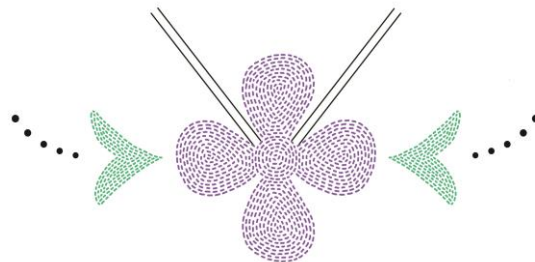


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Best Western Nor'wester Hotel, Pointe du Meuron
Thunder Bay, Ontario**



PUBLIC

Tuesday December 5, 2017

Public Volume 39

**Claudine (Cee Jai) Julian & Rhoda Julian,
In relation to Shayla Julian & Norma George**

Heard by Commissioner Brian Eyolfson

Commission Counsel: Wendy van Tongeren

INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.

II

APPEARANCES

Aboriginal Legal Services	Non-appearance
Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario	Sandra Montour (Representative)
Animakee Wazhing #37, Eagle Lake First Nation, ANAFN/Grassy Narrows First Nation, Obashkaanda-gaang, Ojibway Nation of Saugeen	Non-appearance
Assembly of First Nations	Non-appearance
Association of Native Child Family Services Association of Ontario (ANCFSAO)	Katherine Hensel (Counsel), Deanna Keeshig (Representative)
Government of Canada	Anne Turley, Sarah Churchill-Joly (Counsel), Jennifer Clarke (Paralegal)
Government of Ontario	Catherine Rhineland, Emma Haydon (Counsel)
Independent First Nations	Katherine Hensel (Counsel), Deanna Keeshig (Representative)
London Abused Women's Centre	Non-appearance
Mishkeegogamaang First Nation	Non-appearance
Ontario Native Women's Association	Robert C. Edwards (Counsel), Christina Comacchio (Counsel), Courtney Skye (Representative)
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik, AnanauKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women's Association Inc., Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre, Manitoba Inuit Association	Non-appearance

III
APPEARANCES

Sioux Lookout Collective	Non-appearance
Thunder Bay Police Services	Tiffany O'Hearn Davies, Edward Marrocco (Counsel)
Toronto Police Services	Non-appearance
Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak / Women of the Métis Nation	Non-appearance

Note: For the purpose of establishing this record of attendance, counsel and representatives are considered present whether they attended one or all of the public hearings held over the course of the day at the Best Western Nor'wester Hotel McGillivray-Kaministiquia and Pointe du Meuron rooms.

IV

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Public Volume 39

December 5, 2017

Witnesses: Claudine (Cee Jai) Julian & Rhoda Julian

In relation to Shayla Julian and Norma George

Commissioner: Brian Eyolfson

Commission Counsel: Wendy van Tongeren

Grandmothers, Elders, Knowledge-keepers: Laureen "Blu" Waters-

Gaudio, Marlene Pierre, Isabelle Mercier, Audrey Siegl, Rita

Fenton, Ma-Nee Chacaby, Isabelle Mercier, Mary Crate

Clerk: Gladys Wraight

Registrar: Bryan Zandberg

PAGE

Testimony of Claudine (Cee Jai) Julian & Rhoda Julian 1

Reporter's certification 66

V

LIST OF EXHIBITS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
-----	-------------	------

Witnesses: Claudine (Cee Jai) Julian, Rhoda Julian

No exhibits marked.

Thunder Bay, Ontario

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

--- Upon commencing on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 11:29
a.m.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Good morning, Mr.
Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON: Good morning.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: My name is Wendy
van Tongeren, V-A-N-T-O-N-G-E-R-E-N. And I am commission
counsel. And we're ready to proceed with the next
scheduled matter. And I have the honour of introducing
this family. The -- today is December 5th, 2017, and it's
11:29. And I've introduced myself, and so I'm going to ask
everybody who's seated with me here to introduce
themselves. I know that we are contemplating today that
there will be two speakers, and then there is Veronica, who
is a -- acting as a support person. And then, there are
other support ladies in the -- the back who will introduce
themselves. So I'll hand the -- the mic now to Cee Jai.

MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: (Speaking in Indigenous
language). My name is Cee Jai Julian. Is that it?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah.
(Indiscernible).

MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: Okay. Okay.

MS. RHODA JULIAN: Hi, my name is Rhoda
Julian.

Hearing - Public
Claudine (Cee Jai) Julian
& Rhoda Julian
(Shayla Julian & Norma George)

2

1 **MS. VERONICA IZA:** Hello, my name is
2 Veronica Iza.

3 **MS. SHARON JOHNSON:** *Bonjour*, my name is
4 Sharon Johnson (ph).

5 **MS. GLORIA JOHNSON:** *Bonjour*, my name is
6 Gloria Johnson (ph).

7 **MS. MARCELLA JOHNSON:** *Bonjour*, my name is
8 Marcella Johnson (ph).

9 **MS. VICKY LA FORGE:** Vicky La Forge (ph).

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Thank you. So this
11 is a -- a public hearing this morning. And the -- the
12 first speaker will be Cee Jai, and she has asked to affirm
13 holding the -- the feather. Did you want a -- a smaller
14 feather?

15 **MS. CEE JAI JULIAN:** (Indiscernible).

16 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** All right. Thank
17 you.

18 **MS. GLADYS WRAIGHT:** Cee Jai, my name is
19 Gladys, I'm the Registrar here today.

20 **CLAUDINE (CEE JAI) JULIAN, Affirmed:**

21 **MS. GLADYS WRAIGHT:** Thank you.

22 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And the next
23 speaker will be Rhoda Julian. And the same thing, she will
24 affirm on the feather.

25 **MS. GLADYS WRAIGHT:** Hi, Rhoda.

1 MS. RHODA JULIAN: Hi.

2 RHODA JULIAN, Affirmed:

3 MS. GLADYS WRAIGHT: Thank you.

4 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Thank you. Okay.

5 Hi.

6 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: Hi.

7 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So here we are.

8 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: M'hm.

9 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: We've talked about
10 this. And how are you feeling now?

11 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: I think I'm okay.

12 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Good.

13 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: Yeah.

14 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Well, if you need
15 anything, you make sure you let us know.

16 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: Okay.

17 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: We can take a break
18 if you want, or talk about something else if it's too
19 difficult, or whatever. I'm going to -- okay, did you want
20 to say something?

21 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: An eggnog latte from
22 Starbucks.

23 (LAUGHTER)

24 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Well, I promised
25 you that I will go to Starbucks after. I hope I have snow

1 tires.

2 (LAUGHTER)

3 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: But -- but thank
4 you for reminding me (indiscernible).

5 (LAUGHTER)

6 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So maybe we
7 should start by -- you know there's people who are looking
8 forward to hearing what you have to say, your narrative,
9 and your insights, and wisdom. So why don't we start by
10 you just giving a brief outline of who -- who you are.
11 Like, who are you? And who is it that these people are
12 listening to this morning?

13 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: (Speaking Indigenous
14 language). My name is Cee Jai Julian. I come from the
15 Carrier Nation from Fort St. James. My reserve's called,
16 Nak'azdli. And I belong to the Beaver clan. My Indian
17 name that was given to me is "Shining Eagle Woman". And
18 I'm a mother, I'm a sister, I'm a daughter, and I am a
19 strong warrior woman. And I am also a survivor and a
20 family member.

21 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So I feel
22 quite humble. Thank you very much, again, for being here.
23 I know that you travelled a -- a distance to be here. And
24 it's a -- a -- been a real commitment on your part. So I'm
25 going to hand the microphone over to you now, and my joe

1 [sic] -- job, as I told you, if we were a rock band, I'd be
2 the conductor.

3 **MS. CEE JAI JULIAN:** Okay.

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So it's just up to
5 you to bring your magic, all right? And -- but if you need
6 your -- any help from me at all, I'm here, okay?

7 **MS. CEE JAI JULIAN:** (Speaking Indigenous
8 language). I'm just trying to take this moment in. I
9 can't believe this is happening. It's been a long time, a
10 long -- a long journey for me to be able to have my voice
11 and my presence acknowledged. And I'm looking at the
12 medicines and when the grandmothers sang me in, my
13 family -- I was praying to the Creator to help me. To help
14 me be strong, and stand up for myself, and for my sisters
15 that have passed on to the spirit world. And also, for my
16 sisters that are still struggling in the Downtown Eastside.

17 I'm the youngest of my family -- my -- my
18 siblings. My mother is a beautiful woman. I love my
19 mother, and I'm grateful for her today. She gave me my
20 life and my -- she -- she gave birth to me. And I don't
21 want to tell you my age, but I guess I will. I was born
22 May 1st, 1968, in Vanderhoof, B.C. I travelled a long way
23 to come here. And I just -- I remember, like, my mom was a
24 single mother. Her partners -- I have an older sister that
25 sits beside me and I have -- I had a brother, but he had

1 passed on.

2 And I remember my upbringing is -- my mom is
3 a survivor of residential school, Lejac. And she did,
4 like, I think, 12 years or 14 years in Lejac Residential
5 School. And she endured all the things that happened to
6 people in residential school. She -- I remember, like, her
7 sharing to me about the story of residential school and
8 what happened to her, and I didn't understand the impact
9 that it had on her. My mom's -- was -- is a recovering
10 alcoholic. And my mother would be drinking and she would
11 start talking about her experience. And she would cry.
12 And I was just a little girl and I didn't understand until
13 I got much older. So what I know that I can speak of my
14 truth in the history of our family, is what I remember is,
15 and what I know of, and what -- how I became my father's
16 name is Tommy George from Takla Landing First Nations. I
17 didn't know my father as well as I would have wanted to. I
18 knew he was my father. My mom's previous partners for my
19 sister and her -- and my brother, they had passed on. So
20 she -- she had many deaths and losses with her partners,
21 and became a single mother.

