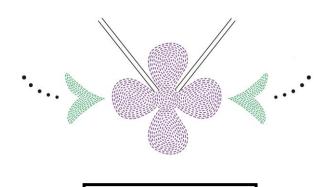
National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls



Enquête nationale sur les femmes et les filles autochtones disparues et assassinées

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Truth Gathering Process - Part 1 Statement Gathering Winnipeg, Manitoba Fort Garry Hotel



October 3, 2018

PUBLIC

Statement - Volume 487 Terriea Wadud

Statement gathered by Tiar Wilson & Commissioner Qajaq Robinson

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

1 Winnipeg, Manitoba --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 10:18 2 3 a.m. MS. TIAR WILSON: Good morning, everybody. 4 It's 10:18 a.m. on Wednesday, October 3rd, 2018. This is 5 Tiar Wilson, and I have the honour of sitting in today with 6 one of my colleagues who will be -- who will introduce 7 herself. She -- she's giving her statement today as well 8 as beside me is Commissioner Robinson, but I'll get 9 everybody to introduce themselves. So I'll start with you, 10 Qajaq. 11 12 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Do I talk into 13 something or just talk? 14 MS. TIAR WILSON: Just -- just talk out. COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Okay. Qajaq 15 Robinson. I'm so honoured to be here to receive your truth 16 17 and for you to have asked me to be here. Thank you. 18 Bonjour. MS. MARY CRATE: Mary Crate. (Speaking in 19 20 Objibway). Miigwetch (speaking in Ojibway) that you asked me to sit with you. I honour you as a woman, from a 21 grandmother. 22 23 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Thank you. 24 MS. AUDREY SIEGL: (Speaking in Halkomelem). My name is Audrey Siegl. I am from Musqueam and also 25

honoured to be here, love you, support you. Share whatever
 it is that you need to.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Thank you. My name is
Terriea Harris. My legal last name is Wadud, but it's also
my adopted last name, so I don't really connect with that.
My spirit name is *Chuta nunpa wambli wyan* (ph), which in
the Dakota language means Two-Hearted Eagle Woman. My
ancestors are Dakota, Aborigine, and Colombian, and I was
born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

MR. TIM ELIJAH: (Speaking in Native
language). My name is *Sonyawa* (ph). My English name is
Tim Elijah. I'm Terriea's partner. Just want to say it's
good to be here.

MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: I just want to say
haw'aa. My name is Gul-Giit-Jaad. I'm from Haida Gwaii,
and haw'aa, Terriea, for inviting and trusting me to be
here with you. I really, really truly love you, and I'm
very proud of you. All my love for you.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Thank you.

19

20 MS. TIAR WILSON: So as you know, as a 21 statement gatherer yourself, this -- this is your time. 22 This is your space. We will start wherever you want, we'll 23 be here as long as you need, and today's different, as 24 well, as we have the honour of having Qajaq here. We know 25 you've asked her to hear your statement. So with that

said, I'll just give it to both you and Qajaq, and I'll be
 here for your support.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Thank you. So first, I just want to say thank you for all that was done to make this happen, for Qajaq and for each and every one of you for being here because I -- because of my trauma, my childhood, I really have this belief that I don't matter, so thank you. Thank you all for being here and affirming that I do matter.

10 And I guess I'll start at the very beginning, which was being in my birth-mother's womb. 11 My 12 birth mother at the time was drinking and using drugs and in an abusive relationship with an Italian man who wasn't 13 my father, but she was in a relationship with him. 14 Apparently he had affiliations with the Mafia in Toronto, 15 and -- so there was a lot of drug use and abuse, and -- I 16 was with her for about two years, and he was quite involved 17 with crime, and she, you know, by association had -- was 18 also involved in crime. 19

20 So there was a big raid when I was about 2 21 years old, and I've learned this information later in life, 22 where they were both arrested for drugs and whatever else, 23 and at that time, me and my brother, who would have been 1, 24 my brother [Brother] were placed into the foster care 25 system. I am not exactly sure how long my mother spent in

jail, but we were in a series of foster homes during that 1 time, and she met my adoptive mother at an organization in 2 Toronto called the Elizabeth Fry Society, and my 3 understanding from my birth mother -- and her name is 4 [Mother] -- is that she would go visit us in these foster 5 homes when she got out, and she -- we just weren't being 6 cared for, so she was really angry about that, and this 7 relationship that she had with my adopted mother, I quess 8 she was her support worker, and she was really, like, angry 9 and emphasizing, you know, my kids are not being taken care 10 of in the foster care system, and -- and I want them back, 11 12 or we need to do something about this. But Children's Aid Society in Toronto had identified that she was not fit, not 13 stable. She had just got out of prison. 14

