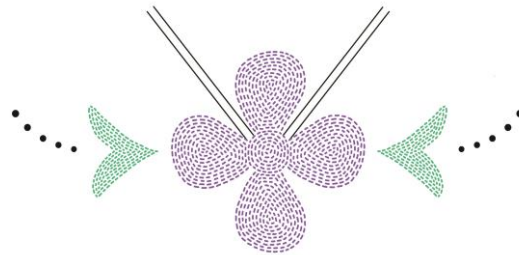


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel
Minoru Room C
Metro Vancouver, British Columbia**



PUBLIC

Saturday April 7, 2018

Public Volume 109

Nancy Weinhert

**Heard by Commissioner Michèle Audette
Commission Counsel: Fanny Wylde**

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APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations		Non-appearance
Government of British Columbia	Jean Walters (Legal Counsel)	
Government of Canada	Donna Keats (Legal Counsel)	
Heiltsuk First Nation		Non-appearance
Northwest Indigenous Council Society		Non-appearance
Our Place - Ray Cam Co- operative Centre		Non-appearance
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada		Non-appearance
Vancouver Sex Workers' Rights Collective		Non-appearance
Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak/Women of the Métis Nation		Non-appearance

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Clerk: Christian Rock

Registrar: Bryan Zandberg

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1 Metro Vancouver, British Columbia

2 --- Upon commencing on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 9:06 a.m.

3 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Good Morning, Commissioner
4 Audette. I would like to present to you our first witness,
5 this fourth day of the hearings. I have here with me Nancy
6 Weinhert, she will be sharing about her own story as a
7 survivor of many forms of violence. Before she does, I'm
8 going to ask Mr. Registrar to swear in the witness, and she
9 will like to provide oath with an eagle feather.

10 **MR. CHRISTIAN ROCK:** Good morning. Good
11 morning.

12 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Good morning.

13 **MR. CHRISTIAN ROCK:** My names Christian
14 Rock. I'm the registrar for this morning. Nancy, do you
15 promise to tell the truth in a good way today?

16 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Yes, I do.

17 **MR. CHRISTIAN ROCK:** Thank you.

18 **NANCY WEINHERT, Affirmed:**

19 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Thank you. Before Nancy
20 shares her story, she would like to sing a song with her
21 group of support here. So Nancy, I will invite you to
22 present to Commissioner Audette what the song will be about
23 and maybe too, introduce your group of support with you
24 this morning.

25 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** I originally wanted to

1 sing the Northern Sky song until I saw our spirit sisters.
2 I'm going to speak about them right at this moment. The
3 spirit sisters are the Sisters Overdose Response Team. We
4 are right -- like, we're a block and a half from the corner
5 of Main and Hastings, we're -- we're right in the hood,
6 right in the war zone and we meet at a place that is -- I
7 know its culture saves lives and it's interesting our
8 brother is giving statement as we speak right now on the
9 other side of this wall.

10 So we got together, and we started to teach
11 each other about tradition, about drumming and I brought
12 four drums to the inquiry and these are four drums that I
13 push around all over downtown east side. And these women
14 are learning to drum and sing, so -- and what are you doing
15 all the way over there? You're watching my back even from
16 right over there, eh? So they're just learning the
17 Northern Sky song, so we're going to change that song and
18 we're going to sing the *Anishinaabe* Bear song. That asks
19 for the spirit bear to be with us and it also promises us
20 that the spirit bear is coming. So our sisters who are
21 comfortable with doing a lead will do one. It's going to
22 go in whatever order it goes in and we're going to bring in
23 the bear medicine. And we'll tell you, I'm praying to the
24 bear to bring more hummingbird medicine because what I've
25 experienced can cause you to feel a lot of anger. So I'm

1 going to welcome the bear and I'm wearing a hummingbird for
2 my mom, it was her favorite bird and also to ask the bear
3 to bring me hummingbird medicine so that you can hear my
4 words. Okay, so we're going to sing, and we really won't
5 need this. The Bear song.

6 --- OPENING SONG

7 MS. FANNY WYLDE: Okay, (Speaking in
8 Algonquin) Nancy, (Speaking Algonquin) to the beautiful
9 women. So Nancy, are you ready to introduce yourself to
10 Commissioner Audette and maybe start by your history and
11 what would you like to share this morning with Commissioner
12 Audette?

13 MS. NANCY WEINHERT: First, I would like to
14 share that I could come with a lot of anger and it would be
15 understood. But I've learnt through my own personal
16 experience that that usually causes people to go away and
17 for them not to be able to hear. So what I'm asking the
18 inquiry to do is give me the opportunity to introduce
19 myself and then to trust me enough to take my hand and come
20 for a walk with me and see if you see what I see, if you
21 feel what I feel. So I come in a gentle way.

22 You know, we go through this thing that you
23 should write things down and highlight the things you want
24 to talk about and I've always made the decision just to ask
25 the creator to give me the words and ask the creator to

1 give me the ears to be able to hear and for that to move
2 from the hearing to the heart to be able to, for a brief
3 moment, be in that place. And I can tell you your
4 suggestions are always welcome; right.

5 So I was saying earlier that there's no
6 mistake happening here. There's a sister I was in
7 treatment with in 1995 and we talked about this day coming,
8 you know. Who sits here with me? Well, first I want to
9 introduce my elder, she's not quite grandma yet because
10 Elaine's grandma, Elaine Laflamme (ph). All right, but one
11 day, yeah. She has also known me from that time, and was
12 part of the ceremonies that I was first taken too and the
13 very first ceremonies. And we met in a Moon Lodge, so it's
14 no -- couldn't have been arranged -- this is not any one of
15 our doings here to have these sisters and this elder with
16 me who has done a lot of work, a lot of work.

17 To my left here is Bob Manning (ph), to me
18 he is my elder, I call him my elder. I met Bob, and I'll
19 say more about that later, but I met Bob through a talking
20 circle that came into Vancouver Detox, that was facilitated
21 by Vancouver Native Court Workers and Counselling
22 Association. Everybody here is court workers and they cut
23 off from there. It's like: "What law did you break?" I --
24 I'm serious, I'm like no listening for the -- listen for
25 the counselling part here. But anyway, they came in

1 (INDISCERNIBLE) this talking circle and I'll get into more
2 of that later. But a young woman who helped me get into
3 Turning Point asked me if I would trust her one more time,
4 because this man had helped her a lot and 'cause there was
5 no way I was going to talk to a man, are you kidding me,
6 have you lost your mind. But those words: "So will you
7 trust me one more time" and he's really -- and I
8 -- she was such a beautiful woman I miss her, I haven't
9 seen her in a long time. So Bob has always been there for
10 me. He's -- even when, you know, maybe the office was
11 closed. He's -- he's the man I went to and I asked him --
12 I made him promise that if I went missing, he would come
13 and look for me. Yeah. And in some ways that's what he's
14 doing here today.

15 And these aren't tears of sadness, it's just
16 -- I'm -- I'm really telling you, you know. These women I
17 met here through Battered Women's Support Services has a --
18 a drum group called Wildflowers Women of Turtle Island and
19 you can drum there without even being a -- they don't like
20 the word client but, you know. Nobodies making any money
21 off that place, eh? You know them, seeing -- seeing
22 somebody, right. And as spirit sisters we started drumming
23 together and we were praying for drums, so we can -- I -- I
24 -- that's why I bring four drums all over, right. Yeah.
25 And I've also started a drum group that was a vision called

1 Northern Lights Women's Drum Voices that came to me in
2 1997, after a court trial I had gone through. And some
3 elders took me on a vision quest and I was like: "Oh,
4 cool." Well, I was on a lake, I'm on a little island in
5 the middle of the Hudson Bay and like, Oh, okay. Trust in
6 the process. A lot of gifts came with that.