22 My real father was a violent man. And he
23 would struggle with his anger and he would hurt my mom.
24 When I was just a baby in the crib, and my brother was in
25 the crib with me, my brother and me -- I feel like my

Hearing - Public
Claudine (Cee Jai) Julian
& Rhoda Julian
(Shayla Julian & Norma George)

7

1 spirit knows violence. It remembers the trauma of hearing
2 what happened and what my father did to my mother. He --
3 he stabbed my mother five times. And there was no one
4 there to help her. She just had me and my brother in the
5 crib. And eventually, I think, somebody did find her. And
6 she ended up in the hospital, in ICU, fighting for her
7 life.

8 And me and my brother ended up in the foster
9 care system. I don't know where my sister was. She was
10 probably in Four Mile (ph) with my grannie. And us under 1
11 years-old -- and my mom fought hard to stay alive for us.
12 And, yeah. And -- so when I think about the things that
13 happened in the foster home, I don't know, I just remember
14 the white people taking care of me. I remember my brother
15 would pee in the bed, and he would get lickings. And then,
16 he was older than me. And I remember we were the only two
17 children with brown skin, and the rest of them had white
18 skin.

19 And I remember they would have, like, turkey
20 dinners, or I guess Thanksgiving, or Christmas special
21 dinners, and -- in a foster home I remember they would be
22 setting up the tables and I knew something important was
23 going to happen. And I think about, you know, I love my
24 pets today, and -- and they had their dishes on the --
25 their own dishes on the ground. But in this foster home,

Hearing - Public
Claudine (Cee Jai) Julian
& Rhoda Julian
(Shayla Julian & Norma George)

8

1 the white family would eat at the table, and me and my
2 brother were on the ground eating. I don't understand why
3 that happened. Why couldn't we sit at the table? And
4 being that young, all I kept thinking was, because I have
5 brown skin and I'm not white. I don't have -- look like
6 them.

7 I remember when my sister would come and
8 visit, I would get so excited for mom and my sister coming
9 to visit us. I didn't understand why they would just come
10 to visit me, and they couldn't take me home. But I'd be so
11 excited. We think about little kids today, when it's
12 Christmas time, the night before Christmas they'd be so
13 excited, jumping up and down. It's kind of like what I
14 felt when I knew my family, my mom and my sister would come
15 and visit. And I have scars on my body today, deep scars,
16 visible ones, and the ones that are in my heart, and in my
17 spirit.

18 I remember the time when I was so excited.
19 I can't wait to see my older sister, and then the foster
20 parents' children, I think they were jealous, and saw me
21 happy, instead of being on the floor on the ground like a
22 dog. And looking out the window waiting for my family to
23 come and see me, their child bit me and I cried. And I
24 still feel that scar in the back. And just trying to take
25 that excitement away from me. I remember that. Never

1 really shared that, and I didn't want to hurt my sister, or
2 my mom.

3 They would make us clean up the poop from
4 all the animals. And we would smell. Just little. I
5 would have rather done the dishes, or something. They made
6 us work in our foster home.

7 There's some parts of my childhood that I
8 don't remember, and I can move forward to -- when we lived
9 in Prince George. I think my mom took us off the reserve,
10 and she left the reserve because of my dad and his family,
11 which is my family. She brought us to Prince George and
12 same thing, violence. I learnt that. I learnt how to be
13 afraid at such a young age. I remember my mom, being a
14 single mother, she would have boyfriends. And they weren't
15 very nice men that came into our home. My mom being
16 vulnerable. Must have been hard for her. Think we lived
17 off welfare all my life, in poverty.

18 My mom was -- my mom is a good mother. When
19 she drank, it wasn't good. My mom had a boyfriend, and I
20 think I was in kindergarten, and I guess he was wanted --
21 had a warrant out for his arrest, and he escaped from jail
22 or something. And the RCMP came into our home. They
23 didn't knock, they just barged right in and I didn't
24 understand what was happening. My mom's home was clean,
25 and I remember being so scared again, seeing those red and

1 blue flashing lights, and the stripe -- the yellow stripe
2 of the RCMP, and a gun being pointed at me, a rifle. And I
3 don't know why they would point a gun at a child. And
4 asking, "Where is he?" He was so loud. You hearing the
5 noise of their boots hitting our floor, looking all over
6 our home. I remember having to go to the bathroom, and the
7 bathroom was adjared, and I could see my mom's boyfriend
8 going like this to me. Telling me to be quiet. Silencing
9 me, and I did it. He eventually found him in that
10 bathroom.

11 And they took me and my sister to a foster
12 home again. I remember crying, not wanting to leave my
13 mom. And I remember arresting my mom. And when I talk
14 about it today with her, she didn't know he was wanted by
15 the police. And RCMP were big, tall white men, again. And
16 when they took us to that foster home, the first thing they
17 did was put us in the tub, hot water. I remember looking
18 up and seeing my brother there in his pyjamas, and he was
19 so excited to see us again. As soon as we got there, they
20 stripped us of all our clothes. And then, they put us in
21 that hot tub. I don't know if they were trying to scrub
22 the brownness off my skin.

23 The foster home was not a good foster home.
24 They'd lock us in downstairs. I remember having an
25 orange -- orange lunch kit. I was proud of that orange

1 lunch kit. But they hurt us there. There are other
2 memories that are coming to me of same thing -- the sexual
3 abuse, the violence, strappings, hearing my brother cry
4 because he would always pee his bed. They would always
5 lock us in the -- the basement. The -- the impact of --
6 well, you learn as a child.

7 When I was playing in a -- the playground --
8 I was playing in the playground and I remember this little
9 boy, same age as me, he wanted me to sit on his lap and go
10 down the slide. And I didn't want to. I wanted to go on
11 the slide by myself. He ended up beating me up. I was in
12 kindergarten. And I got a big, black eye. And I remember
13 crying and running home, running home to try to get the --
14 my parents -- my mom, or somebody to protect me. And all
15 they said was -- all the adults around me said that, "Look
16 how cute. Her boyfriend beat her up." And they all
17 laughed, and thought it was funny, or cute. And maybe that
18 was the first time I really believed that it was okay for
19 someone to beat me up, and hurt me. So today, I know
20 that's -- was wrong. I would never have my nieces, I would
21 never do that to my nieces today. It was instilled in
22 my -- my mind, and in my memory, my belief system, that
23 this was okay to -- to be hurt. Another way of not giving
24 me my voice. And learning that the places I want to go
25 to -- the places, the people that I think are going to

1 protect me, are not going to do that.

2 We were in and out of foster homes for --
3 all my life. Taken away from my brother and my sister. My
4 mom would struggle with her alcoholism. And we came
5 back -- came to Vancouver on the Greyhound bus. I always
6 remember my mom -- my mom was my hero. She still is today.
7 From when we went into Vancouver on the Greyhound bus with
8 my sister and my mom, I didn't know where we were going,
9 but somewhere new. I think my mom had the idea of, if I
10 get away from here, it'll be a better life for us. Going
11 to take my daughters with me. She must have fought hard
12 with her alcoholism to get us back. But being a single
13 mother, she may have not had as much support. If that was
14 happening to me in the foster homes when I was little, with
15 the word that comes to my mind is, racism.

16 When we went to Vancouver, my mom befriended
17 a white, Frenchman. He took us in, and he would buy us
18 anything that we wanted. Cookies, ice cream, he fed us,
19 and he housed us. I was a little girl. I started to trust
20 this person, thinking he's going to protect me, we're safe.
21 This man -- I lost my voice, and bad things started to
22 happen to us. I remember being so scared, and making us
23 watch those movies -- it was adult movies. And I'd be
24 thinking, we were going to watch cartoons. And I'd be
25 hiding on -- those tables, I forgot what they're called

1 right now -- coffee tables. And I'd hide behind the coffee
2 table, and he would be doing things to himself in front of
3 us girls. Just closing my eyes to not see what he was
4 doing.

5 I think I can count, there was all my
6 cousins and we still kept quiet. He would buy me
7 gingerbread cookies. I guess, that was his way of keeping
8 me quiet because at one time they were my favourite
9 cookies. I don't eat gingerbread cookies today. I hate
10 them. I hate that man for what he did to me. I was so
11 young, learning what adults do. I think there's 13 of us,
12 my cousins. I didn't know I was going to share that with
13 you, but it's just part of my history. You'll understand
14 it more when I tell you as I get -- when I get older in my
15 story of why I became a prostitute.

16 I know today, it's not normal. I remember,
17 you know, this whole belief system -- this belief system
18 that I just wanted my family -- I just wanted my family and
19 the love, and -- missing my family. I feel like doing
20 those sexual -- sexual favours for that man, the payment I
21 got was those gingerbread cookies.

22 Being bullied in school, in elementary
23 school, being ashamed of the colour of my skin. All the
24 poor children, all the kids that we hung out with, we were
25 poor. I'd be ashamed of bringing bannock. My mom always

1 makes good bannock, but I remember making -- having that
2 for our lunches, and I'd be ashamed to pull out my bannock
3 sandwich. Just saying, today, I wouldn't.

4 (LAUGHTER)

5 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: Bannock and bologna.
6 But I went as far as -- we never did -- I think one of my
7 cousins did tell on that Frenchman. But they didn't come
8 and talk to us about what he did to us. No one came and
9 told. We all knew it was happening, but we're silence.
10 But my one cousin, she finally said something. But they
11 never came to talk to us. Being a little girl, I was
12 shamed -- ashamed of myself. I don't know what ever
13 happened to that court case with that -- no idea.

14 Growing up in foster care, I just wanted to
15 be loved, and not live out of a suitcase. I wanted to be
16 with my mom, and my brother, and sister. All the broken
17 promises from social workers.

18 When the first boyfriend, or little boy that
19 I liked and had a crush on -- I met him when I was 12
20 years-old. We were all in a group home together. Then I
21 met him again. In group homes back then, you're only
22 allowed to stay there for six weeks, and then they move you
23 to another home, living out of a suitcase. I eventually
24 ran up -- ran into him again, and he became my first love,
25 and first intimate person that I was with. He started to

1 beat me up. Instead of eye shadow, makeup, there's bruises
2 on my eyes. I don't know if the foster homes, or the group
3 homes, or my social workers, I don't remember them trying
4 to help me. But I thought he really loved me, and I just
5 kept going back. Just kind of like a -- today I think it's
6 a sickness, or something. The belief system changed, so --
7 but he was so violent and jealous with me. Tell me what to
8 wear, and a lot of alcohol, and drugs in that relationship.
9 And I would never fight back.