15 So somehow they formed some interesting relationship that crossed ethical boundaries, and there's 16 still missing pieces with that, but somehow there was an 17 agreement by [Adoptive mother] and [Mother] -- so [Adoptive 18 mother] is my adopted mother, [Mother] my birth 19 20 mother -- that [Adoptive mother] would take us for a while until we became -- until she became stable again, but that 21 22 didn't happen. [Adoptive mother]'s intention, because she didn't have -- she wasn't able to have children, which is 23 also what I learned later -- was to adopt us, and it's also 24 my understanding that their relationship became -- I guess 25

4

1 the more my mother started understanding that the attention
2 wasn't to have us return to her, they had a very volatile
3 relationship.

5

I need some water. Thanks.

5 So [Adoptive mother] was basically going behind [Mother]'s back and had filed for -- to adopt us and 6 was trying to adopt us before the age of 7, so before my 7 7th birthday -- because it's my understanding that in 8 Ontario, after the age of 7 at that time in the '80s, you 9 10 have to disclose to the child that they were adopted, and [Adoptive mother] didn't want to do that. So we were 11 12 adopted, and I have vague memories of my birth mother during that time, and my -- my memories are almost as if 13 she was, like, the babysitter. Yeah. 14

So we were adopted, and my -- [Adoptive 15 mother], she -- it's my feeling that she just didn't like 16 She -- she treated my brother quite well, and I don't 17 me. know why that is, but I think it's because he was a boy, 18 and I also believe from what I've learned and my healing 19 20 and my growth that I reminded her of [Mother] somehow, and my mother -- my birth mother is a very gifted woman. She's 21 22 a -- a medicine woman, she's a healer, and I think that she seen things in me that she wanted to, like, beat out of me, 23 vou know? 24

25

So I guess the best way I can describe it is

I -- I spent most nights praying -- because she was really 1 old, like, in my perception as a child, so I'd spend most 2 nights praying that she would die, you know, which is just, 3 like, almost unimaginable for a child to want to cause 4 harm, but she was -- she was very abusive. I wasn't 5 included in anything. If they were, like, having a nice 6 dinner, I would be left out of it. If -- as I got older 7 especially, she would -- if they were going out somewhere, 8 I'd be left home and I'd be given chores to do, and I tried 9 10 really hard, I don't know, to be good, I guess. I guess I just thought I was bad, and I didn't know what I was doing 11 wrong and why my brother was being treated the way he was, 12 so I was -- I was really good at school. I was a -- an 13 excellent athlete. I -- I'd do -- I'd enter all of these 14 contests and I'd win them. I remember once I did this 15 colouring contest, and I won a glove signed by Kelly 16 Gruber, who was part of the Blue Jays in Toronto. I wrote 17 a letter to the Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney at that 18 time, and I can't remember what the issue was that I was 19 20 upset about, but he wrote me back. It was a pretty generic letter about -- it's always good to hear from young 21 22 Canadians and blah, blah, blah. And it just seemed like it didn't matter what I did. It was never, ever good enough. 23 So around the age of -- this continued on 24

25 until about the age of 11, 12, and one day my brother comes

home, and he starts saying -- because I'd help him with his 1 homework and stuff as best as I could. I was a straight-A 2 student, and he came home and he said, oh, I got my French 3 wrong or whatever, you purposely did that or something, and 4 then he went and he told [Adoptive mother], and I remember 5 I was in the kitchen, she was in the living room, and I was 6 super scared, and she calls me into the living room. She's 7 lying on the couch, and she looks at me and she's like, why 8 did you give him the wrong answers or whatever -- why did 9 10 you intentionally not help him? And I said, that's not true, I helped him as best as I could. But I -- there was 11 12 some fire in me that I had just had enough, so I -- I spoke back to her, and I stood up and I said, no, that's not 13 true, I didn't do that. I didn't -- I didn't intentionally 14 do that, and she got up because she certainly didn't like 15 that I was raising my voice because I never did that. 16

Oh, so the other part that came out during this 17 was I always knew that something wasn't right. I always 18 knew that there's something -- there's -- intuitively, so 19 20 I'd go searching through her room, and I had found these two Bibles interestingly enough that said Terriea 21 22 Antoinette (ph) Harris and my brother [Brother], and our last name was Wadud, who's my adoptive father, and I know I 23 don't really mention him, but he was south Asian, and 24 that -- the reason why I don't really mention him is 25