7 So now that there's kind of a little bit of
8 that so what I'm going to share with you is going to be
9 difficult to share but I can tell you it's also going to be
10 difficult to hear. So I want you to know I'm okay. I want
11 you to know I knew this day was coming. I want you to know
12 there are many woman and men here will tell you I have
13 spoke of this day. I didn't know how it was going to come
14 about but I knew this day was coming. So I'm not afraid.
15 I may be sad, I may feel like I'm going to throw up, yeah,
16 but I also told somebody one time, "You may try to break
17 me, you may try and bend me and you may succeed, but good
18 luck to you when you see all the people I have around me,
19 'cause there's no way you're going to break them."

20 Well, what do you see, some of these women
21 have made their way from the downtown East side, 'cause
22 they're my sisters. They're my sisters. I almost didn't
23 make it here, I was told it was full. So I contacted the
24 inquiry and I told them that they had until 11 o'clock
25 Monday, pretty much to change their position because they

1 were going to hear from me and my sisters in the downtown
2 East side publicly one way or the other. And if you don't,
3 the first event will be at the courthouse, the second event
4 will be at Robson's Square, and the third event will be at
5 the Public Library. Because you have news cameras in
6 Richmond, why can't we have them in the downtown East side.

7 Well, as the creator would have it, by 8
8 o'clock the following morning I got a text saying that they
9 had taken it to the legal team and they opened a spot this
10 morning. So we want to thank the creator for that and I
11 want to thank the ears that have -- that fell upon. 'Cause
12 you all hear about the violence that I've experienced in my
13 life and then you will hear about how I arrived in the
14 downtown East side with a completely different set of eyes
15 than most who have been forced to live there, to survive
16 there. And I'm going to paint a very clear picture of the
17 opportunities that are presented and encouraged to have our
18 men, our woman, our children, our elders go missing, be
19 murdered and I'm going to talk about being missing even
20 when you know where they are, but you can't get to them.
21 That's still missing, and that's one of the hardest ones
22 'cause it's right in front of you. And the systems that
23 benefit from allowing and encouraging that to happen. And
24 I'll also state that everything I'm about to share with you
25 can be proven and has been proven. So that's how I knew

1 this day was coming.

2 I was born in 1960, February the 7th, to a
3 young child really. My mom became pregnant with me when
4 she was 16 years old and I was born six days after her 17th
5 birthday. My mom was the daughter of a man who was
6 extremely violent and molested both my mom and my aunt.
7 Now you got to remember it's 1960. My mom is dating at the
8 time and soon is engaged to a Cree man, and it comes out in
9 the public paper in the Toronto area in 1960 as to what
10 happened. So the dad, I don't even like calling him
11 grandfather but, he gets thrown in jail, this goes public.
12 It's 1960, there's my grandmother with four kids and
13 everybody's looking at her like, you know, what the hell;
14 right. So the decision was made that it was best that my
15 father's name not go on my birth certificate. That there
16 be -- have no connection to the fact that we had First
17 Nations blood. That it wasn't safe, and we became French
18 Canadians real quick.

19 At the time that the story came out in the
20 paper we found out -- they found out my mom was pregnant.
21 So my father was given one choice, you either choose
22 between this -- what's going on here, or you choose between
23 us, because the truth is you can't -- you don't know if
24 it's your kid or not and there's no way we're carrying
25 this. So he joined the army, I've never met him.

1

2 So my mom was deeply in love with this man and apparently,
3 they were just crazy about each other, right. And my mom
4 has this break down, you know. She's having this baby,
5 everybody's saying you shouldn't have this child, you know
6 this child's going. The decision is made, you have this
7 baby, the baby is being taken away and he's gone. So how
8 -- what they decided was best to do was to have her talk to
9 a counsellor or whatever he was called, I don't know. I
10 knew him as a doctor, a man by the name of Norman Bensaga
11 (ph). He had some connection, I don't know at the time or
12 later in years became this guru on drugs and alcohol and
13 family addiction and family trauma and -- but what I
14 understand today is he didn't have a damn paper that he
15 could stand on.

16

17 So she gets taken to this -- to this man
18 and, now you got to remember that her father used to rape
19 and beat her on a regular basis. She gets taken to this
20 man -- oh, and by the way, I was taken away, I just found
21 this out two years ago. I never went home with my mom. So
22 her baby's been taken, the man that she loves is gone. The
23 whole community is looking at her like, you know, and my
24 grandmother.

24

25 So I know we only have so much time here
but, I would like to just mention this man because his idea

1 of diversion therapy -- and this has been in court by the
2 way -- and I'll get to that in a minute -- was to have a
3 17-year-old girl strip naked, kneel on a pillow and beat
4 her with a belt. And how I know is because when I went
5 through the historical abuse case that I'll be mentioning
6 later, I couldn't testify because they have (indiscernible)
7 courtroom. And he got off of those charges and then he was
8 given the Order of Canada. And I went to his office
9 privately for counselling that didn't go to well either.
10 So I guess you can imagine how this 17-year-old little girl
11 must have felt, eh? How she must have fucking felt.

12 So forced by the conditions of being a mom
13 of four kids that it's in the newspaper and oh god forbid,
14 right, my grandmother opens up a rooming house, what choice
15 did she have in 1960; right. So in moves this man with a
16 wife and a child, and of course, my grandmother has to work
17 too; right. Well guess what, he starts (indiscernible) her
18 and she's pregnant with her second child by the time she's
19 18 years old. And she's still in the hands of Norman
20 Bensaga. And we only have so much time but what I'll tell
21 you is this, Norman Bensaga introduced my step-father to my
22 mother who was 12 years older and he was counselling him or
23 whatever he was doing. And he was even their best man at
24 their wedding. And he got away with what he was doing
25 because, well, there were no guidelines around, you know,

1 the treatment of, you know, diversion therapy and -- and
2 you know. We had one guy come in and say he did it to them
3 too, so it couldn't have been a sexual thing and I was,
4 like, just blown away. He walked away, and he got the
5 Order of fucking Canada. And when I mention to the police
6 in Toronto that I needed to talk to them about what he did
7 to me they told me I didn't have a hope in hell. No hope
8 in hell.

9 Yeah, there's so much that happened to my
10 mom, my mom passed away at 55. Yeah, so we get to never
11 forget the day because Blue Hawaii came out with Elvis
12 Presley in the theatre and we were all dressed up and we
13 were going somewhere, and it was their wedding day.

14 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So just for our better
15 understanding Nancy, during that period were you living
16 with your grandmother and your mother? With whom were you
17 living?

18 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** No, what happened was
19 when my mom became pregnant with twins by Fred, who in
20 today's society would have been charged with statutory
21 rape, she became pregnant with twins and he beat her, and
22 she lost one of them and everybody thought it would be a
23 good idea to give me back to mom, that it might help her
24 through it, 'cause she really didn't ever want me taken;
25 right. She wanted her baby back. She had another child to

1 him, she lost about 11 from beatings from him. So then she
2 went from her father to Fred, to, oh my gosh we got to help
3 this young woman, to some guy who, who knows what he was,
4 who was going to somehow make her better. And my
5 grandmothers desperate 'cause her daughter is, you know, so
6 messed up. And then he introduces her to this guy he knows
7 is already a monster, and better than that he goes to the
8 wedding, and better than that I'm going to counsel the
9 little girls by myself in a room under a light shining in
10 your eyes, 'cause you can tell if I'm telling the truth or
11 not, so I can't see what you're doing.

12 And then I go to Toronto just a couple of
13 years ago. No, sorry, they looked into it. I'm, like, oh
14 Jesus, too bad you couldn't have said something because
15 chances are you wouldn't have gotten away with it. Yeah.
16 But we did have a -- we did -- we did succeed in one case.
17 I cleaned up for the first time in 1995. I don't even like
18 that word cleaned up but, yeah it was pretty messy, so I'll
19 accept that for now. I walked into -- how I cleaned up was
20 not really a choice. I didn't know how to clean up, I
21 wanted to for a long time.