10 The foster -- I mean the social worker --
11 when I turned 18 and they call it aging-out today, it's the
12 same stuff that the government's doing to the kids today,
13 the youth. They did that to me already. It hasn't
14 changed. Living in hotels because they considered us
15 delinquents. That was the name they called us. Today they
16 call that at-high-risk youth. Hard to place, so they throw
17 us in a hotel. Trying to fend for our self. When I fought
18 the social worker -- aging-out, I started to get into drugs
19 and alcohol. And I guess, to deal with my hurt. Probably
20 a black-out drinker right away, instantly. It wasn't
21 gradually, it was instant. In a foster home, or the social
22 worker -- she told me to come on my birthday, May 1st. I
23 was turning 19. We decided to smoke a joint before we went
24 in there. And then, she must of knew we were high. And
25 she had this piece of paper, like a cheque, "Oh, I wrote a

1 \$375.00 cheque for you to get clothes and age-out." She
2 ripped it in front of my face. She ripped it up. She
3 goes, "I guess I'll see you in the welfare line-up." I
4 think that social worker was with me for four years, and I
5 thought she kind of cared about me. But as soon as I aged-
6 out, that's what she did for me on my birthday.

7 Eventually, I got a job and try to live on
8 my own. I didn't know how to live, like, it was all new to
9 me. Got away from that boyfriend. And kept going back
10 though. The things that I learnt. I remember looking for
11 my family, always wanting to be around my family. My -- on
12 my dad's side, and knowing about them. They're older than
13 me, and just wishing that I could look at somebody that
14 looks like me, know that they're -- they're my real family.
15 They're my blood.

16 I had a life-changing moment. One night in
17 1988, being a victim and a survivor, and what I told you
18 already, you might be able to understand what I'm going to
19 tell you now. I started drinking, got off work, people
20 were coming over to the house. I had a boyfriend, again,
21 the violence followed me. I blacked out and I came to, and
22 I was in a jail cell. I didn't know what happened, or why
23 I was there. Eventually, I was -- I learnt this, I took a
24 life. That boyfriend was going to beat me up, and I ended
25 up taking his life because it was either my life or his.

1 And then, I got punished. I still live with that guilt,
2 and remorse today, doesn't ever go away. I am so sorry to
3 that family. I can't take it back. If I could, I would.

4 I ended up incarcerated. And those women
5 that I was in with, we all had the same story. Thirty of
6 us on one tier. Eighteen of us were in for the same
7 reason. Became sisterhood. We're all Indigenous, from all
8 across Canada. That was a really big turning point in my
9 life where I was able to learn that I was an alcoholic, and
10 I had a disease because I went to my first A.A. meeting.
11 First time I seen a smudge, I got invited to a sisterhood.
12 What's a sisterhood, a healing circle? Well, I wanted to
13 get out of my jail cell, so I was, like, "Okay. I'll go
14 with you." So same with the A.A. meeting, we wanted to get
15 out of the -- but that elder, the first time I heard
16 something so beautiful, is they lit the smudge and the
17 medicines. You smell it, and sitting in a circle so we
18 could all be equal.

19 And then, one of the sister, "If you're on
20 your moon time, you can't smudge." I was, like, looked at
21 them, "What do you mean, moon time? Like, it's day time."
22 And I didn't understand, and that elder was so kind. She
23 says to me, "Well, your moon time is your special time, the
24 sacred time." And I was looking at her. "It's when a
25 woman has her period, but it's very sacred, very

1 beautiful." And I cried. I cried when I heard that
2 because I never heard someone speak about me being a woman,
3 and being beautiful, and having that sacred time. I never
4 heard that ever, and I remember that today. I love that
5 elder. She's still in my life today.

6 We'd sit around the big drum and learn the
7 songs. Learn how to pray. I would put my hand out -- my
8 fist out every day because I lost my freedom for what I had
9 done. I had all the supports in that institution. I had
10 my babies in that institution, my daughters. I put a tear
11 drop on my eye to honour that life. As soon as I got out
12 of jail, out of the prison, I didn't have that support
13 system any more. My sisters were all inside. The elder
14 was in -- at that institution. And went back to that
15 darkness, that dark road again. Started drinking,
16 drugging.

17 And found out that I had a -- my dad's -- my
18 half sisters on my dad's side, Norma George -- Norma
19 George, Mary George, and Tom -- Vancouver first, Downtown
20 Eastside. I met them in the Balmoral Hotel. When I look
21 at the -- looked at them, they looked like me. They were
22 brown, very beautiful. They were my blood. And I stought
23 [sic] out their love. They were struggling in their own
24 pain. That's where it comes to missing and murdered
25 Indigenous -- Indigenous women and girls, my sister Norma,

1 she's 30 years-old. She's so beautiful, so funny, such a
2 great sense of humour. She welcomed me in right away, her
3 and Tom.

4 Tom was 26. 2017, the -- the drugs and
5 alcohol -- little bit of different name, back then it was
6 called China White. The heroin. Today, same brackets in
7 the same family, it's called fentanyl. My brother O.D.'d,
8 still had the needle in his arm. My sister, Norma, took
9 that really hard. All of us did. Four months later --
10 after, Norma went missing. The last time I saw her was on
11 September 28, 1992. She was heading up to where the stroll
12 is, where all the working girls go. She said to me, "Go
13 home baby girl. Go home baby girl. Go home baby girl."
14 And I went back to the suburbs of Vancouver. This was the
15 last time I hugged her. If I knew that was the last time I
16 was going to see my sister alive, and would never of let
17 her go. When I saw her, she had earrings on -- native
18 earrings on, and she had a purse, and she had all her
19 clothes on, her makeup was perfect. I would always go
20 downtown to try to find her, bring her home, and feed her,
21 and wash her laundry, and give her a safe place to sleep.
22 But then, she went missing that night. Same day as my
23 dad's birthday, my real dad, Tommy George (ph), September
24 28th was his birthday.

25 We started putting posters up for her in the

Hearing - Public
Claudine (Cee Jai) Julian
& Rhoda Julian
(Shayla Julian & Norma George)

20

1 Downtown Eastside. Trying to look for her. She stayed in
2 contact with me. All of a sudden, it just stopped. And I
3 don't even know how many days later, I was at home with my
4 daughters, and -- I was at home with my daughters, then,
5 knock, knock, knock, really loud. I opened the door, and
6 it's homicide detectives. My -- my babies were there.
7 Then they told me, "Are you the sister of Norma George?" I
8 said, "Yeah, that's my older sister." "Are you Claudine
9 Julian?" "Yes, this is me." "We found your sister, and
10 she's deceased. She's dead." I think that's the words he
11 said to me. Then they left. They didn't tell me any
12 support, or they didn't give me no information. And I was
13 crying. The only support I had was my two little
14 daughters, you know. They just left me with no support,
15 or -- that's messed up. And I had to make arrangements and
16 deal with the coroner, and the police, and the welfare, the
17 band office, to try and bring her home to Takla Landing.
18 It was such hard work to make those arrangements. You go
19 in shock.

20 I don't know what happened. They -- Norma
21 was found in Aldergrove, in an industrial area. She was
22 naked, she didn't have her earrings on, or any clothes, or
23 her purse. She was curled up in a fetal position. She
24 must have been so cold. Took a long time for the
25 coroners -- I feel like somebody dumped my sister off.

Hearing - Public
Claudine (Cee Jai) Julian
& Rhoda Julian
(Shayla Julian & Norma George)

21

1 It's like 45 minutes away from the Downtown Eastside, at
2 Main and Hastings. How did she get from "A" to "B"? Where
3 were her clothes? Where was her earrings she was wearing?
4 Where was her purse? I guess she was -- she was badly
5 decomposed, so they didn't let me I.D. her. How they
6 I.D.'d her was through fingerprints. The newspaper article
7 said that Norma died cold and alone.

8 She -- she had me. She had family that
9 loved her. We put those posters up looking for her. To
10 read that statement, "She died cold and alone." She had
11 family that loved her; my nieces -- my daughters, her
12 nieces. They'd get excited whenever they see their auntie
13 come in, put on her shoes. She would wear high-heeled
14 shoes. And my daughter would put them on and, click,
15 click, click. My daughters loved their auntie, you know,
16 my sister. We loved Norma.

17 It's kind of sad because my other family on
18 my dad's side, my sister that's still alive, the older one,
19 she tells me not to advocate for -- or talk about her
20 because she's not my sister, but she is. We have the same
21 father. The same blood that I craved all my life for. And
22 when she disappeared, and then she got found. How did she
23 get out there?

24 I started to drink and use drugs after Norma
25 died. I fell really hard. I lost my brother, Tom, and

1 then, Norma. I started using drugs. I started to fix. I
2 just wanted it to go away, the pain, being rejected by my
3 father's side of the family. Having no Tom and Norma, the
4 only two that accepted me with the love. They were gone.
5 And struggling away, and ended up in the Downtown Eastside.
6 I got really bad in -- really bad time in my life. Really
7 bad time in my life. Started working the street to provide
8 for my habit. Wasn't gingerbread cookies this time. It
9 was a fix of heroin and cocaine that I was seeking out.

10 Today, I know it's my trauma, grief and
11 loss. I know how to take care of myself today, but back
12 then, I had no idea how to take care of myself. In the
13 '90s, in the Downtown Eastside, all the women, all my
14 friends started going missing. The same posters, hanging
15 them up. Family members looking for them. We would
16 celebrate our Christmases and our birthdays together. Our
17 children's birthdays together. We would cry, we would get
18 high, we would laugh, we would struggle around down there.
19 We trusted them, and I loved them. They shared their
20 stories with me, and we shared our pain.