1	because he was there but he wasn't really there. She was
2	very dominant in the relationship, and he was very passive
3	for the most part. The time that he would get aggressive
4	is when he was driving, so it's like he was there but he
5	wasn't there, and he never stood up for me. He
6	never yeah, so that's why I don't like, I acknowledge
7	that he was he was part of my life then, but he was
8	there but he wasn't there.
9	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: NO
10	relationship.
11	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah. Yeah, exactly.
12	So so I start speaking back to [Adoptive mother], and
13	she starts really, like it had shifted. I mean, she'd
14	use her fists and stuff before, but she was, like, punching
15	my face this time, and I was screaming at her, I hate you,
16	I fucking hate you, I hate you, and I know the truth, I
17	know that you're not my mother, because I also found these
18	papers where she was, like, writing letters to God saying,
19	you know, make sure that [Mother] never comes back, and
20	apparently she was into, like, voodoo and stuff, too,
21	and like like, cursing my birth mother and I don't
22	know, just all kinds of interesting stuff, but I was
23	screaming I hate you, I hate you, I hate you, and I know
24	the truth, I know you're not my I know you're not my
25	mother, and it was liberating, though. As much as she

1 was hitting me, it was liberating.

And so I'm in the washroom, and I was 2 cleaning up my face, and she comes in and she's like, for 3 as long as you live, you will regret this; and I looked at 4 her and I said, no, I won't. So that was the day my 5 adoptive father finally decided to leave her, and we did 6 shortly thereafter. He -- he was apparently having an 7 affair with another woman, anyways, so this just became the 8 prime opportunity to -- to leave. 9

10 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: He saw his
11 exit and go.

12 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah. Yeah. So we moved to Scarborough and -- with this woman [L], and she 13 interestingly enough was guite similar to [Adoptive 14 mother]. It's so funny how these patterns follow, and she 15 would lock me out of the house if I wasn't home, like, 16 exactly at a certain time or whatever, so I was left to 17 roam the streets of Scarborough, and I was about 12 then, 18 and I had connected with some interesting -- like, 19 20 just -- some young people who were having challenges and struggling themselves and maybe not guiding me in the best 21 22 way, and I started believing that -- well, actually, 23 there's another part.

In Grade 5 -- so I had always tried to be
the good student, be a good athlete, all of these other

things to -- to gain my mother's affection, and none of 1 that worked. So in Grade 5, my teacher in front of the 2 whole class said, you know, we always knew that Terriea was 3 smart, but darn, isn't she getting pretty, or isn't she 4 5 pretty or something, and I was like -- something in me shifted that day. I was like, okay, maybe this is my meal 6 ticket. I'm sure not in that -- those exact words, 7 but -- so then I started really believing that my value and 8 worth was, you know, externally. 9 10 And so when I was living in Scarborough and connecting with these other girls, they were really into 11 12 having, like, casual sex, and I had lost my virginity in a stairwell and was just -- that was the beginning of 13 this -- I don't know what to call it, but -- just dynamics, 14 unhealthy dynamics with men. 15 Anyways, this one day after being locked 16 out, my girlfriend at the time, she said, well, we need to 17 get into your house because you need to eat and you need to 18 change your clothes, so -- she was kind of a bad ass. 19 20 (LAUGHTER) 21 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: She's like, we're going 22 to get in. So we'd go and we'd try to find different ways 23 to get into the house, and then she decides to throw some rocks at the -- and I'm pretty sure I participated in that 24 with her, for the record. 25

1	(LAUGHTER)
2	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: For the
3	record.
4	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: And she broke through
5	the the patio doors. So we got in, and I actually just
6	changed my clothes, and and we ate some macaroni and
7	cheese and then left.
8	At some point I did come back to the house,
9	and my stepmother had called the police and we were
10	charged. I don't remember how they got her,
11	but anyways, we must have been hanging out or something.
12	So we were charged. We were put into a
13	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: You were
14	charged for breaking into your own house?
15	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yes. So yeah. B and
16	E, charged with break-and-enter and theft and placed into a
17	youth detention centre.
18	So anyways, in court, you know, they had
19	decided well, they're trying to figure out, well, you
20	know, where are we going to put her? She can't it
21	doesn't seem like it's a safe whatever their reasoning
22	was a safe place for her to go back to her father and
23	stepmother. So they had decided to place me into
24	Children's Aid again.
25	But the judge you know, I had gone to

court a few times, and the judge -- and she was really,
like, wanting me to pay for what I did, and he addressed
her and myself and said, you know what, it was your
responsibility to care for her, you know, so as far as I'm
concerned, she's the victim; and that was a very powerful
moment for me just to be acknowledged.

