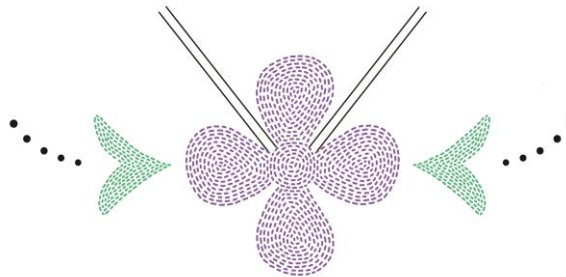


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Membertou First Nation
Unama'ki (Cape Breton Island), Nova Scotia**



PUBLIC

Wednesday November 1, 2017

**Statement - Volume 76
Rebecca Moore & Taylor Paul**

**Statement gathered by
Commissioner Michèle Audette & Shelby Thomas**

Coast Reporting Services Inc.

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

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NOTE

The use of round brackets () in this transcript indicates that amendments have been made to the certified transcript in order to replace information deemed inaudible or indecipherable by the original transcriptionist. Maryiam Khoury, Public Inquiry Clerk with the National Inquiry, made all amendments August 13th, 2018 at Ottawa, Ontario. Ms. Khoury completed the amendments by listening to the source audio recording of the proceeding.

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NOVEMBER 1, 2017, 5:27 P.M.

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MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Okay. Everything's on. If everyone just wants to state their names to let everyone know who's in the room and then we can go from there. And I'll start with saying it's November 1st. And what's the time?

UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: 5:27.

MS. SHELBY THOMAS: 5:27. And it's Shelby Thomas with the National Inquiry.

MS. REBECCA MOORE: This is Rebecca Moore.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Michèle Audette. (Commissaire).

MS. AUDREY SIEGL: Audrey Siegl.

MS. TAYLOR PAUL: Taylor Paul. Taylor Paul.

MS. AMELIA REIMER: Amelia Reimer.

MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: And Bernie Williams.

MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Okay. You can begin.

MS. REBECCA MOORE: Okay.

MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Thank you.

MS. REBECCA MOORE: So the reason or my driving point to have this meeting and -- is to include treaty perspective within this Inquiry of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and to talk about the current systematic oppression that is still happening that places our women beneath the rest of Canadian society and not where they should be. So this country -- or, like,

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1 here in Mi'gma'gi anyhow we have something called the
2 peace and friendship treaty and that treaty is not
3 being upheld, it's not being respected and our treaty
4 rights are not honoured and actually when we assert
5 our treaty rights, the Canadian government, police and
6 whatnot, they get in the way, they sometimes have us
7 arrested, has us -- have us fined and things like that
8 when we assert our treaty rights on our own land and
9 when the Canadian government gets in the way of us
10 asserting treaty rights, they are breaking
11 international law actually and so it's my full belief
12 that if the treaties were honoured the way that they
13 were intended to be, our Indigenous women would be
14 where they should be and not where they are right now.

15 And so treaty law, international treaty law
16 supersedes Canadian law so -- and that is why when the
17 Canadian government denies our treaty rights they're
18 breaking international treaty law. There are entire
19 countries in this world that are -- their foundation,
20 they're founded on -- on peace and friendship treaties
21 like we have here in Mi'gma'gi. There are, yeah,
22 countries in Africa that -- that came to be based on
23 peace and friendship treaties. It's, like, their
24 constitution.

25 So internationally, especially here in Mi'gma'gi

1 where we have that peace and friendship treaty they're
2 very strong and so we have some things within the
3 peace and friendship treaty. Like, we have the rights
4 to sell our wares, we have best advantage in trade,
5 just to name a few things and a question that I really
6 ask myself is if our -- okay. So we are a nation on
7 an international level. We are not an Indigenous
8 nation of Canada, we are a nation on an international
9 level and we have international treaty rights and so
10 where we have best advantage in trade under
11 international treaty rights, why is it that we are the
12 poorest people in the country on this land. If we're
13 not being actively oppressed by the Canadian
14 government. So let me gather my thoughts for a
15 moment.