22 How I was -- how I was introduced to drugs
23 is -- the case I'm going to talk to you about is a case
24 McDonald v. Chaney, Chaney being my stepfather and McDonald
25 being my birth name. It went through as a historical abuse

1 case that took two-and-a-half years. He -- my first real
2 memory of him was him shooting up with heroin at about five
3 years old. But I say, I'm going to switch back and forth
4 because I knew what he was trying to do, and I swore I was
5 going to remember everything in great fucking detail.

6 'Cause as this day is in front of me now, I knew the day
7 was going to come that he was going to stand in front of me
8 and he was going to hear from me again and that date had
9 come.

10 Originally, he was charged when I was pulled
11 out of the house when I was 14 in a little town of Fenelon
12 Falls, Ontario. Actually, it wasn't even Fenelon Falls, it
13 was more towards Bert River. He was charged with
14 contributing to juvenile delinquency in Lindsay, Ontario
15 courts. And how it goes, and the system is guilty, okay no
16 evidence, fine. Sit down, this is what we're going to do.
17 I went to a foster home and he had no conditions, that was
18 it. Well, in 1995 when I knew I was going to die, and I
19 didn't want my boys to bury their mom an addict, I didn't
20 want them to bury me with needle marks, I walked into a
21 little tiny police station, said I need to talk to you
22 about something, and I want you to promise me you can do
23 something about this. Now it's been 24 years, the police
24 officer looked at me and said you know, I really wish I
25 could, but I can't you know, I can't because, you know,

1 it's a long time. There might not be records, there might
2 not be witnesses, like, you know I need to be honest with
3 you. And I said yeah, thank you, I appreciate that but
4 don't ever say that again, don't ever say that again.

5 And the outcome of that was that he was
6 charged on 31 charges on multiple counts and I was the
7 primary victim. My sister became pregnant by my brother
8 when she was 11 years old, 11 years old.

9 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Can you speak a little
10 louder?

11 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** My sister became
12 pregnant by my brother at 11 years old. Christine McGoey,
13 the Crown on the baby shaking case in Toronto was the Crown
14 on this case. They put another Crown on the case, they
15 took the position that this legal system had fucked up and
16 that they couldn't charge him again. But as the creator
17 would have it both of their husbands were appellate
18 lawyers, ha ha. And everyone was in that courtroom. See,
19 he even burnt down a house, I was the only primary witness
20 in that one too. I was in the Supreme Court by the time I
21 was 11 years old and two young men were charged and he
22 wasn't 'cause they classified me as a hostile witness and
23 he walked away.

24 So when I talk to you about the legal
25 system, when I talk to you about what I even see today, I'm

1 here to tell you as the creator is my witness, and from the
2 kindest and gentlest place that it is no better, it is only
3 worse -- only worse. And now that you hear these words,
4 you can't look the other way anymore, you can't. I need to
5 take a break for a minute.

6 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** The witness is asking for
7 a recess, (Speaking French).

8 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** I just need five
9 minutes, please.

10 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Short recess of five
11 minutes, thank you.

12 --- Upon recessing at 9:42 a.m.

13 --- Upon reconvening at 9:56 a.m.

14 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Maybe we could take a few
15 steps back, if you could explain to Commissioner Audette
16 what led up to the trial you were discussing about. It was
17 concerning your step-father?

18 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** M'hm.

19 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Can you explain? Can
20 you share information on what have happened with your step-
21 father?

22 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Well, the abuse started
23 when I was five years old. I became aware of him involving
24 my brother and sister shortly after the youngest brother
25 was born, which was his son. So I would have been nine

1 years old when Jim was born and that's when it came to my
2 -- actually it was when my mom was in the hospital giving
3 birth to the baby that he started with my brothers and
4 sisters. I had -- I had gone to him one time and said that
5 I would never say anything 'cause he always said he would
6 kill us and he would kill mom first; right, if we ever
7 spoke. And I had asked him -- that I told him I would
8 never say anything to anyone as long as he left my brother
9 and sister alone. And as far as I knew he had.

10 So at the age of 11, we're living just up
11 the street in an apartment building. My mom had tried to
12 get away from Wally (ph) a few times and through his
13 threats of causing harm, she would let him back in. But,
14 my grandmother was more like a mom to me; right. 'Cause
15 obviously my mom was unable to and I used to spend a lot of
16 time with my grandma and I had told her one night that
17 Wally was really hurting me and she said: "what do you mean
18 by that?" and of course I was too afraid and I just said:
19 "I just want you to know grandma, he's hurting me." So my
20 grandma must have said something to somebody because within
21 48 hours we were packed up and we were moved into the
22 country. And I mean into the country, we had no running
23 water, no electricity. And it was so surprising to me
24 because there -- there was involvement from the ministry;
25 right. Like lots, in and out of foster homes and

1 manipulation of Wally with different doctors. My mom was
2 in 999 Queen and then the Clark Institute of Psychiatry and
3 they just messed her up. They messed her up. It took the
4 spirit right out of her actually.

5 Anyway, we get -- we're up in the middle of
6 nowhere and the -- my mom had been told by many mental
7 health professionals -- and this was documented in the
8 court case so it's not like I'm -- I'm talking about, you
9 know, this is what I heard or -- that she was bringing in
10 her own stuff and she was mirroring and that what was going
11 on was not going on, it was her sick mind and she needed
12 more Lithium and you know, more locking up and you know,
13 this kind of stuff; right. To the point where one time we
14 were apprehended and she -- he convinced them to take us
15 out of the foster home and send us home to him while my --
16 we were visiting my mom in the Clark Institute of
17 Psychiatry.

18 So anyway, we're -- we're in Fenelon Falls;
19 right. And I had many times tried to get away from Wally;
20 right. And one time I managed to get from Burnt River,
21 Ontario via the railroad track, actually got chased by a
22 bull into the river and nearly drowned. And I made it to
23 Scarborough, Scarborough town centre with two young men
24 that knew what was going on and they were trying to get me
25 out of there, but they knew they couldn't speak as Wally

1 would have beat the shit out of him, he was an extremely
2 violent man. Well, he probably would have shot them to be
3 quite honest.

4 So they get me out of there and I couldn't
5 believe it, we're not there 15 minutes and this guy pulls
6 up; right. I've never seen him before and he's got a gun
7 in one hand, he's got a knife and chain in the other. He
8 said: "Get the fuck out of the car, we're splitting him
9 from asshole to tea kettle." I would just like, oh my God,
10 that's how powerful this man is. So I get out and I sit in
11 front of his house and this car pulls up and out comes
12 Wally. And he beat me so bad that you could not put your
13 finger between one bruise and the other and I mean black.
14 To the -- and I remember the last thing he was saying is
15 for Christ's sakes, Wally, you're going to kill her. He
16 beat me unconscious. I mention this -- these things
17 because nobody in the community said anything. The schools
18 didn't say anything. Social workers -- now, you would
19 think that if you've got a man, that you've apprehended the
20 children who's under suspicion of doing this and there's
21 been talk and somewhat proof that he did it to his family
22 before that that -- that would probably be the last person
23 you'd send these children to, you know? Right. And I can
24 tell you the experiences that I have received. There's one
25 family I went to in the (indiscernible), they were

1 wonderful.

2 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So maybe if you would --
3 ready to share what led you up to arrive on the downtown
4 East side here in Vancouver, can you explain a little bit
5 about that?

6 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** I -- the biggest part
7 of my rediscovering me or recovery or whatever, you know,
8 holds true for you, has been ceremony. It has been
9 traditions, it's been sitting in circle with my sisters,
10 it's been around drums with my brothers. I'm sorry, what
11 did you ask me?

12 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** When you had to face that
13 during your childhood, the abuse, and the violence --

14 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** M'hm.

15 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** -- and you went to
16 trial --

17 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** M'hm.

18 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** -- can you confirm that
19 your step-father was convicted?