But anyways, I was then placed into the care 7 of Children's Aid Society in Toronto, and my social worker 8 was a male. His name was [T.C.] (ph), a white male. I 9 10 remember that he just had no fucking clue what he was doing; like, literally none. He had no idea of how to 11 interact or connect with a young -- I think then, I was 12 probably 12, 13, like, just turning 13-year-old girl. Just 13 no fucking clue. And I was placed into a group home, I 14 believe Henwoods, it's called Henwoods in Oshawa, and the 15 group home experience is -- you know, you put -- it was 16 nine girls in one home, and you have nine girls with lots 17 of anger and sadness and trauma and, you know, this 18 inability to verbalize it and express ourselves in a 19 20 healthy way, and so there was, like, a lot of fighting; like, a lot of fighting, a lot of chaos, a lot of 21 22 dysfunction. We would get -- not necessarily me, but there was girls -- like, I'd be sleeping, and you'd hear them 23 screaming because they're getting restrained, you know, and 24 then the police would come at all hours of the night and 25

then take some of the girls who were acting out to the 1 psychiatric ward, you know, and -- I just -- it -- it 2 was -- you come from chaos and dysfunction, and you 3 just -- you're placed into a home that is just a complete 4 5 representation of that same chaos and dysfunction, and the staff -- like, for the most part, there was a lot of them 6 who just didn't know what they were doing. Like, they 7 just -- they didn't know how to connect with girls who had 8 been through trauma, you know? There was one staff, Anne 9 10 (ph), who I -- who I and all the other girls really loved and connected with, and it's because she was real and 11 12 authentic with us, you know? Like, she didn't try to, like, have this mask of authority, you know? Like, she was 13 genuine. And so we would just -- we would just, like, get 14 excited and want to know when she was coming on shift 15 because there was a sense of safety with her too. 16

So anyways, during this time, I was now in 17 Grade 8, and I was going to public school, so I was 18 finishing up my public school education just across the 19 20 street, and a friend -- one of my classmates insisted that I needed to meet this guy named Erneil (ph), and he was in 21 22 high school. I was 13 and he was in high school, and the reason why I want to bring up Erneil is because I haven't 23 had many opportunities to feel safe and to feel seen and 24 accepted and hurt, and I would just be -- Erneil was an 25

25

amazing man. He's now -- he was murdered. He was an 1 amazing guy. I would -- I would just share my life and my 2 story with him, and he just never -- he never judged me, 3 and I always felt safe, and so I was with him a lot, and I 4 wouldn't obey the rules of the group home. I wouldn't come 5 home at curfew. I just did my own thing, and I wanted to 6 be where I felt safe. I remember once I got really drunk 7 with a girlfriend -- I think the first time I drank -- and 8 9 she introduced me to a hundred percent Jamaican rum. 10 (LAUGHTER) MS. TERRIEA WADUD: That wasn't good, and I 11 12 was feeling really suicidal, and I was attempting to grab knives and do stuff. I mean, I heard about it after, I 13 don't really remember, but I do remember I had called 14 Erneil, and he really talked me through it, wanting to kill 15 myself, and that was just kind of the nature of our 16 relationship. 17 Anyways, he had -- he was living in Oshawa 18 because his mother wasn't able to care for him, who was in 19 20 Montreal, and he was now going to be moving back to Montreal, and that really broke my heart, you know, 21 22 just -- it was a loss that I didn't -- it was a loss upon other losses that I just couldn't handle, and 23 amongst -- and I -- so I decided not to stay at the group 24 home, and -- after he left, and I ran away with another

girl to the streets of Toronto, and we used to, like, just take a bag and go to the Eaton's Centre and put all of our stuff in a locker and then go sit out on the corners of Yonge and Dundas, anyways, and beg for money, and I was too embarrassed to do that, so I'd kind of, like, hang in the background and let her beg for money.

