convicted of that crime, if
11 I am and I should be, my civil rights
12 should never be the same again since I
13 violated someone else's civil rights in
14 such a horrible way.

15
16 That's where the laws need change. So
17 these rapists and pedophiles think, oh
18 I'm, I have rights to this and that.
19 No, you want to rape and violate a
20 woman, you want to dominate a woman and
21 do horrible things to her, your, your
22 civil rights should never be the same.
23 The Charter of Rights do not apply to a
24 rapist and a pedophile. There should
25 be amendments to it where the police

1 and other people, they need to be
2 labeled and marked if they're ever let
3 out again.

4
5 Like I don't know what the law should
6 change to be but they need to be
7 changed. If I done something like that
8 to a woman I should never have the same
9 civil rights again as the woman that I
10 hurt. And I'm so strong on that, that
11 really does need to change.

12
13 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: The quotation
14 that you had up in that poster, that
15 really struck me. To the world she was
16 one person, to us she was the world.
17 In terms of doing that advocacy and you
18 said, you know, all the meetings we go
19 to, the context of this was pre-inquiry
20 I'm assuming? Like before the Inquiry
21 called?

22
23 PAMELA FILLIER: Yes.

24

1 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: But we always
2 seemed to be so caught up in
3 statistics. We always seem to be
4 caught in, in how many women but this
5 point you're trying to make is, like
6 one, one life is too much. Is that
7 fair?

8
9 PAMELA FILLIER: Exactly.

10
11 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Yeah. There's a
12 memorial that you've been working on,
13 can you just tell me a little about the
14 memorial that you want to put up in
15 your community?

16
17 PAMELA FILLIER: Yes. There's a -
18 when I lost my daughter I wanted to do
19 something special for her, and to me it
20 just, didn't want it to be just a
21 tombstone. I wanted it to be something
22 that when you see it you would say she
23 was loved and she's missed. We did
24 fundraising for that and I had made
25 sure whoever, when you send donations

1 send it directly to the monument
2 company.

3
4 But there was one place in the
5 community that you could go right into
6 the store and put the money in the jar,
7 which is For These Groceries. Deena,
8 she was kind enough to keep that jar
9 there and she kept it there for a
10 couple of years. And we got all the
11 money for the monument. The monument
12 is completely paid for and I was
13 waiting for the land to be cleared.

14
15 So this year the land was completely
16 cleared and we have a, a paved driveway
17 going in and I wanted it to be on April
18 28th, which is her birthday. Kind of
19 like, like my last birthday present to
20 her. But I guess the monument company
21 doesn't do that during the winter so
22 they said the soonest would be June 1st.
23 The monument is nine feet long and 12
24 feet tall. It's, it's beautiful.

25

1 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: I want to make
2 sure I'm giving you the opportunity, in
3 case we missed anything, in case
4 there's anything else you want to share
5 with the Commissioner. If you have any
6 more recommendations.

7

8 PAMELA FILLIER: I do. You know
9 when, when you go to Court, like I
10 can't, I can't sit and say well he did
11 this and this and this before but yet I
12 can't sit on the stand and say the
13 truth about this monster. But, yet he
14 can get on the stand and say horrible
15 lies about my daughter. I, I don't
16 think that's right.

17

18 He sits there and lies about her and
19 then these things get posted in the
20 paper and that's not my child. You're
21 taking the word of a monster who's
22 trying to make some sick form of
23 justification to why he raped my
24 daughter and killed her. She was only
25 16 years old. She just hit puberty a

1 few months before that. She was - she
2 took so long to hit puberty that I was
3 going to take her to the doctor, I
4 thought something was wrong with her
5 because she was 16 years old. Well not
6 16, she was 15 and about a month or two
7 before her birthday she became a woman.
8 And then this monster gets on the stand
9 and tried to paint my daughter as a
10 prostitute. She was 16 years old.

11
12 So he can go on stand and smear my
13 daughter like that and I can't say the
14 truth about him. Maybe that Jury needs
15 to know everything about him. Because
16 if they sit there thinking this is his
17 first time when it's not they're not
18 getting a clear picture of the person
19 that's in front of them. And I really
20 feel that way, they shouldn't be
21 allowed to sit up there and talk badly
22 about their victims, make up things to
23 make themselves feel better. All
24 you're doing is victimizing the family
25 all over again.

1

2

Because it hurts. You don't want to hear someone say untrue things about your child and you know they're untrue. But you can't, you can't really go and get mad and scream in Court, why is he allowed to say that. Why can't I say what he did. You can't do that cause then you're going to get thrown out of Court. I really feel like sometimes the Courts victimize the victims over again.

13

14

The criminals, it seems like when you go to Court, it's like they have more rights than you do and they do. They have more rights than you and considering his past, his criminal record and what he, he did that should have been no question about it, he should've been put on dangerous offender's list and I should've been told.