21 I hated going to the needle exchange because
22 on my left side, there would be poster after poster after
23 poster. It's like, which sister -- which sister of mine is
24 gone now? I still remember the last places I was -- saw
25 them. I come here with my survivor story, the hurt, the

1 not knowing, and the way being on the street, there was,
2 like, a -- there's friendships down there, and a family.
3 They were my street family. We're all hurting, but yet we
4 had each other. Each of us started to spot each other,
5 which car would pull up -- seeing the headlights, trying to
6 remember the licence plate numbers. They'd get in, says,
7 "I'll be back." Trying to watch out that they come back.

8 And the drugs and alcohol, and so powerful;
9 brought me to that corner, and them too. I got pins in my
10 hip in 1998. I got beat up by a pimp. Walked around on
11 the street, it was Easter time, I remember that because I
12 was with my friend, Sarah de Vries (ph). Not with
13 disrespect for putting her name out there, but she was my
14 friend. We hung around. We struggled. She was half a
15 block, I could see her, try to spot for her too. I
16 (indiscernible) -- I got pushed, and beat up by that pimp
17 and I wasn't on that corner. She told me she was scared
18 someone was going to hurt her, and I didn't know what to do
19 because I was struggling myself. And before I got beat up
20 that once, I'd go tell Wish because that was a drop-in
21 centre for all of us working girls, where they would feed
22 us. They were good to us. Go tell Elaine (ph) at Wish
23 that this is happening. Go tell police officer that was a
24 liaison worker for us, go tell him. I don't know what to
25 do. We'll spot for you. But then, I got my hip broken. I

1 wasn't there then -- I -- to spot for her. They found
2 Sarah at the Pickton Farm. Oh, my friend. Not that bad. I
3 can do this. Hold this.

4 You know, today I -- I go to ceremonies, and
5 I -- prayer ties, and pray with it. You can burn it. The
6 one elder told me that -- when he gave me the -- it was
7 wrapped up. I remember doing 405 tobacco ties for
8 sundance. Holy. Days that are -- ahh, what can I pray
9 for. Is trying to figure out what to pray for. I prayed
10 for new shoe laces. You just don't know what to pray for,
11 you know. And then, my -- long string, you have to take
12 care of that, yeah? And then, I remember that one elder,
13 "Oh, no. Look." And it would be on the ground, and open
14 like it is now. And then, the elder said, your prayers
15 have been answered. My prayers have been answered.

16 I believe that today. I took it really hard
17 when all my friends started going missing, you know. I
18 remember on the street, by the Carnegie at Main and
19 Hastings, we would all talk. We knew there was a serial
20 killer downtown taking our women; my friends, my sisters,
21 my companions, my peers. I also knew they were mothers,
22 daughters, grandmothers. We would say -- I remembered
23 having a clear conscience, not being on drugs, but just
24 knowing that way of life of that black row, but knowing
25 that they were taken. I remember saying three things, it's

1 either somebody that had -- is a police officer; he has to
2 have land because where's he putting the bodies of my
3 friends; and he's got to have tons of money, lots and lots
4 of money. We would talk amongst ourselves. Homeless --
5 they called us drug-addicted prostitutes. That's such a
6 wrong statement to say that about me today. Those women
7 that are still out there are my friends. We were more than
8 those words.

9 In 19 -- no, 2002, or 2003, still all out
10 there and working the street, and trying to survive. The
11 headline news that they went to some farm out in POCO (ph),
12 they arrested somebody. Damn, I hated those media. Are
13 they in the room? I say that because they had all these
14 cameras just taking pictures of us women that were
15 vulnerable and struggling away, you know. Sure, we were on
16 that street and that corner, but, like, what right do you
17 have to take a picture of me? Did you ask me? Did you
18 pass me tobacco? I probably would have said, "Give me
19 money." But, you know, it's kind of funny, but I would
20 have. But, you know, they took random pictures of us
21 because they found somebody that had taken my friends.
22 That had taken my sisters. It was horrible. America's
23 Most Wanted filming us, trying to ask us questions, pushing
24 that mic in our face. It's, like, excuse my language, but
25 blah-blah-blah-blah-off, you know. Like, seriously?

1 I hated looking at that wall at DES (ph)
2 because the posters started to come down. Wouldn't you
3 know, the posters would come down -- you know that they had
4 found them. Hearing the graphic details of them. It was
5 so horrible. It hurts still today. On The Province
6 newspaper, "Drug-Addicted Prostitute Found," and they'd
7 have their names. I always think of their children because
8 we would be -- well, we -- they were with me. We were
9 alive together, and we were celebrating their children's
10 birthday. We would sing, Happy Birthday to their child.
11 And they'd do that for my children. They were my friends.
12 And I loved them even though we were struggling together.
13 We had that companionship. We had that understanding of
14 one another.

15 I heard why they were out there. Some of
16 their stories still haunt me today because of what they
17 went through. Being victimized. I think the drugs and
18 alcohol, at one time, saved me from the trauma. It
19 protected me in some way. You may not understand that,
20 Commissioner Brian. I kept doing drugs just to get away
21 and not hear about my friends. I didn't need to hear that.
22 I didn't want it to be - to believe that -- that was --
23 happened to them. I appreciate you for hearing my survivor
24 story. My voice is loud. I appreciate that, you have no
25 idea. So many of those women I could -- I have ten fingers

1 and ten toes. Double that. I could name all of -- all my
2 friends' names. All my sisters.

3 It scared me. I wanted to get off the
4 street back then when all that happened. I left there,
5 started going to meetings and -- A.A. meetings and N.A.
6 meetings because I remembered what I'd learnt in that
7 institution. That I had that disease. Started going to
8 healing circles. (Speaking Indigenous language). Started
9 to ask for help. Wanting to change my life. Trying to
10 honour my friends, but it hurt. I didn't know what else to
11 do. Started to go to the sweat lodge to try to heal my
12 spirit, try to get better for my family. I try to do the
13 right thing, honour my friends, and started to join up for
14 the memorial marches in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver
15 on February 14th. Started to drum, sing the Women's
16 Warrior Song.

17 Hearing all charges, and all the DNA, I
18 didn't understand all that stuff, you know. Like, didn't
19 understand. Turn on the T.V., it was hard. It was hard to
20 change. Cleaning up in an SRO, single room occupancy, in
21 the Downtown Eastside, me and my boyfriend at that time. I
22 remember he was, like, crying to me, "Cee Jai, we don't
23 have to live like this, and we don't have to die like
24 this." And I was on the stroll, but he was my person. He
25 begged me, "Please, we can do this." So I listened. I was

1 sharing this with my sisters yesterday, last night. What I
2 had to do to get off that street. I threw all my working
3 clothes away in the alley. Threw all -- all the drug
4 paraphernalia out. We're done.

5 Started going to the meetings. We blew all
6 our money that first night, and we -- I remember, "What are
7 we going to do for tobacco? We have no smokes." So we
8 started to go butt picking up on Robson Street because the
9 rich people threw out big butts, anyway. Real big ones. I
10 started collecting pop bottles. Didn't turn the T.V. on
11 because all of the Pickton stuff was always on the news.
12 But that's what we would do. Walk out of -- walk to the
13 meetings. Go to any length to just get to a meeting. Ask
14 the bus driver, "Please, can we have a ride? We want to go
15 to a A.A. meeting and a N.A. meeting." They would let us
16 on. Sometimes they would just close the door on us, but,
17 "Okay, we'll ask the next guy." You know, if not, we'd
18 just walk there because I wanted to get better, you know.
19 I wanted to change. You see those people with shopping
20 carts.

21 I remember getting an SRO because I was
22 homeless on the street, crawled out of that back alley, you
23 know. This minister guy, or chaplain, or, like, church
24 person, or whatever they call them, anyone that's
25 Christian, forgive me. But you know what I mean, right?

1 But he actually believed us that we wanted to stay sober,
2 so he got in a -- us a single room occupancy in the
3 Downtown Eastside. But in that rooming house, there was
4 Christians, and they were all clean and sober. He got us
5 that room and we were warm and started cleaning up. And --
6 but it was hard because it was so different from sleeping
7 outside, and being on the street. I think the first few
8 days we were, like, "Grab our pillows and our blankets they
9 just gave us from donation and let's go sleep outside." So
10 we'd find our shopping cart and we would push it and go
11 sleep under the -- what do you call those? Overpasses.

12 It's funny, this one -- one morning too, I
13 think it was like, second or third day and we kept doing
14 that because we had a hard time sleeping in those rooms.
15 It was like haunted. Those hotel rooms are haunted.
16 Anyways, we were sleeping outside and our king-sized bed
17 was the pavement. And I got to have a little humour in
18 this, you guys. And we woke up and there was two N.A.
19 books there, Narcotics Anonymous books. The -- the green
20 one and the blue one. And I was like, holy, somebody left
21 an N.A. book to -- N.A. text for us. Gee, what is that
22 supposed to mean? I was just mad. Like, what are they
23 trying to say? I was like, yeah, we were definitely
24 addicts. And they were trying to give us the solution,
25 right? Oh, I was so pissed off, but you know, when I think

1 about it, we walked everywhere and we had those books
2 carrying us. You know, maybe that was Norma and Tom giving
3 us those books. You want to change? Here's your solution,
4 you know. Maybe it was my sisters, they put that book, or
5 maybe another recovering addict that could relate to why we
6 were sleeping outside. Then, we would start reading that
7 book when we wanted to change, right?

8 Eventually, moved out into the west end.
9 Still, I hated turning on the T.V. because at that time it
10 was news all over, all over, all over about my friends --
11 my friends being found. We had that apartment in the west
12 end and I had my little niece, and my partner at that time,
13 Sammy (ph), he's passed on now. I turn on the T.V. because
14 I wanted to try to find a movie. And I turn on that T.V.
15 and it's the newscast about the Pickton farm. I was clean
16 and sober. And it showed an aerial -- aerial picture, like,
17 the cameraman was in a helicopter looking down. And I was
18 sitting there looking at that, and I got a flashback --
19 showed the farm, and I got a flashback when I was in my
20 addiction in 1994 in the summer. It was getting the end of
21 August, early September, and I ran away from that farm. It
22 was the bad date. I started crying, and I was trying not
23 to cry so loud because my niece was there. Shaking all
24 over my body. It was like as if I remember it was
25 happening again.