So we did that, and it didn't really sustain 7 So we'd be picked up and be brought -- be brought back 8 us. to the group home, and we'd run away again, and at some 9 10 point during this being picked up and brought back, we ran away with a -- another young girl named [J.], and she was 11 12 Asian, and our ability to panhandle was not sustaining us. So Joey had this -- somehow she was connected to, like, 13 really big, like, Chinese Mafia people. Like, I don't know 14 how. She was just a teenager like the rest of us, and [J.] 15 suggested that she was -- I don't know if she suggested or 16 she kind of -- I don't remember how the conversation came 17 up. I mean -- I don't know, but anyways, she was 18 connected. She had connections to all of these Asian men. 19 20 We were staying at hotels. How they let young teenage girls, a bunch of us stay at a -- different hotels in 21 22 downtown Toronto, I still don't understand, without calling the police, but we did. 23

And so [J.] would call all these men, and there was a few of us girls there, but -- so we had two

rooms, and I was in one room, and everyone -- everybody 1 else would be in the other room, and I quess I would go 2 into the room and, like, there was all these men, and 3 they'd kind of look at us, and they decide who they wanted, 4 and then you go into the other room, and -- for the most 5 part, I was the one that was picked. So during these 6 nights, I don't -- I couldn't even tell you. I was about 7 13 then. I don't even know if I seen the money. 8 9 But anyways, this became a way to make money 10 and for us to survive when we were on the streets, and before that, beyond the panhandling, guys would pick me up, 11 12 and basically for a place to stay, I would sleep with them. So our affiliation with [J.] disconnected 13 somehow, and [C.] and I would continue to run away, and she 14 had put out the suggestion that we start working the 15 streets. So we were working at Jarvis and Carlton, 16 and -- still about 13 years old. 17 First guy. So this man picks me up, and 18 I'll just say his name. It's [Pimp 1], and I get into the 19 20 car -- black man and his friend -- and we were working for a while with no pimps, and so I get into the car, and he's 21 22 like, who's your man? And I'm like, I don't know what you're talking about, I don't have a man, and I had -- I 23 was kind of snooty back then. I was like, yeah, fuck off, 24 I don't have a man. I thought that he -- when he pulled 25

over, he was acting as if he was going to be a customer. I
 was a little naive, and I should have known better or
 trusted my intuition that he was not going to be a
 customer.

17

So I get in the car, and I -- he's like, you 5 know you need to have a man on these streets, and I was 6 just like, no, I don't, I -- we've been working 7 for -- however long we were working at that time, and I 8 didn't have any -- a man, and I just kept talking back to 9 them; like, fuck off, I -- I don't need anyone. And -- so 10 he grabs my hair, and he starts banging my head off of the 11 12 steering wheel, and he says, you don't have a choice. You are now going to be working for me. I'm going to make sure 13 that you are at that corner because I'm going to be 14 watching you at all times. You're going to give -- he was 15 basically telling me what was going to happen, and I didn't 16 expect him to -- I was quite surprised that I'd just met 17 this man and he fucking grabs my hair and -- and starts 18 bashing my head off the steering wheel, so I was afraid. 19 20 It worked. I was afraid. I was afraid, and he did. He -- he made sure that I knew that he was around, you 21 22 know, and -- I'd see him in different areas. There was a 23 parking lot that was right behind the spot that we were working, and I'd see him there. 24

25

And so anyways, this was the beginning of

one of my sexual exploitation relationships. I can't tell 1 you exactly how long I was with [Pimp 1], but he was 2 extremely abusive, extremely controlling. He had quite a 3 few women working for him. He would make me sleep in the 4 same bed with them. Like, just -- I remember once -- so 5 how I ended up -- so -- and during this time, there was a 6 task force called the Juvenile Task Force in Toronto that 7 worked out from the Metropolitan Toronto Police Division 8 there, and they had gotten information, obviously, from my 9 10 group home that I was now working the streets, and so they -- they would pick me up at certain times and bring me 11 12 back to this group home called Moberly in Toronto, and Moberly is a group home for what they identify as high-risk 13 runaways. So they put you into pajamas and socks, and you 14 can't do anything. You can't go anywhere. You have a 15 staff with you at all times. Yeah, but I would figure out 16 ways to run away. I was pretty good at that, and I 17 would -- I would go back to the streets, and I would go 18 19 back to [Pimp 1].

Anyways, this one -- when I was -- I can't remember what had upset me, but I had called up [Pimp 1] and I said, I'm leaving you, and -- I was really brave that day on the phone. Said, I'm leaving you. I -- I can't remember exactly what else I said, but he had convinced me to come downstairs and -- I don't know. I don't know what

he had said, and I was really just brave that day, and so I
 had agreed, and it was the middle of winter. I remember I
 was wearing, like, knee-high boots, and a -- and a dress.