20 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Yeah, the trial started
21 in 1995, the Crown was Christine McGoey, I forget the other
22 Crown's name and I can't believe that, but they were
23 wonderful. Started in 1995, ended in November of 1997, the
24 lead detective was Detective Dave Lowe of the Special
25 Victims Unit and it was classified as a historical case.

1 And when they took it to appeal, we set new precedent that
2 if anyone is in a position where they fear for their life,
3 no matter what your age is, that if they were not properly
4 charged the first time they now can have that opened back
5 up again.

6 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** And how old were you
7 during that time?

8 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** During the court case?

9 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Yes.

10 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Well, I was 35 when I
11 walked into the RCMP and I had just come into recovery.
12 And it ended in '97 November, so I would have been 37 years
13 old, going to be 38.

14 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Okay. So growing up, I
15 believe it was in the region of Ontario?

16 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** M'hm.

17 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So what led you -- lead
18 you up to arrive on the downtown East side here in
19 Vancouver, under what circumstances?

20 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Okay, I know where I
21 was going with that. I had walked away from doing
22 ceremonies, we were sweating twice a week, we were going to
23 Moon Lodges, I was going to the Medicine Wheel where I met
24 Shelia (ph), you know. There is many women in our
25 community that, you know Maggie (ph), you know where we

1 sat; right. And we did these things and Oh, here I go
2 again, shit. I need you to ask me a question again?

3 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** M'hm. It's okay. When
4 did you arrive in the region of Vancouver?

5 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Oh, yeah. Here we go.
6 It's good I know what's going on now and I know what tools
7 I need. I got quite a toolbox happening here. Okay, so I
8 went into the corporate world, this is important, okay.
9 I'm living at 1010 Howe Street, I've walked away from
10 tradition because I'm feeding into the "what are you doing
11 for your boys" and "you got to go make some money, and you
12 got to get a degree or you got to do something. Who's
13 going to take care of you in your old age now?" So I
14 became a Level 2 insurance broker and I worked for Shaw
15 Sabey and Associates, the biggest firm in Vancouver and I
16 also worked for National Home Warranty as the business
17 development manager.

18 But you see, I made a mistake, 'cause I
19 walked away from everything that kept me grounded. So not
20 knowing this; right. My grandmother gets sick at 91 and
21 she has cancer. My grandmothers buried three of her
22 children, one being my mom to cancer at 55. So I go to
23 take care of my grandmother. Well, low and behold while
24 I'm taking care of my grandmother in Toronto, the condo I'm
25 living in at 1010 Howe Street, the Fortune House on the

1 10th floor, beautiful condo gets sold. So I'm thinking,
2 okay, no problem; right. I'm now working at the Vancouver
3 Convention Centre you know, doing Captain's jobs and, you
4 know, being in suits and you know, fighting for the woman
5 at work and making sure their voices are heard and all that
6 kind of stuff; right. And I'm thinking, no problem you
7 know, making good money. I'm running into double time and
8 triple time, I'll just work you know, 18 hours like I do --
9 pound that pavement, make this money and get a place.
10 My first day back at work I get injured at work and I have
11 a 5 cm x 3 cm tear in my calf muscle to the point where my
12 leg and my foot was turning black from the blood and it was
13 so frigging painful. So I get taken up to St. Paul's and
14 I'm offered Hydromorphone and I'm thinking (unreportable
15 sound) -- oh, I guess I was supposed to turn my phone off,
16 sorry. I'm thinking -- could you help me with that,
17 please? -- no problem, right. It won't be a problem. So
18 here I'm homeless and I go to one shelter and there was a
19 young woman left outside for three nights when there was an
20 empty bed in my room and I got so mad. I said I'm going to
21 give her my bed, but you make sure you put her in here
22 'cause she's freezing out there. She was literally
23 freezing, they had a heating blanket on her. I said: "why
24 aren't you giving her that pad?" "because it's an emergency
25 (Indiscernible)." I said: "what more of an emergency do

1 you want?"

2 So up I get taken by a safe ride by a woman
3 by the name of Jackie (ph), who was in the program. And
4 I'm scared, I'm scared like pooping my pants scared. It's
5 at the corner of Cordova and Dunlevy right across from
6 (Indiscernible) Park. They have syringes and you know,
7 safe injection stuff which is important. You know,
8 machines where you can get clean stuff; right. And I had
9 never been in the downtown East side, even though I'd lived
10 here. I was like, there's only one reason you'd go down
11 there like, you stay away from the downtown. I was so
12 flipping scared.

13 Well, here I was 56 years old, homeless,
14 injured, scared to death. Not able to have my family
15 around me 'cause of where they're going to go. I have two
16 boys who were in addiction, I'm the only thing they have.
17 So they can't come to me.

18 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** M'hm.

19 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** So I take the -- take
20 the -- the Hydromorphone and I go to physio and I do those
21 things and I don't misuse them. I don't crush them up, I
22 don't inject them. I'm thinking I'm going to be okay. I'm
23 going to be okay; right. Well, it's time to come off the
24 pills; right. And how doctors work now in BC is, Oh they
25 can leave, and it turns into a walk-in clinic and you walk

1 in, they're: "okay, you've got five minutes so what's the
2 most important thing, one thing," "one thing and one thing
3 only" and I'm like, oh my God; right. So I reach out to
4 St. Paul's Hospital, it's Friday, I've got to make it
5 through to a clinic opens on Monday. And I'm thinking my
6 best bet is the same clinic that I've been going to for 18
7 years but unfortunately, it's just gone to some other kind
8 of funding I guess, I don't know. And you've got five
9 minutes, one thing. How the heck am I going to do this. I
10 can't -- I can't see that; right.

11 So I reach out to St. Paul's and like, I'm
12 dope sick now; right. And I've fueled that whole, well,
13 here is pain meds, what's going to fix her. All you got to
14 do is this. And look where I am; right. So I go to St.
15 Paul's by ambulance 'cause I feel that bad. Wonderful
16 doctor, oh just fantastic 'cause I'm scared. I'm like: "oh
17 my God, am I going to like totally relapse here, like am I
18 really off to the races here?" 'Cause I'm having physical
19 symptoms now not just thoughts; right. And he's like, you
20 know, it's okay, it's you -- this is how you should be
21 feeling, we're going to get you through to Monday.

22 I'm going to give you one very low dose and
23 I'm going to give you a shot to stop you from sweating and
24 wanting to throw up and feeling like aliens are coming out
25 of your stomach; right. Great, I'm going to put in a

1 running order, come back in six to eight hours, you're
2 going to need it. You're going to be in, you're going to
3 be out. Don't worry, we'll get you to Monday. Yeah. Off
4 I go home, you're going to do this, you can get there, you
5 can get there, you can get there. Sure enough six to eight
6 hours and off I am again. Another doctor, great, I mean,
7 I'm fast tracked, I'm in, I'm out, I'm home. This is
8 perfect, there is no chance of me second guessing what I'm
9 doing here. I'm going to get home okay, I'm not going to
10 pick up.

11 It's early Sunday morning and I go back to
12 St. Paul's and I get left out in the waiting room for four
13 or five hours and I'm getting sicker and I'm getting sicker
14 and all I can think about was, you know how to fix this,
15 you know how to fix this. All you got to do is go home.
16 Go home, go (indiscernible). Because I haven't used yet;
17 right. This is a medical thing. I'm clean 21 years.

18 I go to St. Paul's, this doctor walks in, he
19 doesn't even ask me my name, he doesn't even look at me.
20 He says all you're here is -- all you're here for is more
21 pills, you can sit here as long as you want, I'm done with
22 you. It's 3 o'clock in the morning. I don't have a coat,
23 it's cold. I remember phoning my friend and they say, what
24 the fuck do they do just keep kicking you, like kicking you
25 and beating you til you just lay down and die. I couldn't

1 believe it.