1 They told me to tell you the truth. I tell
2 you the truth that -- I tried to tell the RCMP. I tried to
3 tell the Vancouver Police Department. I tried to tell them
4 that I ran away from this bad date. That they took me out
5 there. I ran for my life. This couple dick [sic] --
6 picked me up on Lougheed Highway. They -- they took me to
7 the hospital though. And that -- I forgot what the
8 hospital's -- Eagle Ridge -- and that police officer came,
9 and I was so ashamed, I was so dirty and so scared. And
10 those people were trying to help me, and that police
11 officer just said -- he said that I was just a transient
12 hooker, and an Indian. "She so fucked up, she doesn't even
13 know if she's coming or going." That's what he said about
14 me when I was trying to get safe. That's what they said
15 about me. And I was just trying to get safe at a hospital.
16 When I think about it, hospitals are supposed to be clean.
17 They are clean, but they're all white. Again, I have brown
18 skin. And there I could see just white. I could see that
19 yellow stripe. And him, just so loud, you know. I ran
20 away -- ran away as fast as I could. I tell you this
21 because it's the truth.

22 I was so scared. (Indiscernible) even left
23 the street that time. I was so scared. And that date just
24 took me -- he had so much money, and that's how he got me
25 in the vehicle because I was drug-addicted, I was so

1 dependent. My friends. Why did I get away, and they
2 didn't? Why was it them and not me? That's what I ask
3 myself. It's true.

4 It's true because I found the medicines and
5 I started -- I'm clean and sober today. I'm a strong woman
6 today. I believe in the Creator. I believe I survived so
7 this moment here and now could happen. I left Vancouver
8 Downtown Eastside to come to Thunder Bay -- I left the
9 province to come here to tell you to hear me, listen to my
10 voice, I survived. My sisters, my friends, they're gone on
11 to a better place, but I'm here telling you my lived
12 experience. To share their story, my story with you. It
13 took me a long time, just trying to forgive myself. Going
14 to those marches and showing up, meeting their family
15 members, their children. It's such a great gift that I get
16 to hug their children. Just to look at them, tell them, "I
17 knew your mom." And I get to tell them, "We would sing
18 Happy Birthday to you on your birthdays. Your mom was
19 beautiful. They were my friends." I would tell them
20 their -- the children. That's the gift that I got.

21 Now, those police officers -- one of the
22 recommendations I want to -- I want the police, the law
23 enforcement to listen and believe -- believe the victims
24 and the survivors. If somebody tells them they got hurt,
25 investigate it to the fullest. When you started this

1 process today, you set a time, you set a date, you said
2 your name. I want that -- police officers don't forget to
3 do those things, timely management, like, time management,
4 the schedule. If I'm on the street, figure out where my
5 last -- where I was last. Share your information with
6 other -- other departments, you know. Like, other
7 jurisdictions, or whatever, with different cities to me.
8 From Vancouver, you share your stuff to Surrey RCMP. RCMP,
9 police officers, go to the Wish, go to drop-in centres
10 where all the -- talk to every single person on that --
11 that knows that person. If I go missing tomorrow, that's
12 what I would ask. What was she wearing? What was her
13 height? What -- what did she like to eat? Where did you
14 last see her eat? When did she pick up her last income?
15 If I'm on medications, like, methadone, or Soboxone, or
16 whatever, did I pick that up? Investigate. Talk to the
17 families. Update them.

18 If I go missing, update my mom, my sister,
19 my daughter, my friends. Update them, keep them in
20 contact. Send the grandmas, and the grandpas with them,
21 heal -- that medicine. If I go missing, and if I'm
22 murdered, call out my name. If I get murdered, do an
23 honour ceremony for me. Honour my life. If I die, that's
24 what I would want. Don't forget me. I'm a valuable human
25 being. I may have struggled, I may have fallen to the

1 darkest places in -- you couldn't imagine. But at the
2 beginning of my testimony, at the beginning, I told you my
3 name, "Shining Eagle Woman." Today -- today, I'm a strong
4 person. I'm so strong that I have to stand up, use my
5 voice. I go to trauma counsellors. I try to help myself.
6 I put safe people around me. Believe me. Pray for me.
7 Don't forget me.

8 The justice system. The recommendations I
9 have for the justice system is for the law to stand up for
10 survivors and victims. The law should be honouring my
11 life. Don't blame me if I go missing. Don't blame me.
12 Investigate. Having the lawyer -- I love when the -- she's
13 been with me right from the beginning. Don't switch up the
14 lawyers, or the prosecutors if I'm murdered. Don't switch
15 the lawyers up, or the prosecutors that's going to stick up
16 for me and my family. Stick beside me, don't give up. You
17 have no right -- the justice system has no right to judge
18 me. They're going to say those things, "She's an Indian,
19 she was a prostitute, she was a drug addict, she took a
20 life, she ended up on skid row." No. I'm a mother, I'm a
21 daughter, I believed in the Creator. A ceremony, a
22 sundance -- don't forget those things about me. My
23 favourite colour, my orange, little lunchbox that I loved,
24 right? I shared that with you. Those are the things --
25 that's the things the justice system -- they don't care. I

1 feel like they don't care. Come and hang out with my
2 family for a couple of days, Wendy. Starbucks for -- we're
3 starting off with Starbucks. But those are important.

4 The health care system. Recommendation
5 would be, like, all those nurses and doctors should come to
6 the sweat lodge ceremony with me. Come and sit in the --
7 in -- we'll crawl on the ground. I hope it's muddy and
8 rainy, right? Give them a little skirt and a small,
9 little, white towel.

10 (LAUGHTER)

11 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: Right? Now, let's see
12 who's dirty. Welcome to my world. This is the Creator.
13 You close that -- that sweat lodge, you don't see no
14 colours. What does that mean? No racism. We're all in
15 there for one reason, spirit. We're all in there to pray.
16 Pray to our Creator. We may cry, we may laugh. They can
17 leave all their instruments behind, like, their racism,
18 their charting, documenting. Come and be real. Come and
19 have a big feast after with me. Share some bread with me.
20 And it would definitely be bannock. Throw some bologna in
21 there too, right? Health care system, seriously, it needs
22 to change. Don't judge me by the way I look. If I'm going
23 to hospital, I'm obviously -- have a wound. No one just
24 shows up at the hospital because they want to.

25 I see -- see it when I work, you know.

1 Today, I'm a outreach worker for women. Vulnerable,
2 marginalized, those are the words that they call us, but
3 me? They're my sisters. I can relate. I work with social
4 workers, and nurses, health care -- health care worker --
5 it's a psychiatrist. And then, there's me. And then --
6 and the women. And they're in their addiction, trying to
7 hide their trauma. Remember I told you that -- that one
8 time alcohol and drugs protect me in some way?

9 But you know, when they see me, those women,
10 try to find them housing, terrible. No housing. More
11 housing needs to happen, like, don't just do, you know, the
12 mayor and -- I don't want to say his name, but his initials
13 are -- right? Big announcements about, oh, housing this
14 and housing that, and big flashing cameras, and the media.
15 And then, it's, like, it's just a photo op -- shine
16 and -- shine and glitter type of thing. But why don't you
17 come and sleep in a sleeping bag in the back alley with me?
18 See how you feel and -- for a good week. Then you'll be
19 like, oh, let's get on that housing. Let's get some
20 housing happening fast. Affordable housing, raising the
21 welfare rates, giving people a chance, with not having
22 I.D., if they lost their identification. Let them cash
23 their cheque. Well, I guess, that's kind of hard to do,
24 but if it's them -- I don't know, forget that thought. But
25 actually, have a bank that allows that, you know.

1 Look it, they gave me a blanket. Well, I
2 know, like, just to wrap me around in, but, like, the
3 homeless. Bring out blankets. They only show up around,
4 like, holidays. It's, like, show up all the time. That's
5 stuff's happening right now. Somebody got raped last
6 night. Someone blacked-out, and woke up with her pants
7 down, and doesn't remember what happened. She's going to
8 go to the police station, or she's going to call somebody
9 for support. Me, I'm going to show up for her. I'm going
10 to sit with her, try to take care of her. I'm going to
11 believe her. Us, as human beings, it doesn't matter what
12 colour skin she has. Does it matter if she's -- may have
13 smell? She's homeless, she's kind of wet, that musky smell
14 that comes with that. Believe her.

15 You know when you're little, I don't know if
16 you guys did this, but we would cut our finger, and they
17 would cut their finger, and then we'd put our blood
18 together, and be blood sisters. Well, if you look at the
19 justice system, the health care system, you look at all the
20 health providers, even the government, you cut their
21 finger, you -- you cut my finger and we put it together.
22 We still bleed blood. We put it together, that connection.
23 It's like we're human. Help me help them. Pray for me,
24 and I'll pray for them.

25 I think one of the elders last night said

1 something so powerful, she sat with us -- she sat with us
2 and -- and we -- we got to sing. Well, I didn't sing, I
3 just went (indiscernible) -- but we sang and we joined each
4 other around the table. We were laughing, we're crying,
5 we're sharing our company with one another. That was so
6 healing. And you know, that elder said to us something
7 really powerful. This is from her, she said, "The four
8 colours, red, white, yellow, and black" -- do you remember
9 that? She said, "I have -- I'm from the red nation. I'm
10 going to get a friend from the white nation. And I'm going
11 to get a friend from the black nation. And I'm going to
12 get a friend from the yellow nation. And if all of us did
13 that, there would not be no racism." That wasn't from me,
14 that was from the elder last night. So powerful. So
15 powerful.