20

21

22

23

24

1 No worries Mrs. Fillier, your daughter
2 has received her justice, this monster
3 will never be on the street again.
4 That's when I'll feel that Hilary has
5 gotten her justice. She'll never have
6 complete justice because her life was
7 taken from her and was taken from me.
8 Cause there's things that I'll never
9 get. It hurts me when I see kids, when
10 I watch Hilary's friends graduate, that
11 hurt. I wanted to get her ready for
12 her prom. I would've liked to pick out
13 a wedding dress with her. And I can't
14 do that, and I'll never get to do that.
15
16 It would just be a total injustice if
17 this man was ever let out again.
18 That's all I want. I just want tougher
19 laws. I can't protect my daughter
20 anymore. And that's a hard thing to
21 say because I feel like I failed her.
22 And I know people say don't blame
23 yourself but as a mother how could you
24 not blame yourself. I don't need

1 anyone to blame me cause I blame myself
2 too.

3
4 FRED FILLIER: That's not true,
5 you know that's not true. It wasn't
6 your fault, don't think like that.
7 Please.

8
9 PAMELA FILLIER: We're supposed to
10 be able to protect our children. The
11 Government isn't making it easier for
12 us. We need tougher laws, it's not
13 going to just protect Native kids, it's
14 not just going to protect us, it's
15 going to protect everybody. It'll
16 protect everybody. Cause no race is
17 better than the other. But when one
18 race is traded so unfairly there comes
19 a point where you've got to get mad.

20
21 My daughter paid for Canada's mistake.
22 They made the mistake and they let him
23 out and my little girl paid that price.
24 I just don't want to see another little
25 girl pray, play, pay that price. I

1 really don't. You shouldn't be allowed
2 to violate someone and then walk down
3 the street and have a chance to give
4 yourself a good life. Because if he
5 comes out he'll just be in his 50s.
6 That's not old. It really isn't.
7 He'll come out nice and strong and
8 healthy cause he's getting at least
9 three meals a day. Getting to go
10 workout at the gym.

11
12 He shouldn't be allowed to do none of
13 it. That's all I want. I just want
14 someone to come to me and tell me he'll
15 never come out. That's all I want. We
16 need tougher laws, that way we don't
17 have to keep watching people on tv. I
18 don't want to hear someone else get up
19 and say this guy got out of jail and
20 then took my child.

21
22 FRED FILLIER: Seeing that on tv
23 is so offensive to us. Seeing that on
24 tv is so offensive to me, when they put
25 a clipping out of a man who's going to

1 be moving into a certain area who's a
2 registered sex offender and he's high
3 risk to re-offend. They publicize all
4 that. When I see that it's
5 unbelievably, I feel really sick in my
6 stomach. It just, I don't even know
7 how to put that into words, how
8 disgusted I am to see that when we're
9 victims of that.

10

11 When a man is let out and they're
12 saying oh he's high risk to re-offend.
13 It sickens me. It's so disgusting.
14 There's got to be new, new roots to
15 those people who are high risk to re-
16 offend. That's where their civil
17 rights come in, that should never be
18 the same as anyone else's. Castrate
19 them. Put a bracelet on their ankle
20 forever. Tattoo their forehead. They
21 don't deserve the civil rights that we
22 have. They do not. That has to
23 change.

24

1 It's so offensive to see that in the
2 paper or on the news, when someone gets
3 out and they're a high risk, it just
4 sickening. I'm sorry.

5
6 CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Commissioner
7 Audette, do you have any questions or
8 comments for the, for Pam or Fred?

9
10 COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: Merci. Merci
11 beaucoup metre Big Canoe. Yes I have
12 some questions but before I start I
13 have to say, meegwetch for, I want to
14 use the right words. Thank you for
15 your courage and I know Pam and Fred,
16 you've been everywhere to talk about
17 the need of re-looking at the criminal
18 justice system and its failures and
19 what you explained to us.

20
21 And you're still there and I hope you
22 won't do that forever because what
23 you're doing, we've heard so many
24 victims or let's say amazing women - I
25 would say instead of victims - amazing

1 women who said, yes I was sexually
2 abused or I was raped and today I want
3 to change my present and my future.
4 And what you're giving us for the
5 recommendations, I'll add an "S", are
6 very very important.

7
8 I'll make sure that Qajaq, Brian and
9 Marion, the other Commissioners that
10 you met in Toronto last July, that
11 maybe I won't be able to bring the
12 passion and the energy that you shared
13 to us but I'll make sure that they
14 understand that we all need to read the
15 testimony of your truth to see how we
16 can write those recommendations. And
17 also, you're a member of ENFAC, so
18 there's a validation also with the
19 members of that important circle, and
20 remind us if we're too soft in the
21 wording. That's one thing.