2 I live, I mean in Hastings, everybody in my
3 building uses. How could this doctor disregard, 1, another
4 doctors order? 2, another doctor who supported it. We're
5 talking one 4 mg Dilaudid just to stop me from being sick,
6 when I can go pick up as much as I want just in my
7 building, you know. I'd never had fentanyl in my system,
8 I'd never used (indiscernible).

9 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So what happened when the
10 doctor refused you --

11 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** I --

12 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** -- to prescribe you
13 anything?

14 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** I tried not to use and
15 I got so sick that I thought, okay, what am I going to do,
16 what am I going to do, what am I going to do, I'm going to
17 go pick up \$10 worth of heroin, and I'm going to cut it
18 into three, because I don't want to use and maybe if I
19 explain this I can just you know, not you know, I haven't
20 relapsed; right. 'Cause that was really important to me.
21 Well, once I picked that needle up and I did that, it was
22 like giving an elephant a baloney sandwich. It was just
23 that -- it just reared up and it was like, (unreportable
24 sound) within 48 hours.

25 I was doing 2 grams of heroin a day and

1 pulling water out of the back alley (indiscernible). And I
2 swear to you as the creator is my witness, if I had gotten
3 the help I needed, that would not have happened. Because
4 if I was going to use again -- and the next part of what
5 I'm going to share with you -- I would have by now. That
6 doctor could have killed me, do you understand me. I was
7 loaded with fentanyl when I went to detox. The only thing
8 that saved my life is I have really shitty veins and the
9 creator wouldn't let me find one. And I can tell you from
10 my many visits to St. Paul's Hospital, there's a direct
11 link between St. Paul's Hospital, their security personnel
12 and how they send people out of that hospital, as to how
13 people go murdered and missing. They set the damn table
14 and they've done it to me more than once. And I've seen --
15 I've held many of my brothers and sisters who have been
16 treated -- you know, it would be more humane to take them
17 out back and friggen shoot them, I'm serious. I mean they
18 shoot horses, don't they? And I'm not -- and I'm not being
19 dramatic here, I see this every day. I see it every day
20 and there's a lot of people making money off this. A lot
21 of people.

22 There's a lot of -- a lot of people making
23 money off of keeping our people sick. Some they get it on
24 paper and some get it in the back pocket and that's why it
25 keeps going. Too many people are making money and our

1 systems support it. And there needs to be a huge, huge
2 investigation into St. Paul's Hospital, huge investigation.

3 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Can you share Nancy, what
4 triggered your decision to become sober?

5 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** The first time? I --
6 see -- I didn't know anybody who didn't use drugs and
7 alcohol. Like, I didn't, you know. I didn't even know
8 that world existed. But I knew the pain that I was causing
9 my boys and the things that have happened to them because
10 of my addiction. And the things that happened to them, I
11 guess they had to go into care because of my addiction;
12 right.

13 Both of them have been raped, both of them
14 have been abused. Both of them -- my oldest son is a meth
15 addict and he's used every day for the last three years.
16 My youngest son is a heroin addict and there are many times
17 I could have gotten help and the system wouldn't support my
18 insight and wouldn't support my suggestions and sent them
19 to court appointed recovery houses where drugs are being
20 sold and their support cheques were being taken, you know.
21 This happens all the time.

22 And you know, it's just very hard to hear
23 for these -- you -- you know why you're getting these
24 reactions? Because these sisters walked that too. But I
25 needed them to know that their voices were going to be

1 heard here. I needed them to know, this is hard, but I
2 promised them I was going to do this. I gave them my word.
3 The only way we're going to heal is you let our people heal
4 our people. If you give and stop, you know when we apply
5 for things you give us like, this much of what we've
6 applied for. Just enough to say, you know, here's your
7 piece, while you make all the money off of it. You get
8 more money when we show up, it's best you keep us sick and
9 it happens everyday, everyday.

10 I had another experience with St. Paul's
11 Hospital. I was diagnosed with Hep C in 1995. Physicians
12 never did anything more about it. They never screened it
13 again, anytime I walked in with a pain in my right-hand
14 side it was they -- they were going to do a hernia
15 operation. Then another time it was that I was, you know,
16 depressed. It was -- it was so many other things that were
17 blatantly could have been my liver but anyway, I'm back at
18 Turning Point in 1994 -- in -- when I relapsed --and this
19 young man asked me if I know anything about Hep C -- anyway
20 to fast -- fast track forward.

21 I end up at Raven Song and I find out that
22 my Hep C has now moved into a fibre scan of 28 and I'm
23 entering psoriasis of the liver and I was on -- one of the
24 last patients to be put on interferon, riborivon, and
25 Sovaldi, the hardest you can hit anybody on Hep C. And for

1 those who may not know, 85 percent of the people that go on
2 interferon go into psychosis. And sure enough, I've only
3 got two more weeks to go and low and behold, it hits. I --
4 because of my psychosis, I kept myself locked up in my room
5 and by the time the ambulance was called -- although people
6 witnessed me covered in feces and urine that had been on me
7 for days and like I was messed up, I was real messed up,
8 but nobody called anybody. But eventually, I got a call
9 out to -- or was it Lou I asked to call, my neighbor.

10 Get a call out to the ambulance and they
11 come get me and these two wonderful ambulance drivers show
12 up and you can tell they were scared. They -- they can
13 tell, something isn't right here, and I'm scared because
14 they look scared and I'm trying to calm them down, right.
15 But I was enough of my mind to be able to tell them exactly
16 my doses, what day I started, what I was taking and what I
17 believed was going on. Very clear, 180 mg of, you know,
18 interferon, 400 mg of Sovaldi, 400 mg of riborivon. It
19 started on this date, I end on that date, I got two more
20 weeks, clear mind. Don't worry, you're going to be taken
21 care of.

22 The first thing they do is get me out of my
23 clothes, right. 'Cause I'm covered, right. Ambulance
24 drivers are looking at their -- the staff like, you know,
25 don't worry honey, they'll take care, we got to go -- we

1 got to -- but they're going to take care of you, they're
2 going to take care of you. I'm out there for a long, long
3 time, just sitting out in there while all of this stuff is
4 going -- like people are coming in and I'm losing it,
5 right. I even go to a fireman that came in and ask him if
6 he can help me, he can't 'cause he got injured at work. I
7 see one of my other sisters being turned away when she
8 needed help, right.

9 So long story short -- short of that was, I
10 knew then I better get out of there 'cause I knew what was
11 happening here. You see, I had complained about the doctor
12 who sent me out at 3 o'clock in the morning. I was like
13 you best get out of here. You're losing your mind here and
14 they're not going to do anything for you, as a matter of
15 fact you don't know what's going to happen next, you better
16 get out of here. So I go to leave, and this doctor has to
17 give me some clothes, right. 'Cause mine are all covered
18 in, right. And I remember dancing around and twirling
19 around like -- like -- really like, obviously there's a
20 problem doctor. And he says: "Yeah, you look fine, you can
21 go." So I walk out the door and I can see all the traffic
22 and everything's going and it was like, holy shit, right.
23 I can't make it home and I started getting really scared
24 and now I'm seeing things and hearing things again, right.
25 So I go back into the hospital and three security guards

1 chase me -- literally run me off the property. I start
2 running between cars and traffic on Burrard Street. It's -
3 - it's now rush hour, I'm almost being hit by cars. To run
4 across the street in a coffee shop to hide behind pillars
5 to look for my opportunity to try and find a way back --
6 I'm trying to get into the ambulances -- I'm trying to get
7 back -- I'm trying to get some help. There were five
8 social workers in the coffee shop. Honey, you need to go
9 back to the hospice -- yeah, I need to go back to the
10 hospital I'm (indiscernible).