16 The court system. The other thing is the
17 court system is -- if I charged somebody, and they beat me
18 up, and then the police charge them, that's fine. But
19 then, when I go to testify, don't allow my accused person
20 that beat me up to put over the court. To put over the
21 court -- adjourn the court. Is that what's it's called?
22 To set another date. I am showing up for the court to tell
23 you my truth of why and how I got beat up, but it's like
24 the court system and the justice system protects them, when
25 I'm showing up to testify. His lawyer -- so formal, like,

1 you're sitting all by yourself, and then there's the judge
2 right up there, and then the -- the accused, and then the
3 prosecutor. And then, I'm sitting there and I'm going to
4 share my truth about what this man did to me, and how he
5 beat me up. And then, his lawyer brings up all my past.
6 And -- and she blamed me. Remember that?

7 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** M'hm.

8 **MS. CEE JAI JULIAN:** She blamed me. She
9 said -- because I have a tear drop on my eye, "You
10 didn't -- you became unwilling witness to the missing
11 women's task force in Vancouver."

12 When they came to my door, I tried to talk
13 to them, but I got scared. I didn't know all -- I didn't
14 know anything. All I knew is, I ran from that farm. But
15 that police -- missing women's task force said, I was an
16 unruly witness. I was 13 months clean and sober when they
17 came to my door. I was teeter and tottering back and forth
18 with my trauma. I couldn't testify. I didn't know
19 anything. And -- and his lawyer brought that up and it
20 made me look bad. And it made me feel guilty. It made me
21 feel like I was the monster. It made me feel like it was
22 my fault my friends died. It brought so much trauma up for
23 me sitting on the -- the Queen's Bench, in the courtroom.
24 What right did that lawyer have to do that? I even said
25 that to her. What does that farm have to do with him

1 beating me up? What does that have to do with that?
2 Nothing. But that was their way of saying -- saying what
3 they -- like, judging me. To make me look bad.

4 Eventually, I got loaded, you know, at ten
5 years, and ten months. I went out stuck a needle in my
6 arm. Because the law is the law. I took that on like it
7 was my fault, and just went out there again for 28 days in
8 my addiction. Relapsed because I went to court to testify.
9 There was nothing safe about that. And I had to pick
10 myself back up all over again. Thank God for places like
11 Insite to Onsite (ph), the detox that I went to. And all
12 those staff. And I got better again. But they still --
13 the court system, prosecutor left, his lawyer died, and
14 then he wanted to -- what do you call that
15 (indiscernible) -- they got it stayed, but he wanted to
16 call it, like, something -- what do they call it? The
17 court -- yeah, no, the court -- the -- my accused -- the
18 accused that beat me up. He wanted to overturn and start
19 all over again, I forget -- a mistrial. That's what
20 he's -- he was pleading out for a mistrial, and they were
21 going to give it to him. And then the prosecutor -- a
22 brand new prosecutor didn't know my case of why -- when I
23 was getting beat up. Is that an eggnog latte?

24 (LAUGHTER)

25 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: I'm almost done.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

2 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: Oh, (Speaking in
3 Indigenous language). But so that prosecutor became a new
4 prosecutor that wasn't following that whole case -- court
5 case, when I got beat up. And he was -- my ex-boyfriend
6 that beat me up was asked -- sorry, was asking for a
7 mistrial, and they were going to do it. But the prosecutor
8 made the decision, "No. We'll just have it stayed."

9 And then, they sent me a letter saying that
10 all charges had been dropped. But they didn't call me to
11 tell -- ask me if I was willing to testify. And then, when
12 I finally got a hold of them, and, like, what does this
13 letter mean? "Oh, well, we decided to stay the court
14 because we didn't want to put you through that again. We
15 heard you had a hard time testifying." And then, I was,
16 like, "Are you for real?" This man gets away with beating
17 the crap out of me. Like, beating me and choking me.

18 And I remember being in my apartment and
19 looking up to the ceiling -- looking up at the ceiling and
20 he's choking me, and saying, "Oh, my God." I got away from
21 one serial killer, and I guess this is how I'm going to go
22 out. And then, in my mind, I could just say [sic] my
23 girls. And I faked dying. And he's -- got away with it.
24 I haven't been in a relationship, and that's been almost
25 five years at the end of this month.

1 I didn't deserve that. That prosecutor
2 didn't even know me. Didn't even have the time to sit down
3 with me -- ask me, "Do you want to go through with this?
4 Do you want to testify?" He didn't even do that. And I
5 was so pissed off, and so hurt. Like, there you go again.
6 Justice system punishing me all over again. Is it because
7 I'm Indian? Was it because I live in the Downtown
8 Eastside? Is it because I was a drug addict? You didn't
9 even know me. And he made that choice, and that's wrong.
10 What right do you have to do that? What if it was his
11 daughter? Probably would have been a different story. The
12 whole system -- whole system failed. Failed me. The
13 system hurt me. Policy changes -- the ones that can make
14 the policies, come and sit in that sweat lodge with me,
15 learn about me, learn about our culture, learn my history,
16 all the -- all the things that I survived. I'm a strong
17 person. I hurt -- I hurt today.

18 I struggled all those years downtown, and
19 remember I told you I would sing for my daughters? My
20 youngest daughter passed away. I had to cut off all my
21 hair to honour my daughter. I love my daughter. She
22 passed away on September 28th, 2017, the day of my dad's
23 birthday, the day Norma -- the last time I seen my sister,
24 Norma, alive. And now, it's the day my daughter died.
25 (Indiscernible).

1 (SHORT PAUSE)

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

3 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: Okay.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

5 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: M'hm.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

7 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: My sister is going to
8 share now. I still don't know what happened to my
9 daughter. Maybe we should have a break.

10 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Hello, everyone.
11 Thank you very much. We're going to take a break for ten
12 minutes. Be back in ten minutes. Thank you.

13 (SHORT BREAK)

14 MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Welcome back,
15 everybody. We're ready to commence. Although, I do know
16 that there was one person who said he'd be right here, Bob
17 Edwards (ph). I don't know if he's -- but, perhaps, we
18 should commence. And so this is -- this is the completion,
19 closure stage. There -- the next matter is scheduled for
20 2:30, so I -- I'd like to give everyone an opportunity to
21 say something before we actually close the session. And
22 I -- I don't know, Mr. Commissioner, if -- if there's a --
23 should -- I'd like to hand the microphone to you after that
24 segment is -- is finished. Okay. Thank you. So I -- I
25 said this to -- we -- you were coming out of the -- the

1 room -- the other room, and -- and I say it again, is --
2 it -- this morning, hearing you, and being in the presence
3 of the listeners. Those who are bearing witness of your
4 truth, it truly connected us to one of the most important
5 conversations that is happening on the planet. Having to
6 do with the -- the safety, and care, and honouring of -- of
7 women and girls. And bringing equality to their lives. So
8 I -- I just need to express to you and to all that
9 energizes you, all of the love that comes from the people
10 around you, where you find your power and your strength. I
11 want to acknowledge that, and thank you. And I hand over
12 the mic again for some more in this -- this stage of
13 completion. Okay.

14 **MS. CEE JAI JULIAN:** (Speaking Indigenous
15 language) to all of you for being here for me today, for
16 listening to me. (Speaking Indigenous language).

17 Before the break I was talking and I got
18 really emotional about my daughter. We still don't know
19 what happened to my daughter. I feel that the unexplained
20 death of my daughter prior to her passing away was probably
21 a result of my life of not being there for her. What I
22 know is that -- that's my strength, is my children. They
23 made me want to live. I wanted to get better for them. I
24 wanted them to be proud of me because I'm their mother. I
25 feel the form -- the word, colonization, residential

1 school, my own complex trauma, and hurt was passed onto my
2 children. My daughter was driving four days, or so, before
3 her passing. I don't understand when she crashed her car
4 that the RCMP arrested her. They brought her to jail, and
5 her friends picked her up. But why didn't they bring her
6 to the hospital? Why didn't they bring her to check to
7 make sure she's physically okay from that crash? They
8 arrested her so -- is because she's Indigenous? Colour of
9 her skin, again?

10 My daughter attempted to go to the health
11 care -- to a walk-in clinic the day before she passed. She
12 was trying to get health care. The clinic didn't know my
13 daughter, and they sent her away because they said, "Go to
14 your own regular G.P." When a -- a medical clinic,
15 somebody's walking in there to ask for help, obviously
16 there's something wrong. And they turned my daughter away.
17 She went home, she went to sleep, and she never woke up.
18 And I had to deal with the coroners again, the RCMP, the
19 funeral home. I had to try to raise money to pay for my
20 daughter's celebration of life. That was my baby. She's
21 now my ancestor. That's what's giving me strength today.
22 And I come here to use my voice -- that not to throw a
23 person in jail if they just had an accident. Physically
24 check them over, even, mentally.

25 Still unanswered. I'm still waiting on the

1 coroner, so I'll probably want to talk to you more when I
2 know what really happened to my daughter. The coroner was
3 really kind to me on the phone. She's investigating it to
4 the fullest because in her workplace she was a flagger, and
5 they overworked her. She did too many hours, not enough
6 sleep, did she fall asleep at the wheel and crash her car?
7 Those are the unanswered questions I have today. But we
8 had a beautiful celebration of life for my daughter. She's
9 the one that gives me strength. I don't have an option to
10 use drugs today. I went to ceremony; celebrate my
11 daughter, and that's when I found out that she's my
12 ancestor now. I started to pray again. I still have
13 anger, I'm still in that grief, still hurts at night time.

14 So when I asks -- when all the people came
15 to support me with my daughter passing away, certain ones
16 didn't show up. That hurt. But you guys are here today
17 for me, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. My
18 daughter's name was Shayla Anne (ph) Julian, beautiful
19 girl. She helped her friends. Her friends got up and
20 spoke about how beautiful she was. I come here, people
21 told me not to come because you're going through the grief
22 and loss. But I know my daughter would want me to show up.
23 And you hear my voice, so that's what gives me strength
24 today. You guys are my tools, my spiritual tools, to let
25 me be vulnerable and open. You took the time out of your

1 life to honour me. (Speaking Indigenous language). I love
2 you for taking that time out. I'm going to still show up
3 for those women that I work with. I'm going to love them
4 unconditionally. They tell me to "F"-off all the time, but
5 I keep showing back up because it reminds me of me. It's
6 just -- except that I threw a bed pan at the nurse, but I
7 hope they don't throw one at me.