16 So it looks like to me that we actually don't
17 have best advantage in trade currently, that it's
18 actually the settler government you don't have
19 bureaucracised (sic), you can look out your window and see
20 who has best advantage in trade. And the way things
21 are set up right now, back when the Canadian
22 government has made us federal wards under their
23 jurisdiction, they took it upon themselves long ago to
24 do that to us. That right there was illegal under
25 international treaty law, we should not be federal

1 wards. We should be able to be independent of them,
2 to make our own living on our own land with our own
3 resources, not having restrictions and being oppressed
4 by the government of Canada when we go to assert
5 ourselves on our own lands to take care of ourselves
6 and our families because actually we have every right
7 to go out and make our own livelihoods but every time
8 we do, somebody like DFO gets in the way, police get
9 in the way and they charge us, fine us. When we go to
10 even, like, hunt and things like that. And that
11 shouldn't be. That is illegal under international
12 treaty law. So because the Canadian government
13 doesn't honour our treaties and because the Canadian
14 government -- government made us -- took it upon
15 themselves to make us federal wards and because the
16 Canadian government doesn't allow us to be independent
17 at -- they don't allow us to take care of ourselves
18 under -- yeah.

19 So, yeah, the Canadian government doesn't even
20 allow us to -- to take care of ourselves which we are
21 fully capable of. So I am placing blame on the
22 Canadian government for our act of oppression and for
23 the position that Indigenous women are in in Canada.
24 And there are other things under treaty. Like,
25 Elizabeth Marshall wanted me to mention the child -

1 the current child welfare system and we need to give
2 our power back to the grandmothers when it comes to
3 child welfare, when it comes to decisions in -- that
4 have to do with Indigenous children and -- because
5 that's their traditional role and that's the
6 traditional way. Because these children that are
7 being taken and put into care by the Canadian
8 government, they end up in this cycle, they're taken
9 from their gijú, their grandmothers, they're put into
10 care and they lose their way and then a lot of them
11 find themselves in the system and then grow up to --
12 they're -- they grow up in the foster care system and
13 then are -- end up in the correctional system and
14 that's because the child welfare system takes them
15 away from the grandmothers that's supposed to be
16 caring for them and supposed to be raising them and
17 keeping them and guiding them and making sure that
18 they are safe and loved and looked after and so the --
19 and the grandmothers of the community need to have
20 more say or a final say of what happens to every
21 single Indigenous child that the Canadian government
22 is dealing with. So essentially the Canadian
23 government's still stealing our children and taking
24 them from Indigenous families.

25 And so another thing is our traditional nation

1 and government that was back when our treaties were
2 ratified is the Wabanaki Confederacy and not the
3 colonial government structures and reserves and band
4 councils and chiefs that were set up by the Canadian
5 government. The Canadian government did such a good
6 job of tearing down our original traditional nation
7 that we are still -- we still have work to do to build
8 that. It is there, we do have a Wabanaki Confederacy
9 and the Wabanaki Confederacy Alliance still exists and
10 so when the Canadian government does -- and it talks
11 about nation-to-nation relations and negotiations and
12 they are negotiating with these chiefs and councils,
13 band councils that are actually another extension of
14 the Canadian government, that is actually the Canadian
15 government negotiating with and amongst themselves.
16 That is not nation to nation. The Canadian government
17 has no idea how to properly consult with our real
18 nation. When they go and they do consultation with
19 these elected chiefs, that is then consulting -- the
20 Canadian government consulting with Canadian
21 government and ...

22 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Can I add too?

23 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yeah.

24 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Because --

25 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay. I'm just going

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2 to give the phone to Bernie because they're looking for me.

3 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Okay.

4 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: So you can talk to Christa, sorry.

5 I don't want them to look for me.

6 MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: Hello?

7 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: No, you have to call him.

8 MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Sorry, you want to add?

10 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Oh, yeah. Because I think part

11 of that is that the system that's set up now with band

12 governments is from the Indian Act system but it's

13 also from the Indian Agent system that controlled

14 the -- you know, how it was, you know, effective on

15 our people and so now it's turned into a sort of

16 pseudo-government but it's still the same -- you know,

17 they're learning the same things from that lineage

18 from the Indian Act agents.

19 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.

20 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): So it -- it's a matter of

21 [~~unintelligible~~] (lateral violence) and all this sort of thing

22 that on one side those people have assimilated and disjoined

23 themselves from the nation and that they're saying

24 they represent and in every way that we have those

25 core beliefs and values that is essentially our law

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1 that is within us.