And so I went downstairs, and I'm still kind 4 of in that energy of, you know, screw you, and then I got 5 outside, and he looked at me and he said, so what were you 6 saying? And whenever I've been really scared, there's 7 like -- there's this feeling in my stomach, like, almost 8 like I want to pee. And he grabbed my hair, and he shoved 9 10 me to the ground, and he just started kicking me like a fucking man, like -- like, not -- not even -- like -- and 11 12 it was right in front of this building. It was icy and he was just kicking me, kicking me, and -- I remember, like, 13 screaming, blood-curdling screams, and nobody did anything. 14 Nobody had called the police or the ambulance. 15

I don't even remember, but I ended up in the hospital, and the Juvenile Task Force had met me there, and they were always trying to -- they -- I mean, their intention and their job is to find out who your pimp is and to put your pimp away. So they would ask me over a period of time, and I'd always be, like, no.

22 So anyways, this time they had asked me 23 again, and I -- they said, are you -- are you ready to put 24 him away, and I had said yes. So that began a process of 25 taking my statements. They connect with me in the group

homes to talk about -- and also -- I think to keep tabs on 1 me to make sure that I got to court, but I did. I -- I 2 went to court, and I testified against [Pimp 1], and -- and 3 I can't remember exactly how old I was then, but anyways, 4 he did get some time. I don't remember exactly how much. 5 But I ended up back on the streets again, 6 and I started working for another pimp named [Pimp 2], and 7 I was with [Pimp 2] for quite a long time. My sexual 8 exploitation, trafficking, was from the age of 13 until the 9 10 age of 16, and particularly with [Pimp 2], I -- I went to Niagara falls. I went to Montreal. There was talks of 11 12 coming to Vancouver, but that didn't happen. He was abusive, as well, in different ways. He was more -- he 13 would confine us. So where he was living in Regent Park in 14 Toronto, he had these gates -- this gated apartment, so 15 he'd lock us in there, me and my girlfriend, so we couldn't 16 leave and we'd have to stay there until it was time for us 17 to work again, and -- I don't know. Like, I block out a 18 lot of that. I -- there's a disconnect, and -- you know, 19 20 I've done some healing work around it, but there is definitely a disconnect, and you have to do that to do it, 21 22 you know? There's so many times I wasn't in my body, and 23 why would you want to be, you know?

I've -- I've had some horrific things done
to me by tricks. You know, I remember this one time I was

getting pretty brave with a customer, and -- so he started 1 hitting me, and he forced me to give him a blow job, and 2 then he, like, he ejaculated all over me and kicked me out 3 of the car somewhere, and I had called [Pimp 2], and [Pimp 4 5 2] basically looked at me and he said, well, we can clean you up, and how much have you made tonight, and I -- like, 6 I had only made 200. We'll clean you up, and you're going 7 to get back out there. So that's what happened. 8

9 There's a real -- you know, girls -- I mean, 10 I was a girl then. Especially when you come from traumatic 11 homes, there's a real sense of I don't matter, and I have 12 no worth, and I have no value, you know, and they really 13 prey on that. They really prey on your lack of self worth, 14 and also, probably, the knowledge that, you know, nobody 15 else really cares either.

And so there's -- there's the one side of the physical violence, and then -- and then there's this internalized sense of lack of self-worth where you stay in it because you just -- you just -- you have this skewed view that this is love, you know, and I just wanted to be loved.

So anyways, the JTF -- you know, the
Juvenile Task Force, I want to speak about them
because -- so they were a group of white men. Well, you
know, I -- I had -- I listened to some of their sexual

comments, not necessarily at me, but just the way they'd 1 speak about women. I hung out with them quite a bit. 2 They'd take me out for coffee and for tea. I mean, they 3 had an intention, but I also -- back then I resisted them a 4 lot. Like, I was like, fuck off, leave me alone, I don't 5 need you; but they were the only people looking for me. 6 They were the only people consistently looking for me, and 7 I know they had an intention and agenda, but you know what? 8 Thank fucking goodness. 9

So they -- you know, they were also involved 10 with me during this time with [Pimp 2], and -- you know, I 11 12 had convinced myself that I loved this man, and I -- I wasn't going to do what I did with [Pimp 1] and put him in 13 jail. There's some missing pieces, but I -- at some point, 14 I did decide to sign -- they called it signing, at least in 15 the street lingo, on -- on [Pimp 2], and I was pregnant 16 with his child. 17