8 (LAUGHTER)

9 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: You got to have humour.
10 The other thing I ask you, Commissioner, out of this
11 inquiry, you know, they have Veteran's Day for warrior
12 vets. They -- they have that as a stats -- statutory
13 holiday. My recommendation is that we have a national day
14 for our women, my sisters that have been murdered. The
15 ones that are missing. We have that day off. Take that
16 time to come join in a circle, sacred circle around the
17 medicines, and we call each name out. You call out Norma
18 George, you call out Marnie Frey (ph), Sarah de Vries,
19 Serena Abbotsway (ph), Michelle Gernie (ph), Mona (ph).
20 You call all their names out for those loved ones. That's
21 what we want, is acknowledgement of our women. A national
22 day. We work -- at least I work in, put your telephone
23 down, and computers off, stop texting, and we honour those
24 women, our children, we honour them in a good way. In a
25 good way so they're not forgotten. In this world they

1 truth. And they're gathering of all of us that have -- the
2 ones that supported me. I love you. I love you for what
3 you do -- did for me today. Here's my sister. I love you,
4 Rhoda. And I love Mom. My mom's clean and sober many,
5 many years. She'll be proud of me too. All my relations.

6 **MS. RHODA JULIAN:** Okay. My name is Rhoda
7 Julian. I'm from Fort St. James originally. I'm a mother
8 of four children, well, they're grown now. And I'm a
9 grandmother of five. I have five grandbabies. And I also
10 have some adopted daughters that I've adopted along the
11 way, and some daughter-in-laws. My family is growing.

12 Where to begin? So both my parents are
13 residential school survivors. And it's a generational
14 thing that happened with my family. We in turn, ended up
15 in the foster care system. My youngest daughter was in the
16 foster care system, and my older three children were raised
17 by their father. It's really hard for me to say that
18 because I mean I was there for the beginning of their
19 lives, but because of the trauma that I endured in my
20 lifetime I ended up on a different path, and a drug
21 addiction and, yeah, just a really dark path. And was in
22 abusive relationships also. I'm trying to think what we
23 were talking about earlier, so briefly.

24 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** (Indiscernible).

25 **MS. RHODA JULIAN:** Okay. So I'll get right

1 into when -- when my life had changed and -- and my
2 youngest daughter was set up for adoption. They were going
3 to adopt her out. She had been in care for almost four
4 [sic] years of her life at that point, or three years.
5 Yeah, it would have been three years by that time. And I
6 had missed my grandfather's death, my mom's -- my mom's
7 father. And I missed my son's graduation, and then my
8 daughter was being adopted out. And that was, like, a huge
9 turning point in my life where I -- I was -- I remember
10 the -- the court was set for three days for my daughter
11 to -- for the -- you know, for the court to say all the
12 things that I hadn't done and, you know, the type of bad
13 person that was, or what they were, you know, they had
14 perceived me as to be. And I -- I remember, like, driving
15 from Penticton to Vancouver and stopping by the water and
16 just crying out, "Please, God. Give me one -- one last
17 chance to be Brianna's (ph) mom. Give her one last
18 chance." I'm just going to get too hot. I'm already just
19 sweating.

20 (LAUGHTER)

21 MS. RHODA JULIAN: Thank you.

22 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: Just in case.

23 MS. RHODA JULIAN: Thank you. So I was just
24 crying out, and I had tobacco. I remember having tobacco
25 and -- and crying out, and on my knees praying, "Please,

1 God. Give me one last chance to be Brianna's mom.
2 Please." And -- because I didn't have that chance with
3 Ellydae (ph), Lana (ph), and Jacob (ph), my older three
4 children. And I -- I prayed for Brianna to come into my
5 life and to help me, and anyways. So -- and we made --
6 made it to Vancouver and -- and the judge couldn't be there
7 for the three days. And they can't just have another judge
8 step in and take over. And I remember that judge, you
9 know, looking directly at me and -- and saying, "Rhoda, I'm
10 going to give you a last chance to be Brianna's mom." And
11 I just broke down. I'm, like, my prayers have been
12 answered. So throughout that first year I went -- I did
13 everything I could.

14 I went into detox. I spent the longest time
15 in detox. Detox knew me very well. They knew me by my
16 first name. They knew my history because I had been in
17 there so many times trying to change my life. And my -- so
18 I stayed there for ten days and I remember this one woman,
19 she was the one that believed in me at the Contact Centre
20 (ph), Leah (ph), I'm going to say Leah. Because she was
21 the one that was searching out for me and -- and had my
22 name on that list for the detox and -- and believed in me
23 that I -- I really wanted to change. And so she seen me
24 again, "Rhoda, you missed the date." And I'm, like, "Okay,
25 well." And then, you know, she followed up right then and

1 see her again if that had happened. And -- but I just kept
2 moving forward. I was -- after the detox, I went into a --
3 a recovery home for nine months, which was totally unheard
4 of for me also. And -- and the women in there supported
5 me, and lifted me up, and -- and kept me safe. And I did
6 everything that I could. I -- I went into all the
7 programs, all -- like, mothering programs, parenting
8 programs, life skills programs, all that I -- all --
9 everything. I mean, the social worker would come to me and
10 ask me, "Well, Rhoda, you need to do this." And I'm like,
11 "Well, I already did that. And I already did this, and I
12 already did this." And -- and I was -- like I had
13 explained earlier, I was like, "If I could just take my
14 heart out, and just show you, this is my heart." And then,
15 they could see how -- where my heart was and how different
16 I had changed. Like, all in my cells, I could feel my
17 whole body had changed. That I -- I wanted to have a
18 better life and to be a mom again.

19 So it was -- it was when I celebrated my one
20 year cake, or I didn't celebrate it that day, but it was my
21 one year celebration when I was able to have that one year,
22 or that one hour with my daughter. And that was the best
23 one hour. It was all worth it, but through that one year,
24 it was the hardest because it was -- there was times when I
25 felt like, "Oh, my God. Why -- why aren't they listening

1 to me? Why won't they believe me?" And why -- I had so
2 many unanswered questions. And my -- you know, I -- I
3 could feel that -- I don't know, that -- like I said, I
4 wish they had, you know, if I could just take my heart out
5 and show them.

6 And then, one day it just kind of turned
7 around after I had celebrated my one year. I was like,
8 okay. Now, they're -- now -- it's like all of a sudden
9 they started believing me. And I remember the social
10 worker coming over to my ex-partner's house and we were
11 sitting there, and -- and she was like, "Okay. Yeah, so
12 Brianna's going to be coming home on this day. And it's
13 going to be moving forward." And all this. And I was
14 like, just sitting there. I was just kind of trembling.
15 And not believing what I was hearing. And I remember after
16 she left, I was just jumping up and down and screaming.
17 And, "Oh, my God. This is really going to happen. This is
18 really going to happen. My -- my baby's going to come home
19 to me."

20 And through this -- through all of this, my
21 older three children also came back to me. I have a really
22 good relationship with all of them. I know that there's
23 some pain there, and I'm reaching out to them and helping
24 them in ways to cope with -- with the trauma that they had
25 experienced. Because I know they -- they experienced

1 trauma. And in that year, I was in this program -- this --
2 was it Choices Program (ph), where they had employment and
3 just a whole array of different skills that you could get.

4 And -- and I went to Native Education
5 College. And they had all these different programs that
6 you could take. And I was like, "Oh, that." And -- and
7 I'd seen the family and community counselling program. I
8 was like, "That's what I want to do. I want to help moms,
9 and I want to help families." Because I believe them. I
10 believe them when they come to me and say that, "I want a
11 better life. And I want to move forward and get my
12 children back." So that's the kind of -- that's the type
13 of work that I wanted to do. So I ended going to college
14 for two years after, you know, coming -- my daughter coming
15 home with me. That was a -- such a busy time. I worked in
16 the recovery house that I was living in for weekends.

17 I went to -- yeah, I went to college. That
18 was -- I had to learn many different skills that I --
19 because I hadn't been in college. I'd -- you know, I've
20 had ten year -- grade 10 education, so I became a student
21 and a mom all at the same time. And it was -- it was quite
22 a job. Quite a lot of work. But there was, you know, so
23 many struggles along the way as well. And I ended up,
24 after college, I wanted to continue on and get my B.S.W.,
25 and I took a little bit of time off. And then, got this

1 really great job in the Downtown Eastside. And I was doing
2 the work that I loved, and that I wanted to do as my
3 passion, to help those families navigate through the system
4 and what they needed to do to take care of themselves and
5 their families.

6 But because of my own -- my own traumas,
7 like, I -- I think what I had to go through, I went to
8 trauma treatment for six [sic], or five weeks. And what I
9 had learned, or I kind of knew, is that -- because I
10 stopped crying for years, I -- I never cried. I kept them
11 and I swallowed them. And -- and when I was working in the
12 Downtown Eastside, I would carry their stuff with me. And
13 it -- you know, I -- I wasn't taking care of myself. And
14 I -- I became a little bit burnt out. So I had to take a
15 little bit of time for myself. And so that's what I did.
16 And that's what I'm doing right now, is taking time for
17 myself, and my family, and my children, my grandchildren.

18 Yeah, so I -- I learned that with all the
19 things that I had been carrying, that I was internalizing
20 everything. And -- all the -- all the pain and -- and the
21 trauma that I had experienced as a child, protecting my
22 brother, my sister, and, you know, my -- just all the
23 things that I had witnessed as a child. And, you know,
24 being in situations. So I took that time and -- and now
25 I -- I, you know, I -- I just want to go back to my sister,

1 where she was talking about her experience as being a
2 survivor of the Pickton farm. And I -- I feel really
3 selfish in that way that -- that you weren't -- you weren't
4 one of them, you know?

5 I do have a lot to share. And I know that
6 we're a little crunched on time, so I'm going to -- to say
7 thank you very much for listening. Thank you. And I'm
8 really grateful to be here for my sister. And I -- just
9 more recently with the -- with the death of my -- my niece,
10 Shayla. That was a -- really tough for our family because
11 it wasn't fair that we didn't get to know her as well. I
12 feel really ripped-off, like, I feel really sad that we
13 missed that part too. All my relations. Thank you.