2 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.

3 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): When it goes against them, those

4 laws that we carry, it's -- it becomes, like, this

5 violent stick against us by our own people who are

6 saying they represent us but they don't --

7 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.

8 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): -- so we effectively have no

9 representation.

10 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yeah, definitely. And our sovereign people

11 do not view those elected officials as our leaders,

12 they're not.

13 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Yeah, our people are [Indigenous

14 language spoken] people, that's what we call ourselves

15 and that's because of our belief system and the

16 spirituality that we are -- we are to be true humans,

17 that's -- that's our way of life and, you know, things

18 weren't written because we had them in -- we were

19 taught through our way of being so I think when we

20 don't pass the [unintelligible] test, you know, it

21 really goes a lot to show, like, how much they can

22 represent us and how much they can represent the

23 people.

24 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm. Because traditionally we follow

25 the three cross teachings and we have -- we are part

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1 of the sacred covenant with Creator and that's our
2 guiding way. Yeah, so -- so basically the Canadian
3 government is actively oppressing Indigenous people in
4 Canada and our position in Canada so -- so essentially
5 the Canadian government is still robbing us blind,
6 they're profiting off of our land and resources while
7 still keeping us under their foot and that's ...

8 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Yeah. Because we have a history
9 here where the Canadian government just obtusely
10 accepted us as wards of the government --

11 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yes.

12 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): -- and then they put in place, you
13 know, oh, you're not allowed to hire a lawyer until
14 1965 --

15 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.

16 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): -- or whatever it was.

17 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yes.

18 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL):—So how do we get ourselves out of
19 that.

20 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yeah.

21 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): And then there was -- you know,
22 you're arrested when you're off reserve. You have to
23 get a pass. And, oh, that pass is -- we never did
24 that. You know, so there's all these steps that have
25 been happening and it's just now, you know, that we've

1 gotten to the point now where our treaties are
2 accepted in the Constitution since 1982 I think. So,
3 you know, that's just all of a sudden in 1982
4 Canada's, like, oh, we did kind of screw up.

5 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yeah.

6 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): So -- so now we're still in this
7 spot where -- you know, historically even, like, we
8 haven't come to terms with what that actually was that
9 they screwed up with and that's -- that's where we get
10 back to that treaty relationship that should have
11 happened but that has to be reassessed in a whole
12 new --

13 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.

14 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): -- way of perception.

15 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Because under a peace and friendship
16 treaty, all we agreed to, the reason why our land is
17 unceded, all we agreed to was peace and friendship.
18 We never surrendered our territory, we never gave up
19 our land and so that means -- I'll use an example.
20 Like, our jurisdiction goes above, like, the mayor of
21 Halifax's jurisdiction actually but everybody is so
22 ignorant of the actual reality foundation of this
23 country because actually it's through that peace and
24 friendship treaty which even permitted settlers to
25 settle here. So that's their foundation. And --

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1 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Yeah.

2 MS. REBECCA MOORE: -- it's their treaty as well and that's the
3 real foundation for settling here and they disrespect
4 the crap of it. So when --

5 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Well, even --

6 MS. REBECCA MOORE: -- and when the major says that he has
7 basically -- him and city council has the ultimate say
8 of whether or not the Cornwallis statue comes down,
9 I'm going to use that as an example, no, it's coming
10 out -- it should come down because we say we don't
11 want it there on our territory.

12 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Or they could pay rent.

13 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yeah, or they could pay rent.

14 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Which was discussed --

15 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Or we could talk land title --

16 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): -- before the signing of the
17 treaty.

18 MS. REBECCA MOORE: And, yeah, so ...

19 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): So there is a legal, like,
20 precedent to have rent paid since before Canada
21 existed.

22 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.

23 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Here on this territory.