11 Your lucky day, five social workers having
12 lunch. They take me back, intake: "Thank you for bringing
13 her back." As soon as they cleared that parking lot, three
14 more security guards chase me off the property again.
15 Chase me off the property. It was written down that I was
16 high on crystal meth. Imagine that one, eh? You don't
17 consider interferon, you don't consider any of the
18 medication. And when I try and tell you that it might be
19 what it is, you don't like my attitude because that can't
20 happen at the end of your treatment. When I tried
21 (indiscernible), I spent four hours a week learning about
22 this and they've warned me again, they don't like my
23 attitude, right.

24 I made over 50 calls, over 50 -- at least 50
25 calls to the mental health crisis line, you know I'm in

1 trouble, come assess me, I'm losing it. Nobody showed up,
2 not one person. The office of the Hubbard Building that I
3 live in, that has mental health workers and support
4 workers, made a call. You should come see this woman.
5 Five hours later I went back, Judy you're going to like, go
6 home soon, can you call them, see what's going on. She
7 calls, we're not coming, we're not coming.

8 Then it gets better, in desperation I pull
9 the fire alarm downstairs and I'm crawling on the floor
10 downstairs trying to get someone to take me to a hospital
11 to help me. The police show up, our not so protective VPD,
12 and next thing I know I'm being thrown up against a brick
13 wall. Picked up -- dragged up, I'm in a walker. I looked
14 like shit, you can tell I'm in fucking trouble, but to them
15 I'm high. Throw me up against the wall and the one young
16 officer was really good. He kind of held my arm like this,
17 right and he's looking at the older officer. You -- you
18 can tell he's like a deer in headlights, like what the hell
19 are we doing here, right.

20 This officer puts his finger right
21 underneath and he just drives it right into my -- into my
22 armpit and I knew, don't pull. You learn this lesson real
23 quick downtown, don't pull. Don't you dare go, don't do
24 that 'cause then you're resisting, and they're only going
25 to get harder on you. So I looked at him and I said:

1 "Geez, you've got really strong hands, did they teach you
2 that in training?" So then my neighbor, oh poor Lou, geez
3 man, better known as Dixon in the building, I work with
4 him, this is a great site, right. He comes out and sees
5 and then he goes: "what the hell are you doing?" he says:
6 "don't hurt her, I work with her. It's just somethings
7 going on, she's never like this, I work with her."

8 So they allow Lou to go upstairs 'cause they
9 were going to drag me back to my room. To go upstairs and
10 get a chair that's on wheels, hold my arms behind my back
11 and my feet, because I'm doing the pregnant woman thing
12 going through the door. Begging them: "please don't put me
13 back in there." "Please don't put me back in there." They
14 get to my room and they push me in the door, now I haven't
15 got enough time to tell you what happened in that room, to
16 what I did to myself. But I will tell you, I started
17 bleaching my hands, bleaching my tongue, inhaling bleach.
18 I did a lot of damage, I nearly died in that room.

19 And when I begged the officers, I was laying
20 on the floor and I begged them with my life: "Please don't
21 put me back in here." He -- the one who did the -- turned
22 around, looked at the floor and he says: "Yup, pills all
23 over the floor, joint on the table." They were my Hep C
24 pills because I was too sick to open the bottle and he
25 turned around and he looked at me and he went: "Call us one

1 more fucking time and I'm arresting you." And I'm here to
2 tell you that happens every day, every day and St. Paul's,
3 the VPD, and a lot of the systems that we have in place
4 that benefit and make more money from the First Nations
5 Community, because we're First Nations, set that table
6 every day.

7 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So, Nancy, had to --
8 having to face all of that violence growing up and arriving
9 here in Vancouver living on the downtown east side being
10 homeless --

11 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** M'hm.

12 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** -- what keeps you moving
13 forward? What has brought you here today and to be alive
14 and sharing with us?

15 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Look, look at this.

16 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** M'hm.

17 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** And if everyone I've
18 ever sat in circle with -- with everyone I've ever drummed
19 with could be in this room today, there wouldn't be enough
20 room in this hotel. Our government needs to understand
21 something, the only way we're going to heal is by our
22 people, our way, and if you want to offer services to learn
23 and support our ways, then you will come to us and you will
24 learn our ways and you will do it respectfully. We have a
25 totem pole down in the downtown east side at Pigeon Park,

1 better start taking Seroquel or they're going to force you
2 to take Lithium." What? What? I'm coming up on two years
3 again, I didn't need your Lithium. I'm down as being a
4 mental health whatever. Have I had depression? Well,
5 absolutely because if you can sit in front of me and tell
6 me that you wouldn't have had depression going through the
7 same thing, then you really do need to see a doctor. Like,
8 you really do 'cause that should have hurt like hell.
9 Right? But, instead it's turned into this weakness, right.
10 You know.

11 The most important thing that's happened for
12 me is drumming. I didn't have a voice, you were beat to
13 not have a voice. You could cry without making a sound.
14 And when I first started drumming it gave me a voice. When
15 I ended up in the downtown east side, in a little room and
16 I'm still there. That doesn't even have a bathroom,
17 doesn't even have a bedroom, you know, I'm still there.
18 And I work in the downtown east side. So how do I do it?
19 This is how you do it, why won't they listen to us, why
20 won't they listen? Oh, 'cause they know better, like the
21 doctor did who thought maybe I was there for one pill,
22 right. That's -- that's -- that's how well that plan
23 worked, and their plans worked I don't know, you'll all
24 answer yourself, how do you think their plans going.
25 That's why we're here today, right. That's why we're here

1 today, you know. You should be asking our permission, not
2 us begging you -- begging you to give us some land and a
3 place and the money to heal our people after all the money
4 you've made off of making us sick. That's the only way
5 this is going to change.

6 Do you know that the police station at Main
7 and Hastings isn't open to the public? Did you know that?
8 222 Main is closed to the public, so if you're in trouble
9 you have to make it to Cambie and 2nd, over a bridge.
10 That's how unavailable the police are to us, oh but believe
11 me, they can sure come at us anytime they want to, and they
12 do. Red Zone's, (indiscernible) just don't like it at your
13 Red Zone, Oh okay, wait a minute, I'm back here. Now
14 you're going to jail. Now you got a criminal record, you
15 know. We can control you any way we want, any way we want.
16 I've been walked up on at 3 o'clock in the morning going:
17 "And what are you doing walking the streets at 3 o'clock in
18 the morning?" So I try and lighten up the situation, I
19 say: "That's funny officer, I was just about to ask you the
20 same thing." You know what it was, it was cheque day, we
21 were waiting for our money before Christmas.

22 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** And he actually did a
24 U-turn, almost came right up on the sidewalk, to me in a
25 walker 'cause I was walking the streets at 3 o'clock in the

1 morning. And then threaten me on (indiscernible) to us
2 officer, what he was doing. He said they're going after
3 our men that way. They're going after our men, how do our
4 men protect us from the police who are running at them all
5 the time. And I mean all the time. They can do whatever
6 they want. If they see a bike they think you might have
7 stolen it, they can pull up on you like you've robbed a
8 bank. Empty your pockets, shake you down. To the point
9 where you're probably going to react, and then they've got
10 you where they want you and whatever woman he's with is now
11 walking alone. They're doing it very systematically, I
12 witness it every day, every day.

13 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Do you have any
14 recommendations to make to Commissioner Audette,
15 observations?

16 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Yeah one, please light
17 up the downtown east side, we live in the dark. I went to
18 the police station one time because I took a woman out of
19 there with both arms broken behind her back, foaming at the
20 mouth, young girl. People were walking by her like it was
21 a normal thing and so I wanted to know what happened to
22 her, so I went to 222 Main and that's how I found out the
23 police station was closed. So I buzzed, thinking hey, you
24 know. "We're not open to the public." "You keep pushing
25 the button we're going to arrest you, we're going to call

1 the police." I said: "Perfect" (unreportable sound) and
2 I've got all this on film, all on film (unreportable
3 sound). Really, duh, that's exactly what it was.