14 **MS. VERONICA IZA:** Thank you. It's an
15 honour to be here. It's amazing to travel with these two
16 women. To be asked to come here, to witness all of this.
17 There's a lot of similarities. I too, drug addict, abuse,
18 all that stuff that happens to people when you're out
19 there, and even before. I'm a product of my environment.
20 I -- it's not my fault. So I feel very connected to the
21 places, the people, the experiences.

22 I work in the Downtown Eastside as well. I
23 work at Insite and some of the other housing projects.
24 Those people, are my people. I -- I'm there to serve them.
25 I'm there in the moment to accommodate their needs. And in

1 return, I get to experience amazing moments of relating. I
2 hear incredible stories of survival. I see the struggle.
3 And I used to be there. So I understand that it takes a
4 long time sometimes to get out of there, to crawl out of
5 the alley. Me too. I crawled out of the alley too. And
6 people helped me along the way.

7 At the Site, we have those posters. There's
8 always a new one. Men and women, young and old. My
9 people, you know. That I see every day. They're dying for
10 a whole bunch of different reasons. I used to point -- I
11 used to point at Insite and say, "One day, I'm going to go
12 there." I'm going to help somebody. And it happened, I
13 got to the other side. I get to be there.

14 But I also -- I understand what it takes to
15 live out there, to survive out there. The shortage of
16 resources. The great need for so many things. The basic
17 needs, food, housing, warmth, clothing, connection to
18 people, access to resources. It's an incredible
19 neighbourhood. There's a lot of people down there doing
20 amazing work, dedicated -- totally dedicated. I'm
21 fortunate -- I'm fortunate to be in the place that I am
22 today. That I have the ability to be empathetic because I
23 was there. So much senseless death. Unnecessary. It's
24 not necessary, it doesn't have to happen, but it does. And
25 we see it every day.

1 And it'll go on. It'll still happen. It's
2 going to take awhile. People need to wake up, a lot of
3 people need to wake up at the same time to make a change.
4 The people are good. They're my brothers and sisters.
5 They are a product of their circumstances, and their
6 environment. Nobody wakes up and says, I want to have that
7 life on the street. Everybody had dreams. They came from
8 somewhere. They have children, they're a mother, a
9 grandmother, an aunt, a daughter, a father, a brother.
10 Just people. We're all just human beings. We need to feel
11 loved. That we have a place. That people care about us.
12 That we can get our basic needs met, at least. At least
13 our basic needs. There's not enough houses. There's not
14 enough housing, there's not enough this, there's not enough
15 that. There's not enough for the amount of people that are
16 suffering and struggling.

17 I'm really grateful. I work with a great
18 team of people, and we're like a community of helpers. I
19 want to see change. I want to hear those names. I want to
20 see people come out of there and come here. Go to the
21 medicines, go to the ceremonies. Get their children back,
22 get themselves back, and live out their dreams, you know.
23 I'm grateful. I'm grateful for this opportunity to be
24 here, to witness, to share, you know. But for the grace of
25 God, there go I. I was taught that, right. And I see it

1 every day. I see myself every day in everybody's eyes. We
2 made it. We made it. We made it out of there. And we're
3 still there, just in a different way. Thank you. Thank
4 you for hearing me. Thank you for coming here and hearing
5 all of us.

6 **MS. RHODA JULIAN:** Can I just say one thing?
7 I just want to say, I love you Mom. Thank you for giving
8 me my life.

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Mr. Commissioner?

10 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Thank you.
11 Cee Jai, if you don't mind, I just have, like, a -- a
12 couple of little questions of clarification.

13 **MS. CEE JAI JULIAN:** Sure.

14 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** You shared a -
15 - a lot, and I have a lot of notes, and my head's full of
16 information, but I -- there were a couple -- just little
17 details I'm not sure I got correct. And I want to make
18 sure I understand.

19 **MS. CEE JAI JULIAN:** Okay.

20 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Okay. So you
21 had been talking about when you left -- when you ran away
22 from the farm, and a couple picked you up and they brought
23 you to a hospital. What was the name of that hospital?

24 **MS. CEE JAI JULIAN:** Eagle Ridge Hospital.
25 I believe it's in Port Moody. I was in the moment

1 remembering so that -- if I didn't tell you, I apologize.

2 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** I think you
3 may of said it, I may not have heard properly.

4 **MS. CEE JAI JULIAN:** Okay.

5 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** So thank you.
6 And then, you spoke about, you were trying to speak to a
7 police officer, who then dismissed your concerns using very
8 negative terms. Do you recall which police force that
9 police officer was from?

10 **MS. CEE JAI JULIAN:** I believe it was the
11 RCMP. I think that's the jurisdiction out there is RCMP.
12 And I also told the VPD, the Odd Squad, and anyone that
13 would listen, but they just kind of didn't listen. They
14 didn't -- they didn't believe me.

15 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Okay. And I
16 think you may have mentioned a time frame, and I didn't get
17 that. Do you recall on or about when that -- or when that
18 happened?

19 **MS. CEE JAI JULIAN:** When I --

20 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** When you spoke
21 to them? When you went to the hospital and when you spoke
22 to the police?

23 **MS. CEE JAI JULIAN:** I -- I'm trying to --
24 like, I know it was in 1992 because it was a flashback and
25 it was, like, after years of being sober. Then -- anyways,

1 I believe it was, like, in the summertime, or in early fall
2 of '92.

3 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Okay. Thank
4 you very much for clarifying those -- those points. Before
5 we close, I just want to thank you so much for coming and
6 sharing your truths. I just really want to acknowledge
7 your -- your strength, and resilience, and your bravery.

8 **MS. CEE JAI JULIAN:** Thank you.

9 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** And you shared
10 so much with us that's so important to hear, and that's
11 also very helpful to the work of the inquiry. So I thank
12 you on behalf of the inquiry as well. And I want to thank
13 all of you, all three of you, for sharing. And before we
14 close, we just have some small gifts, tokens of
15 appreciation for coming here and sharing. And I'm going to
16 ask our elder, Blu, if she would kindly address the -- the
17 gifts. Thank you.

18 **MS. LAUREN "BLU" WATERS-GAUDIO:** So
19 Commissioner Elyolfson is going to give to you some
20 packages of seeds. And these seeds are white sage, which
21 is one of our medicines. And you are the strength of our
22 nation, the women. And this is a women's medicine. So
23 it's very appropriate that they come to you, and that you
24 can use this medicine. You can harvest it, and you can
25 continue to grow it. And you can continue to grow in your

1 journey that you're doing. So Brian is going to hand you
2 those. And then, Bobbi Jo (ph) is going to give you some
3 red dresses because you represent those red dresses, right?
4 You're the ones down there on the east side doing that
5 work. You're the ones picking people up, helping --
6 helping them. So you relate to these so well. I mean,
7 you've had a hard journey and, you know, we don't know how
8 the rest of our journeys are going to be each day. But
9 when we gave -- get up and we give thanks for that day, we
10 know that we've been given a gift, one more chance.

11 And then, I'm going to come around and give
12 you -- you some eagle feathers. And those our our gifts for
13 you because you've shared so much of you, your story, your
14 truth, your realities. The things that have made you the
15 people you are today. The hard journey you were on, and
16 the blessings that the Creator has given to us, are you.
17 You are our gifts. So we want to honour you in this small
18 way. Ay.

19 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:**

20 (Indiscernible).

21 **MS. CEE JAI JULIAN:** (Indiscernible).

22 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Brave.

23 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** (Indiscernible).

24 Healing.

25 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Thank you.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

2 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: Thank you.

3 MS. LAUREN "BLU" WATERS-GAUDIO: Thank you
4 so much.

5 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: Thank you. Thank you.

6 MS. LAUREN "BLU" WATERS-GAUDIO: And Cee
7 Jai, this is not the first time we've met. And you're such
8 a beautiful, beautiful woman. Your strength just emanates
9 from you. You shine.

10 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: Thank you.

11 MS. LAUREN "BLU" WATERS-GAUDIO: And I -- I
12 want you to remember that when you use this eagle feather,
13 sometimes we refer (ph) -- refer to our family and those
14 that are gone as fallen angels, but I want you to think of
15 this as your daughter being a rising star. That she's
16 going to be there for you whenever you need her. She's
17 going to continue to be your strength, and when you look up
18 you will see her.

19 MS. CEE JAI JULIAN: Thank you.

20 MS. LAUREN "BLU" WATERS-GAUDIO: And you'll
21 know that you can call upon her anytime. So she's a rising
22 star. One that the Creator has put there for you, so that
23 she can be there always, whenever you need her. So I want
24 you to remember that, Cee Jai, when you use this feather
25 when you're continuing your journey.

1 **MS. CEE JAI JULIAN:** Thank you.

2 **MS. LAUREN "BLU" WATERS-GAUDIO:** Okay.

3 Because she -- she's shining just as bright as you.

4 **MS. CEE JAI JULIAN:** Thank you.

5 (Indiscernible).

6 **MS. LAUREN "BLU" WATERS-GAUDIO:** And I think
7 there's Indian tacos for lunch.

8 **(LAUGHTER)**

9 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** (Indiscernible).

10 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:**

11 (Indiscernible).

12 **MS. LAUREN "BLU" WATERS-GAUDIO:** Cee Jai
13 wants to know that.

14 **(LAUGHTER)**

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. I'm just --
16 before we break, how many people here have not had lunch?
17 Okay. That helps us, sort of, sort out the logistics. So
18 at the end of this session, that -- there will be a break
19 for 20 minutes, so people can get something to eat. Okay.

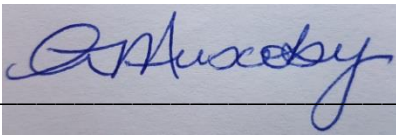
20 **MS. CEE JAI JULIAN:** (Indiscernible).

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay.

22 --- Upon adjourning at 2:55 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Amanda Muscoby, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.



Amanda Muscoby

February 20, 2018