22
23 Another important part, where my
24 colleagues right now are working hard
25 for the extension - cross my eyes,

1 fingers, ears, toes - that it's well
2 received in Ottawa, and of course with
3 the Province of New Brunswick and
4 across Canada, where we need also to
5 build those questions for the
6 Provincial Government and Territorial
7 Government and other places.

8
9 One - the Victim Services, it's
10 Provincial. They were there to support
11 you but financially they didn't want to
12 support because biologically they
13 weren't sisters to your daughter?

14
15 PAMELA FILLIER: Yes, exactly.

16
17 COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: So you would
18 recommend that we expand - in that
19 recommendation we make sure that Victim
20 Services across Canada, in a situation
21 like you, a tragic unacceptable
22 situation arises, that it's also
23 support, that's what I understand.

24
25 PAMELA FILLIER: Exactly.

1

2

COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: Okay, perfect. I wrote it in Franglais - half English half French, yes. Okay, as for the - when you did the search and the community was there to support you, did the police was there also for the search?

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

PAMELA FILLIER: Yeah, they were but not, not right in the beginning. In the beginning it was just the community.

11

12

13

14

15

COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: Okay. But they came and brought the dogs and everything we need when.....

16

17

18

19

PAMELA FILLIER: Yeah.

20

21

COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: Okay.

22

23

PAMELA FILLIER: Yeah.

24

1 COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: Okay, that's good
2 to know. And you talked about, it
3 would help other people, not only First
4 Nation or Metis or Inuit, I think there
5 is - lately we saw on the news for the
6 past year at the same time of this work
7 with the Inquiry, that many women who
8 were sexually abused or raped,
9 unfounded I think we say in English,
10 that it didn't go to the Court. And
11 it's thousands and thousands and
12 thousands of women, close to 700 women
13 or people say that they were sexually
14 abused.

15
16 So your work will help Canadian women,
17 you're right.

18
19 PAMELA FILLIER: I hope so.

20
21 COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: I can guarantee
22 you. We have to prepare that report
23 and you have to help us to make sure
24 that the language and the wording, and
25 of course, with the, the help our team

1 that it's strong and it says what it
2 has to say but also for the benefit of
3 the Canadian women.....

4
5 PAMELA FILLIER: Exactly.

6
7 COMMISSIONER AUDETTE:for all of us
8 Indigenous women also. So for that I
9 say you have my support because I think
10 it's very important, but there's three
11 other Commissions who are also very
12 very sensitive about that. Very
13 sensitive about how the criminal
14 justice works and where it could be
15 improved. Provincial and Federal, of
16 course.

17
18 So to finish, if you had - you were
19 clear about the justice system but to
20 the media and to people who are
21 listening across Canada, there's
22 Canadians listening, I hope, what would
23 you say to them? What would you say to
24 them? Because they have the power to
25 help us in this great mandate, great

1 journey as parents also, but as people
2 affected by a lost one or people who
3 work in this Inquiry, who are also
4 family members, some of us are, what
5 would you say to them so they can
6 paddle with us or feel responsible?

7

8 That it's not only an Indigenous women
9 issue but it's all of us, including the
10 one who's listening.

11

12 PAMELA FILLIER: Well first we
13 have to start by talking about it. It
14 needs to be spoken about more often and
15 we can't just be okay when something
16 like that happens. If you hear that
17 someone is being abused or you think
18 they're in danger, say something. Say
19 something and don't, for the love of
20 God, don't think this will never happen
21 to me. Because that's what I thought,
22 this would never happen to me. Be
23 aware. Be aware and hold your children
24 close.

25

1 COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: Merci beaucoup.
2 I forgot to say something. I just -
3 when you spoke I saw the nine foot,
4 nine feet - how do you call that in
5 English, the memorial?

6
7 PAMELA FILLIER: Yes.

8
9 COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: Okay. The big
10 memorial, I want to say, if I can,
11 thank you to the people who supported
12 you because it's expensive.

13
14 PAMELA FILLIER: Yes.

15
16 COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: It is, I'm pretty
17 sure, thanks for the picture. And
18 also, if I can say something beyond my
19 role as Commissioner, how hard it is
20 for a parent to lose everything
21 financially. To support your wife,
22 it's amazing, what you did is
23 incredible, it's - I commend you but I
24 don't think we should be, or, we should
25 be in that situation.

1

2

So the system should help us and it's something that I want to share with my colleagues. How can we recommend something that the people don't impoverish.....

3

4

5

6

7

8

CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Impoverish.

9

10

COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: Thank you.

11

Usually Qujaq is there to translate my Franglish. So it's - I made a star beside it to make sure that.....

12

13

14

15

FRED FILLIER: That is so important.

16

17

18

COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: I don't say I'm going to bring a magic solution but it's something we can debate and make sure that.....

19

20

21

22

23

FRED FILLIER: We work toward it.