4 Two really nice officers show up, I tell
5 them what it's about and they can see I'm recording it and
6 they're going: "You better come inside" and I said: "I
7 thought so". And I explained to them -- and do you know
8 the female officer started crying, 'cause that young girl
9 got beat up at Main and Hastings, the police barely
10 followed up with her. She managed to stumble into the park
11 and when I got to her and was holding her hands covered in
12 blood and she was foaming at the mouth -- eyes -- and her
13 eyes were rolled back and the only thing she ever said one
14 time was: "I want my momma." One of the officers stated
15 that: "Well, she's usually the one who starts it." Well,
16 what? Right?

17 I phoned the VPD, I told them to send a
18 couple of Sergeants out, some detectives out and when they
19 got to my door, Oh I gave them the name of the court case
20 and I told them who the Crown attorney was and told them
21 that you might want to check this out first because if you
22 don't believe what I'm about to tell you, call Dave, get a
23 character witness from him, no problem. And they came out
24 and I asked for the building manager to be there and I
25 listened to his voice and then I gave him the rights. And

1 I told him there's some officers down here who are giving
2 these guys a real -- really bad name, you know.

3 And I told them the things I've seen, girls
4 being put in back of the cars. Out of the shelters with
5 one bag, you can't have your shit all over the sidewalk.
6 Come with me, suitcase in the backseat, they're in the
7 backseat and they're riding the back alleys of the downtown
8 east side. Going right by dope dealers that are passing
9 the \$40 and the rock right in front of the cop, but his eye
10 is on that little girl that's just gone into the shelter.
11 I see it every day. Every day.

12 And this has all been documented 'cause you
13 know who paid for the cabs for me to take these woman to
14 the hospital? The Woman's shelter did. So everything I'm
15 telling you is documented, it's documented. And I pray for
16 all of us, that we do something about this. 'Cause, it
17 reminds me of the Roman days, living in the downtown east
18 side reminds me of the Roman days in the coliseum, where
19 you corral everybody, right. They can't leave, they can't
20 -- financially they can't get out, you know. Their --
21 their skills have diminished so much that they can barely
22 even -- well, physically even move that far.

23 You teach them how to fight each other,
24 right. You give them very little, so they start fighting
25 over who has what. Then you know, the people that are

1 sitting there for the show get right comfy, you know, make
2 sure they've got everything they need and then they just
3 release -- release us, you know, and they make money off
4 it. And we lose our people and we start to hate our people
5 and our sisters start fighting with their sisters. Our
6 elders start breaking down, our medicine woman can't take
7 it anymore 'cause they've been doing it 20, 30, 40 years.
8 We lose our medicine people, we lose our elders, we lose
9 our men. We lose our children, we lose ourselves.

10 There are so many missing women in the
11 downtown east side, we know exactly where they are, but
12 they're missing, we can't get to them. Pimps, drug
13 dealers, most of them are sleeping on the street. I am
14 still in one room that's maybe three times of that square,
15 and I still can't get out of that room 'cause there's
16 nowhere for me to go. But at least I have that.

17 So we send them out in street, in the dark
18 where I'm telling you me going home from a bus station, I
19 cannot tell from here to that second row whether you're a
20 man, you're a woman, or whether we're going to cross paths
21 in a good way or a bad way. I hear the cries, I hear the
22 screams, I hear the beatings and I can't see what's going
23 on and that -- you know what that cop said to me, when she
24 started crying.

25 Do you know how many times we've asked the

1 City of Vancouver to put lights in Oppenheimer Park? And
2 they refuse to. I said: "Well, why even go in the park?"
3 They said: "We can't go in the park, we don't know who --
4 if we had to use gun fire, we could be shooting an innocent
5 person." We have begged the city to put lights in the
6 park, we live in darkness down there, we live in darkness
7 down there. Every alley, every corner is an opportunity,
8 and I'm telling you they set the table. As a matter of
9 fact let's give them linen and you know knives and forks
10 and you know. Let the whole -- couch, table, you know you
11 can live down here, you know.

12 I call Oppenheimer Park, unless we're doing
13 ceremony there, I call it the killing fields. I've seen a
14 woman raped, not seen, heard. During the day, loaded with
15 cops never made the paper. Another young boy came from up
16 north, abusive relationship with his father, cops were
17 banging on my door. Because he had gone in, was looking
18 for brothers, noticed them, thought that was a good place
19 to hang out you know, my brothers and my sisters, right.
20 They offer him a beer, everything's going well for a little
21 while. Well, make a long story short, they beat him to
22 death.

23 I've heard people be stabbed and shot in my
24 back alley, none of it makes the paper, none of it. It's
25 like it never ever happened and you know why? Because of

1 the business developers good God all mighty, you know.
2 Where they going to go? Downtown can't go anywhere else,
3 get rid of them anyway you can and take no hostages. And
4 that is what's going on and nobody's doing a thing about
5 it, nobody. We want to, we're not given the permission to.
6 We can, we know how, we know how. We're not given what we
7 need, what we were born the right to have. We got to jump
8 through hoops to see if we qualify. We qualified a long
9 time ago.

10 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** M'hm.

11 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Can I please take a
12 break?

13 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So, Commissioner Audette,
14 if you have questions or comments?

15 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** *Merci*
16 *beaucoup*, Nancy, thank you. About the darkness for that
17 recommendation, I understand and it's something we need for
18 sure to do or put and support -- I have also a question to
19 you and a concern. What can we recommend to the health
20 system? You talked about the hospital and --

21 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** There needs to be a
22 huge -- a huge -- and very intensive investigation into the
23 practices of St. Paul's and their security. And -- and not
24 by them --

25 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

1 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** -- believe you me.

2 Like it -- I am not exaggerating by saying to you that on
3 some given days there is probably a bus load of our people
4 who are sent out with no way of getting home, no way in the
5 middle of the night. Now, you got to remember that the St.
6 Paul's Hospital is also in a well-to-do area.

7 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** A what?

8 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** A well-to-do area, it
9 is at Burrard, here's Granville Street, there is Davies
10 Street, it's all tourists, it's people with money. Now, if
11 you've met some of the very colourful people of the
12 downtown east side, they won't be welcomed in a good way.
13 They would be lucky to safely make it to and from the
14 hospital. We need to have supports for our people so that
15 we can say you know what we're going to give you funding
16 for this, we're going to give you funding to make sure that
17 when your people go into a hospital that there's going to
18 be somebody else there with them.

19 The only way it turned around for me at VGH
20 is Bob Manning, then took me over to VGH from his office
21 because he knew I was still in trouble. And he knew I
22 didn't use and do you know, the only way they contacted him
23 -- that was the other thing too, St. Paul's Hospital never
24 even called the Hep C doctor, couldn't even be bothered.
25 So I put Bob Manning down as my emergency contact person,

1 so they were obligated to give him a call. I spend the
2 next 13 days in and out of VGH, 13 days.

3 They have to put more funding into our
4 people, and I mean a lot, a lot of money and places and no
5 involvement, none, unless they are welcomed, or they come
6 in a good way. I mean none, stay out of it like I said.
7 Pay attention here, there's another way of doing it and we
8 know how, we know how.

9 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Nancy, I'm
10 not from here, you know that and this is my heart talking
11 to you each time I come here with Bernie, or with my friend
12 here Marlene, or just with by myself. I have to cross the
13 downtown east side to go visit my son or my little baby
14 girl and each time I'm mad.

15 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** M'hm.

16 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Very, very
17 mad. I don't live there, but I cross just a little bit
18 compared to you who live there every day. And how come our
19 society tolerate and accept that. I was 16 years old the
20 first time I saw that, I'm still shocked, I'm 46 today.
21 How come our government in plural, federal, provincial
22 accept that. How come the City of Vancouver accept that?

23 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Because they make a lot
24 of money off of it. And if they're not making money off of
25 it, they're making power out of it. They have the ability

1 to say what one can have and what one can't. And for some
2 people, that's the most powerful drug, right. They're
3 making decisions and not even knowing our people. Like I
4 said, there's no difference from that doctor who looked at
5 me and said: "This is all you want, and I'm not giving it
6 to you." It's the same thing. How dare you?