24 MS. REBECCA MOORE: So our treaties if we assert them are
25 actually so powerful, they're powerful enough to

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1 charge rent, pay -- make them pay rent because -
2 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Rent for -- since Canada began.
3 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yeah.
4 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): And not just that but also our
5 trade benefits since before Canada started --
6 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yeah.
7 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): -- is -- that's not even -- that's
8 not -- that's a Crown obligation, --
9 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.
10 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): -- that's not even registered
11 under Canada books, that is a Crown obligation that
12 was passed to Canada to get Canada safe from
13 bankruptcy, that was our three million dollars --
14 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.
15 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): -- that went to that to fund all
16 of Canada's trade right now today as we sit here since
17 Canada began.
18 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.
19 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): We have -- we don't see benefit
20 payments.
21 MS. REBECCA MOORE: We --
22 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): We're lending that money for free.
23 MS. REBECCA MOORE: We should have enough, we -- and we do have
24 a solid enough treaty where we should be benefiting
25 from -- economically enough to give all our nation a

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1 living wage -

2 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Yeah.

3 MS. REBECCA MOORE: -- so that we don't have to live in

4 poverty. Our people are not where they should be --

5 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Like, I --

6 MS. REBECCA MOORE: -- because of Canada's act of oppression.

7 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): If it was doing the books, I don't

8 think Canada can afford to pay us back.

9 MS. REBECCA MOORE: They can't.

10 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Which actually puts us in a state

11 of jeopardy. Like, they would rather kill us than pay

12 us back.

13 MS. REBECCA MOORE: And that's what we're --

14 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): That's the bottom line.

15 MS. REBECCA MOORE: -- seeing. That's what we're seeing being

16 played out right now.

17 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): So when we assert our rights,

18 we're the people who are threatening that possible

19 outcome, we're the ones who might come to that outcome

20 when we're 60 or 45 or whatever. So we do get

21 targeted.

22 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.

23 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): By police, by government, by the

24 CRA. Like, there are people who talk to other people

25 in government and go around and see how they can

1 attack you.

2 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.

3 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): I didn't get the child tax credit

4 for 18 months. I have four kids and we've never had a

5 custody issue. For no reason.

6 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.

7 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): They don't have to. I work full

8 time, I just have to work harder than everyone else in

9 Canada.

10 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:—So you feel you're affected by that.

11 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Yeah, yeah.

12 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Lots of other across Canada.

13 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): So then you have, you know, CPS

14 always over your head too so I just live like that.

15 You know, I just live with the -- the knowing that I

16 always have to have my dishes done, that I always have

17 to have my house in a state where CPS could walk

18 through the door and have a conversation.

19 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.

20 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): You know, that's how I live. But

21 the -- you know, these standards aren't put on other

22 people and when we put ourselves, you know, in a place

23 where we're in the spotlight where we're, like --

24 like, coming out and saying these -- talking about

25 these injustices because it'll keep going on if we

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1 don't, you know, it's -- it comes to this point where
2 we are frontline to be attacked --

3 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.

4 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): -- by -- when it comes down to --
5 you know, it's the government behind the scenes
6 sometimes, certain individuals, who knows who they
7 are, I don't, but, you know, then it comes down to
8 promoting this public kind of nationalism against
9 Indigenous people and that affects our women, it
10 actually kills our women.

11 MS. REBECCA MOORE: It does. And we are the first generation
12 that is actually free and educated enough to rise and
13 assert.

14 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Yeah.

15 MS. REBECCA MOORE: And that's what we're doing right now.

16 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: But they will attack you with
17 the child benefit or --

18 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Yeah.

19 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: -- many of us -- do you think --
20 I'll let you finish though.

21 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Well, no, I'm good.

22 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:

23 Okay. Do you think -- I have so many
24 things to say. I -- I would like to hear more about
25 the threat because it's a new generation. But -- and

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1 [unintelligible] (then they) was threaten also and other women
2 like her across Canada and today in 2007 [sic] what
3 kind of threat is that.

4 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): '17.

5 MS. REBECCA MOORE: I'm thinking about that right now as I sit
6 in this chair speaking about it. Because we're
7 talking about -- we're talking about the Canadian
8 government and we're talking -- we're talking
9 finances, we're talking, you know, they owe us a lot
10 and they would rather kill us than pay us back and
11 so -- and that's the reality and so when women like us
12 speak out, that does put us in danger.

13 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Yeah.

14 MS. REBECCA MOORE: If anybody's going to kill us, it's likely
15 going to be the government.

16 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: I have scars on my wrist from
17 police, like, or -- just handcuffing me, tossing me
18 around, arresting me for using sidewalk chalk to say a
19 message.