So I -- I was 16 now, and I decided to leave 18 the foster care system because I had that option, so I was 19 20 a -- I went to a maternity home for teenage girls in -- in Toronto, and it was actually quite a nice home. There was 21 22 one section of it where you would be when you were pregnant, and then there was another section where you 23 would be after you had baby, and it was really big old 24 character home, and the staff were quite nice, and I was 25

with a bunch of other pregnant teenage girls, and the court 1 case -- the court case -- the court case was pending. 2 Anyways, this one day I am about, I don't 3 know, six months pregnant, so -- actually, [Pimp 2] would 4 5 try to get in contact with me, and I remember I spoke to him on the phone once while he was in jail, and he 6 was -- he was trying to befriend me by acting like he gave 7 a damn that I was pregnant with his child, but something 8 intuitively told me, do not tell him where you are, do not 9 disclose anything, and I didn't. I didn't fall for it. 10 So I'm sitting there one day and watching 11 12 the news, and here is one of the girls that used to work for him. She had been kidnapped and taken to Montreal by 13 one of his main women, by his main woman and some other 14 guys, had taken to Montreal, and I remember them saying on 15 the news they couldn't identify him because there was a 16 court case that was pending. They took her to Montreal, 17 and they tortured her because they wanted to know where I 18 was, and she didn't know, and I wouldn't have blamed her if 19 20 she -- you know, but she didn't know. So anyways -- and I had found that out from her after what had happened. You 21 22 know, her and I, we were in group homes together. We ended up working together for him. 23

Anyway, so I -- I went to court to testify against him, and I was seven months' pregnant, and the

Juvenile Task Force was there, and they were supporting me, 1 and I -- so their lawyers are -- it's unimaginable that you 2 can -- so they would say things to me like -- his lawyer 3 would say things to me like, isn't it true that you're just 4 5 jealous and you're doing this to be vindictive, and -- and just -- I just -- I can't tell you some of the exact 6 things, but I remember there was this real sense of, man, I 7 am a piece of shit according to this person. It was -- it 8 was really cold and cruel, and I was, like, 16 years old 9 10 and seven months' pregnant, but I -- there was something -- I was being supported because I was just 11 12 solid. There was something that said to me that I knew intuitively that, okay, this is his job. This is his job. 13 He wants to get a reaction out of me. I need to just be 14 calm and solid and -- in my truth, you know? I can -- he 15 wants to -- you know, he wants to break me down to prove 16 that I'm -- you know, to try to prove that I'm lying. I 17 just knew that. It's not like anybody even told me that. 18 So I was just calm and collected, and he 19

20 was, like, screaming and yelling at me. It's -- it's 21 really impressive the lengths they will go to to, you know, 22 revictimize you, and I remember afterwards the Crown came 23 up to me -- because there was a few of us girls, and the 24 girls before, they had really just torn apart and broke 25 down and revictimized, and he came up to me and he said,

you know what, Terriea? Because of you, I am certain that he will go away. And we weren't so sure, and he did. He got, like, seven years, and I don't know what happened from the -- the kidnapping charges or if they were able to connect him into that, or -- I don't know.

So I'm pregnant with my daughter, and I just 6 felt really alone. My daughter saved me, but man, that was 7 a huge burden to put on her because it wasn't her 8 responsibility to save me. During her labour -- during my 9 10 labour, I was alone. I was supposed to have a labour coach. Not even -- not even she was in the room with me, 11 12 and I realize this now, but I -- I had nobody to -- to, like, shine light and bring it to my understanding back 13 then, but I had post-partum depression majorly. Of course 14 I did. I had just, like, left working the streets and even 15 during -- you know, I think about -- I imagine that I 16 started not feeling safe in my mother's womb with what she 17 was going through. You know, I believe that my trauma 18 began then, energetically, and that was the same pattern 19 20 that was being passed on to my daughter from the womb, and -- so when she was born, I was so disconnected. I was, 21 22 like, I don't even -- like -- there was just, like -- nothing was happening here, just nothing, no life, 23 no -- I'd look at her, like -- you know, I -- she'd cry, I 24 wouldn't even want to hold her. I would just let her cry, 25

and I mean, she was also the child of my pimp. I
didn't -- I didn't know how to be a mother to her. I
didn't, and only by the grace of Creator did she not get
taken away from me.