7 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

8 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** You know, you know what
9 it is I need, it's been proven. As we have proven what
10 we've needed and you for whatever reason, without even
11 looking at me or speaking my name, said: "You're out of
12 here, I'm done with you."

13 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

14 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** How?

15 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** I honor your
16 presence, I honor the courage for you to come and speak the
17 truth and for -- for us who are dedicating to this journey,
18 to this mandate within the national inquiry, the biggest
19 hope, it's to make sure that Canadian hears and feel and
20 understand your truth. And we will fight this until the
21 end.

22 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Yes, we will.

23 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And we will
24 stand -- stand up when we will fall because we have amazing
25 people. I see you have amazing people with you, they could

1 be somewhere else, but they made a decision this morning to
2 support you because I'm sure you're supporting them also.
3 I'm sure --

4 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** That's what it's about.

5 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Yes, exactly.

6 And we need to make sure you mention that circle when you
7 spoke to us the room would be too small.

8 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Oh.

9 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Yes.

10 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** I need to mention
11 culture saves lives.

12 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Exactment.

13 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** I need to mention
14 culture saves lives. That is where I have gone many, many
15 times, that is where the spirit group meets. That is our
16 community drum, that drum shows up every time you need it.

17 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

18 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** A suggestion, make sure
19 to give more funding to Patrick Smith (ph) and his
20 programming. Write that down.

21 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Of course,
22 it's written, it's even filmed and recorded and so let's --
23 let's say to Canadian that it's not a myth, it does exist,
24 the downtown east side. We're losing our woman every day,
25 our men too.

1 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** M'hm.

2 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And we don't
3 deserve that, we do not deserve that.

4 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** No.

5 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And I don't
6 want my son to go there and -- he lives in Vancouver --

7 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** M'hm.

8 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- I don't
9 want my grand-daughter, because of many, many reason that
10 she will end there too. And I don't want to judge people
11 that who lives there. People can live there but it should
12 be safe, with lights.

13 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** We have some of the
14 most beautiful --

15 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Of course you
16 do.

17 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** -- people. I love my
18 community, it would just be nice if I could see it better
19 at night.

20 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm. Yeah,
21 yeah, yeah, and I believe you. We have --

22 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** And I want Christmas
23 lights.

24 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** You do?

25 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** I want Christmas

1 lights. Do you know that in the whole downtown east side,
2 I'm very serious, from my window, I used to work to the
3 Convention Centre, every day I walked there, it takes 12
4 minutes if you're walking real good; right. Twelve minutes
5 away I can see this hotel lit up like you wouldn't believe
6 with Christmas lights. I couldn't get my phone to work
7 this morning, you know the only Christmas lights we had in
8 the downtown east side, was on a crane.

9 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** What is a
10 crane?

11 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** A machine, that -- you
12 know, that lifts things up in the air for building --

13 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Oh, okay.

14 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** -- that was the only
15 Chris -- that's the message our government gives us. Merry
16 Ho-Ho. Lights and Christmas lights, Christmas lights. We
17 deserve to celebrate the season too, you know, don't you
18 think?

19 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Would you
20 accept the gift from us?

21 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Yes, please.

22 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** It's not a
23 Christmas light --

24 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Okay.

25 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- sorry.

1 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** When the Christmas
2 lights come to the downtown east side, and they will, I'll
3 remember this moment.

4 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And let me
5 know if they get there.

6 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Oh, I will.

7 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Let me know.
8 I'll ask Bernie, Bernie, Bernie is -- is a woman that I
9 love, where is she?

10 **MS. NANCY WEINHERT:** Me too.

11 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** There she is,
12 yeah, she's a powerful, beautiful person.

13 **MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS:** Well, long time
14 coming. I'm very proud of you, Nancy. But I really want
15 to acknowledge our women from the downtown east side. You
16 woman are the reason why we keep fighting to ensure your
17 safety, to ensure that you get -- you are treated with the
18 utmost love and respect when we're on those front lines.

19 And I'm so proud to see all of you here, I
20 really am, I really honor you women. You are not society's
21 throwaways, you are valued, and you are loved, and I want
22 you women to know that I'm so proud to see you here. I'm
23 very -- I'm so proud. When we walk those streets, you know
24 just the touch, the smile, it's so important. And I want
25 all of Canada to see who you are. You matter. You matter.

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I want to say to Nancy too that we've talked about this before, we've become an industry down there. They've made millions off of our backs, our women who are still falling through the cracks. We figured out it's a million dollars a day that has been spent in the downtown east side. I remember Carol and I go back -- Carol Martin and I go back where there was only about 30 to 32 organizations in the downtown east side, now we're well over 300. We figured that there's a million dollars that's been funded in the downtown east side.

So you're looking at about 30 million dollars a month, right from the police to the city, to the organizations and -- I'm not saying all organizations are bad but I'm telling you there's a lot that has made -- made their millions off the backs of our women especially. Like Carol Martin has been saying for years, we've become the biggest commodity and it's an industry. And this has got to stop, and Nancy has been saying we need the simple basic human rights and we're not even worthy of that.

I'm proud to call the downtown east side my home. I'm proud to walk those streets, I'm proud to walk alongside of these beautiful women. You know, when we go through the alleys like people just like, don't go in there. You know I feel safer in the downtown east side and

1 in those alleys than I do anywhere in Vancouver. Because
2 this is where the reality of what love looks like, this is
3 what love looks like because it's unconditional. We don't
4 have much down there but there's one thing that we are
5 certain that we do have, is that love for one another in
6 that community.

7 But I want to honour Nancy, thank you for
8 your truths. Thank you for opening the eyes of so many
9 that have just turned those blind eyes. I remember some of
10 the politicians that started down -- on the downtown east
11 side, that have forgotten about us. How they got to where
12 they are, was because of these beautiful people here.

13 As soon as they got into whether it's an MP,
14 MLA, they've walked away. They got to where they got --
15 needed to and then they forgot why and who got them to
16 where they're at. The only one that I really know of is
17 Melanie Mark, Minster Melanie Mark, Libby Davis and Jenny
18 Kwan, that have stayed true to who they are and about the
19 community, but the rest forgot.

20 And I'm glad you're here to remind them of
21 the things that they had promised and that they still
22 haven't done it. We asked for the banners over 20 years
23 ago of the murdered and missing women's banners that Carol
24 and so many of us women fought for to be at least flown in
25 the downtown east side so that we would never forget, but

1 we couldn't even get that. The Women's Centre has one
2 part, it's a raggedy -- it's a raggedy one.

3 But this is how they look at us, but we are
4 rising. As Maya Angelou says: "We rise." And we are going
5 to rise. But I honor you, thank you for taking a risk
6 here, for all of us and for our beautiful women here.
7 Thank you for bringing them to us (Speaking in Haida).

8 These Eagle Feathers has come from -- from
9 Thompson, Manitoba. The journey has -- has taken right
10 from Haida Gwaii to the Atlantic for these Eagle Feathers
11 to come in. And these are from families and spiritual
12 elders too. So I want to say (Speaking in Haida) to you.

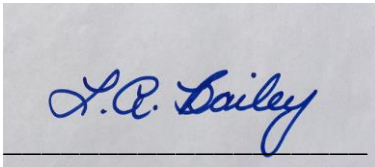
13 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Thank you,
14 Grandmother Bernie, thank you. So, Commissioner, I wonder
15 if we could adjourn this session and I believe there will
16 be another song shared. Thank you. We can adjourn.

17 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** *Merci Me*
18 *Wylde.*

19 --- Upon adjourning at 11:04 a.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Lynn Bailey, 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.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. Q. Bailey". A horizontal line is drawn below the signature.

Lynn Bailey

April 11, 2018