20 MS. REBECCA MOORE: If anybody's going to kill us, it's likely
21 either going to be the --

22 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: So it's the police too.

23 MS. REBECCA MOORE: -- government -- the government or -- or
24 one of these extraction companies trying to make money
25 because of us asserting our treaty trying to protect

1 our lands from that. So because me, I'm a -- I'm a
2 sober Indigenous woman, I don't partake in high-risk
3 activities anymore at this point in my life and if
4 anything ever happens to me, it's because of my
5 activism and it's because of me asserting my treaty
6 rights and being a threat to the Canadian government
7 and the economy.

8 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): I've noticed it's, like, that
9 keenness that is the threat. It's, like, if -- if you
10 want to be a drunk or if you want to do pills, you're
11 off their radar, you know, but it's -- it's that being
12 able to speak up for yourself even because things are
13 going on when you don't speak up for yourself,
14 that's -- that's -- you know, they're still killing us
15 and, you know, we don't -- we're kept in a state of
16 poverty which actually does affect things. They say
17 money doesn't buy happiness but we're given so
18 little --

19 MS. REBECCA MOORE: It can give you security.

20 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): -- that it is full-time depression
21 for some people for their entire frigging lives.

22 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yeah.

23 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): When we're supposed to be getting
24 benefit payments. There is no trustee relationship
25 out there like the Crown has with our people that

1 doesn't get some kind of benefit payment. You don't
2 get trustee beneficiaries that can -- that apply for
3 welfare that can get welfare.

4 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.

5 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Like, that just doesn't happen.

6 So what is the Crown doing here?

7 MS. REBECCA MOORE: We are essentially heirs.

8 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Yeah.

9 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: What is heirs?

10 MS. REBECCA MOORE: An heir.

11 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Like, a beneficiary. Like, a --

12 like, our treaties are [unintelligible] (unsettled), this land is
13 unceded, nothing is sacrificed, rent was discussed so
14 there is a precedent that we understood that land cost
15 money and that these people wanted to use land and
16 that there's a price associated with the use of land.

17 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): And that would be passed
18 down the heirs to --

19 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Thanks.

20 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): So whatever was not talked about
21 at that point what was expected to be determined at
22 that point but then we had a scalping proclamation
23 after the -- the signing of the peace and friendship
24 treaty there was one so, you know, how do you discuss
25 rent when you're running away from people collecting

1 your scalps for 500 bucks apiece?

2 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Do you have any First Nation community
3 or your people in court challenging Canada with -- about
4 this in Mi'gma'gi?

5 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Not currently but there has been. Like, --

6 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay.

7 MS. REBECCA MOORE: -- one of our mentors, Kevin Christmas, he
8 has taken Canada to court to -- he has had a case with
9 Privy Council about Indigenous fishing communities
10 because they were almost dying, they were almost gone,
11 our traditional and -- like, fishing industries and
12 Kevin Christmas was very active in bringing our
13 fishing industries back to life and those communities
14 are still thriving because of work that he's done on
15 an international level.

16 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay.

17 MS. REBECCA MOORE: So -- and that's one of our -- one of my
18 best mentors.

19 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Mm-hmm.

20 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yeah.

21 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: What I could propose to you is that a lot
22 of us from inside of this Inquiry are former activists
23 or, you know, people that worked or -- you know,
24 for -- for the land or, you know, protecting the land
25 or protecting the women's rights and so on so we have

1 a beautiful diversity of people --

2 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.

3 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: -- across Canada --

4 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.

5 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: -- plus our grandmothers and all that

6 are there with us and for us. What would you see in the

7 report? I have a vision but I want to hear it from

8 you. That we have a space, a beautiful space to --

9 before we go deeper in the report, how would you

10 see -- I wish I could speak English, I'm exhausted. A

11 treaty and everything you -- you spoke, how do you see

12 it inside the report or -- and where?

13 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Well, I would probably -- I think I already

14 said it. I said that the Canadian government's act of

15 oppression and total disregard for our treaty rights,

16 our international treaty rights that we have places us

17 in these positions, in a position of poverty and

18 beneath the -- the rest of Canadian society and not

19 where we rightfully should be.

20 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: So has to be at the beginning, -- very --

21 the foundation.

22 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yeah.