24

25

1 COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: Yeah, and it's
2 not the first time that we heard that.
3 So something needs to be presented at
4 the end, we'll see how we can make sure
5 it's there.

6
7 PAMELA FILLIER: Awesome.

8
9 COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: Merci beaucoup,
10 it's always a pleasure to see you again
11 and it's good to, to have you to guide
12 me and the rest of us in this journey.
13 And I hope you'll stay until the end to
14 make sure we do it right because we do
15 it for you you.

16
17 PAMELA FILLIER: I'm not going
18 anywhere. Like I said, I'll say it
19 till there's no breath in my body, I
20 don't quit.

21
22 COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: Yeah.

23

1 PAMELA FILLIER: I don't. That's
2 not one - one thing I'm not, I don't
3 quit.

4
5 COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: It's a tough
6 road.

7
8 PAMELA FILLIER: It is.

9
10 COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: I'll be frank.....

11
12 PAMELA FILLIER: It is.

13
14 COMMISSIONER AUDETTE:there's
15 pressure coming from all over the place
16 but it's historical so I'm proud to be
17 beside you. And I know my colleagues
18 are and you have so much to teach us
19 and to bring us back on a good track,
20 on the right track, whatever, the good
21 path.

22
23 PAMELA FILLIER: Yeah.

24

1 COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: We have something
2 for you, would you accept a gift?

3
4 PAMELA FILLIER: Is it a car?

5
6 COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: I took it. No,
7 it's not a car, sorry, but you can fly.

8
9 PAMELA FILLIER: Okay.

10
11 COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: I'll ask my cutie
12 grandmother to explain where it comes
13 from. There's a beautiful story.

14
15 BERNIE POITRAS-WILLIAMS: Pamela and
16 Fred, haw'aa to you again. I, I feel
17 I'm going to walk this journey with you
18 for many years and haw'aa for sharing
19 your story. I just want to - you're
20 probably going to hear me say this over
21 and over about the feathers and that,
22 that it started its journey from Haida
23 Gwaii with over 400 feathers that the
24 matriarchs had picked along the
25 shorelines in Haida Gwaii.

1

2

So that took a life of its own and then

3

every Province, every, almost every

4

Territory family members started to

5

donate feathers to this whole process

6

of the work nationally. So this last

7

lot here, that it came from Seashell by

8

the Sunshine Coast in between Vancouver

9

Island and Vancouver. So these are the

10

eagle feathers that have come from -

11

with the raw, the rawness, you know, of

12

their wing, and that was donated to the

13

Inquiry to my niece, Audrey Siegl,

14

who's not with us today.

15

16

But this is the gifts from the family

17

members all across, that have been.....

18

19

COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: Who made this,

20

this is new?

21

22

BERNIE POITRAS-WILLIAMS: That's from

23

Andrea.

24

25

CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Andrea.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: Wow Andrea.

BERNIE POITRAS-WILLIAMS: The case is made by Andrea and it has a Mi'kmaq name and and it has the flower, the Innu flower.

CHRISTA BIG CANOE: May I add just one thing?

BERNIE POITRAS-WILLIAMS: Absolutely.

CHRISTA BIG CANOE: She says that the feathers come from all over the country, there's so many heartwarming stories too. People who are listening, people who are spiritual people, people who dance, you know when we were in Thunder Bay there was a young gentleman - I keep telling this story. There's a young gentleman who took apart his entire regalia to remove all the eagle feathers so that family members could be gifted with an eagle feather.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

So there are Canadians, there are people, there are people listening in this country that want to support and send you love.

PAMELA FILLIER: That's beautiful.

COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: We have support and it's for you. Merci.

*COMMISSIONER AUDETTE AND BERNIE
POITRAS-WILLIAMS PRESENT GIFTS*

CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Commissioner, can we please close the hearings for today, to recommence tomorrow in this room at 9:00 a.m.?

COMMISSIONER AUDETTE: Yes.

CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Wonderful. So the hearings will recommence tomorrow, so they are closed for today. And they will open again tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.

1 in here, the Rendezvous Room of the
2 Four Points Sheraton in Moncton. Thank
3 you.

4

5

6

HEARINGS CLOSED AT 5:30 p.m.

7

8

9 **NOTE:** The day closes with a prayer, song and drumming
10 from Elder Peter Jadis; a prayer and song from Elder
11 Sarah Anala

12

13

FORM 2

Certificate of Transcript (Subsection 5(2))
Evidence Act

I, we Trudy L. McKinnon, certify that this document
is a true and accurate transcript of the National
Inquiry for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and,
Girls held at the Rendezvous Room, Four Points Sheraton,
Moncton, New Brunswick on the 13th day of February,
2018 taken from recording NIMNB20180213.

DATE: Wed., Feb. 28th, 2018

Trudy L. Mckinnon