23 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: -- very soon

24 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yeah.

25 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: And would you be comfortable that with

1 this I make sure that the research see the transcript
2 and the video --

3 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Mm-hmm.

4 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: -- and that could help us to build that
5 chapter in that report to make sure that we hear from
6 you, we also hear from the women from the east, the
7 west, the north, Prairies -- Prairies that they have
8 that same vision, that same -- what you --

9 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): I think that that's, like, a
10 dialogue in itself --

11 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: What --

12 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): -- to gather a group of
13 women --

14 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Mm-hmm.

15 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): -- you know, from these
16 places and that --

17 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Right.

18 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): -- because this
19 really coincides when you're talking about the land how the
20 Murdered and Missing Women is linked up. Scenario would be
21 you got five hundred Indigenous women from this reserve so
22 when you start killing off these 500 women so we know
23 that each woman will give birth to three to five
24 children in their lifetime so you times that.

25 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: All right.

1 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): So you times your 500 women
2 by five children, times that, that's how much would be
3 wiped out --

4 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Mm-hmm.

5 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): -- to build that nation
6 back up, they don't want that. So I think that that needs to
7 be, like, a really -- it would be, like, a dialogue in
8 itself to lead up to because when we talk about
9 getting to the root of the problem, that starts right
10 there.

11 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Perfect.

12 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): And you build off of that.

13 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay.

14 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): But there's also the direct
15 connection between what we now know as extractive
16 industry which fits very aptly under the term ecocide.
17 We have genocide. Canada is founded on genocide.
18 Canada is founded on ecocide.

19 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: What is ecocide?

20 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Ecocide -- ecocide is the killing
21 of the land, of the -- of the environment.

22 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay.

23 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): So both of those -- both of
24 those -- both of those are acts of destruction. Those
25 acts of destruction is what the Canadian economy is

1 based on. To gain full, unrestricted access to what
2 they call resources that are our gifts of our land
3 that we are responsible for because we come from the
4 land, they take us out of the way. Initially they
5 signed these agreements, these documents, these
6 treaties, these doctrines and in order to not be held
7 legally, financially responsible for those agreements
8 which were made in good faith for the first Innu, if
9 they eliminate the descendants of the people who
10 signed it and the people of the land now they have
11 full access. So both the Canadian economy at its
12 inception and today are founded primarily on the
13 murder, not the death, the murder of our women. It's
14 happening while we sit here.

15 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yeah.

16 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): We look at the connection between
17 Justin Trudeau saying he supports this Inquiry then
18 approving pipelines, approving dams, not stepping in
19 for fish farms, not stepping in for logging, pushing
20 mining, pushing [unintelligible] (mining) because what comes
21 with those [unintelligible] and band council comes
22 with those is the infrastructure that then requires
23 the -- the underground economy which the number one
24 commodity is our women.

25 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Yeah.

1 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay.

2 MS. REBECCA MOORE: And so with that and that mention of their
3 descendants, who Taylor and I are, we are direct
4 descendants of Jean-Baptist Cope who signed the
5 treaty, Chief Jean-Baptist Cope who signed the treaty
6 of 1752, the peace and friendship treaty.

7 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay. That's what you were saying --

8 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yes. So we are here and we are here to
9 assert the treaty and that's what we are going to do
10 and -- but that's also what puts us in great jeopardy
11 as well.

12 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Can I propose this: That there's
13 beautiful, strong, amazing women across Canada and I
14 know some of us discuss we want to put in place
15 some -- to help the report because it's -- we have a
16 beginning and an end date for this mandate so we want
17 to make sure that we put as much as we can strong
18 information with facts with -- you know, or I believe
19 that if's not a paper it's a voice that become a fact
20 for me, okay, that's my school of thinking. And we
21 want to create a -- a -- a space where we can bring
22 women across Canada who, like you, defending, push
23 because we don't hear enough and we could make it ...

24 You want to say something?

25 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE~~ SPEAKER (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): Can I suggest you

1 some -- I just had a brain fart, okay.

2 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay.

3 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): You know where they

4 have - what do you call it? Expert hearings?

5 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: That's it. That's it.

6 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): That's where it is, expert

7 hearing.

8 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Yeah, for me an expert, it's somebody who

9 has a passion.

10 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): Yeah.

11 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: A family member, a -- a warrior.

12 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): Yeah.

13 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: You don't need to have 13 degrees to be

14 an expert --

15 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): Yeah.

16 MS. REBECCA MOORE: -- and -- or on specific issue and this one

17 a year ago I heard Missing and Murdered and it -- and

18 it was you in Vancouver [unintelligible] --

19 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): Yeah.

20 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: -- so it -- we have to put it there

21 officially.

22 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): Yeah. And I think that

23 that's your beginning --

24 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Oui.

25 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): -- of everything right

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1 there because when they know the history exactly what you're
2 saying, you know, it's the international Indian laws
3 and that too.

4 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER : Yeah.

5 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): We can't say too much
6 because we're, you know, part of the change here but I -- I --
7 I would really like to take off that hat to be a part
8 of, you know, that expert hearing because this is what
9 we've been doing for over --

10 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay.

11 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): -- 50 years, 40, 50 years.

12 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay.

13 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): I really have to - sorry,
14 but she has to do the closing remark and they're waiting for
15 you.

16 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Oh, okay.

17 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Is that okay?

18 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. REBECCA MOORE): Oh, yeah.

19 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: But it's not over.

20 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): It's not over.

21 MS. REBECCA MOORE: It's not over.

22 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: It's not over. That's how I see it. If
23 it's not me, it's --

24 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): But that expert hearing --

25 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: -- Bernie, it's not Bernie, it's the

1 research team.

2 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): Yeah.

3 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yeah.

4 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: And we're connected now on both.

5 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Yeah, we're all connected.

6 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): Yeah. So we're going to

7 network this together and there's other --

8 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Okay.

9 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): -- powerhouses.

10 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yeah. Because my personal agenda for the

11 rest of my life and -- is to bring my nation back up

12 where it should be on an international level and we

13 are not wards of the federal government of Canada --

14 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Mm-hmm.

15 MS. REBECCA MOORE: -- and we should not be. That's not our

16 place.

17 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Just before we close, we're just

18 supposed to -- I know Elizabeth Marshall commented and

19 just the -- I just wanted to reiterate the systemic

20 issue of -- of children going from CPS to the justice

21 system and then, you know, the cycle of violence that

22 keeps that perpetuating and how much that, you know,

23 plays a part in the destruction of -- of our communities

24 but here on ~~Mi'gma'gi~~ (Mi'kmaq) land, I actually

25 don't know how Canada has any right to have any

1 justice on Mi'gma'gi (Mi'kmaq) people.

2 MS. REBECCA MOORE: I feel the same way. I -- yes.

3 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): I don't think there is any kind of

4 paper that exists that has any legal authority given to

5 Canada to give them justice over our people.

6 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS): That's why you need to

7 use, like, the Humans Rights, the International Human Rights law.

8 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: And connecting the dots --

9 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci.

10 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: -- of people --

11 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci.

12 MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Okay. Just wait, before --

13 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Wait.

14 MS. SHELBY THOMAS: -- we go off the record, I just want

15 everyone to confirm that every statement they made is

16 voluntary --

17 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Yes.

18 MS. SHELBY THOMAS: -- today.

19 MS. REBECCA MOORE: Yes.

20 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Yeah.

21 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Voluntary.

22 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: And before we --

23 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci.

24 ~~UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER~~ (MS. AUDREY SIEGL): -- go off the record,

25 I'd like to say [Musqueam language spoken] to each of you for

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1 being here, for sharing your truth, for standing in
2 your power and honouring all the women who came before
3 you and all the ones who will come after you because
4 this is how we change it.

5 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci.

7 MS. SHELBY THOMAS: And this is the closing statement of
8 Rebecca Moore and ...

9 (MS. TAYLOR PAUL): Taylor Paul.

10 MS. SHELBY THOMAS: ... Taylor Paul and it is 6 p.m. in
11 Membertou, Nova Scotia.

12 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 6 P.M.)

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I, Jennifer Close, Official Reporter in the Province of British Columbia, Canada, do hereby certify:

That this is a true and accurate transcript of these proceedings that were recorded on sound recording apparatus, transcribed to the best of my skill and ability in accordance with applicable standards.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this day of , 2018.

Jennifer Close, Official Reporter