I -- I would -- so I had no other skills. I 5 hadn't graduated high school. I had no other skills at 6 that time that would be valued by society in order to get 7 employment, so I started stripping, and that was when I 8 knew, right? I knew how to use my body to get my needs 9 met, my survival needs met. I was stripping and I was 10 living with my aunt for a bit. Sorry. And so my aunt 11 12 would watch [Daughter] while I'd go work, and I -- I couldn't dance unless I was drinking, and then -- so 13 I -- the waitresses pretty much knew that they needed to 14 have a glass of wine for me from the moment I got there, 15 and there was never a moment that I didn't have a glass of 16 wine in my hand. It was the only way I could do it, you 17 know, and -- so over time, this had evolved to my coworkers 18 introducing me to cocaine, and interestingly enough, 19 20 throughout my whole teenagers, besides that one time getting really wasted and wanting to kill myself, I hadn't 21 22 touched drugs or alcohol.

So anyways, I was in my addiction for some
time and just really disconnected as a mother. Like,
really. Like, just so emotionally disconnected from my

1	daughter, and all she wanted and deserved was my care and
2	my attention, and I just didn't know it's not even that
3	I didn't know how. It was like, energetically, something
4	was, like, you know, those those pain patterns that
5	are passed down.
6	I think I'd like to take a little break.
7	MS. TIAR WILSON: Okay. It's 11:12 a.m.,
8	and we're here at the Fort Garry Hotel, and we are going to
9	take a short little break.
10	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Thank you.
11	Upon recessing at 11:12 a.m.
12	Upon reconvening at 11:45 a.m.
13	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: So
14	MS. TIAR WILSON: Good morning again. It's
14 15	
	MS. TIAR WILSON: Good morning again. It's
15	MS. TIAR WILSON: Good morning again. It's 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, October 3rd, and we just came back
15 16	MS. TIAR WILSON: Good morning again. It's 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, October 3rd, and we just came back from about a 25-minute break, and we will get started
15 16 17	MS. TIAR WILSON: Good morning again. It's 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, October 3rd, and we just came back from about a 25-minute break, and we will get started again.
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15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	MS. TIAR WILSON: Good morning again. It's 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, October 3rd, and we just came back from about a 25-minute break, and we will get started again. MS. TERRIEA WADUD: So I was talking about my daughter and my inability to connect as a mother, and I was dancing at that time, and during her early years when she was a baby I was living with my aunt, my aunt on my adoptive family's side. She was married into the family,

25

breath of fresh air. She was so -- she is so loving and so -- she's -- she's just a beautiful, beautiful soul, and I'm really blessed for those moments because I -- I really got an opportunity to feel safe, and I remember just never wanting to leave her home. Like, I just never wanted those weekends to end.

So anyway, she -- we were living with her 7 for a bit, and then -- so while I was pregnant, actually, 8 Erneil had come back into my life, so Erneil, my first 9 10 love, and we went to go -- I went to go live with him and his mother with [Daughter] -- my daughter's name is 11 12 [Daughter] -- in Montreal for a bit, and that was really profound to me because my daughter was not his daughter, 13 but he had really taken her as his own, and that's just the 14 kind of person that he was. 15

But anyways, I -- I'd like to speak to 16 that -- I quess to expose some of the shame around it 17 and -- and also how it's impacted my life. I had also 18 found out later on that he had cheated on me with my best 19 20 friend, and I don't blame him for that. We were teenagers, but that was -- that was a really -- it was big. It was 21 22 big in my life because he -- he was a source of safety, and I really trusted him. I allowed myself to open up enough 23 to trust, and that trust was betrayed, so... 24

Anyways, so that was showing up a lot in our

relationship. I had tried to forgive him, but at the core of me I didn't, and so I kept -- I kept pushing in that relationship and getting really angry about it, and as a trauma survivor, trust is -- is always a big thing: Not being able to trust, wanting to be safe but not feeling safe, you know, and -- so -- yeah.

So -- actually, that happened before I -- we 7 went to go live with my aunt, so we were living with him 8 and his mom for about six months, and then I moved out on 9 10 my own from my aunt's place with [Daughter], and I was still dancing. I got my first apartment in -- I can't 11 remember the town. That's okay. And I kept dancing until 12 about the age of 24, and -- you know, I just -- I want to 13 speak to my challenges of being a mother because I -- I 14 think that that really matters, you know? I've carried a 15 lot of guilt and shame for that, and my daughter, my 16 daughter struggles today because of that, you know? So 17 those -- those patterns that just keep getting passed down, 18 and at the time I didn't know better. I mean, I had no 19 20 example of what a loving relationship with a parent looked like, and I had only known disconnection, and -- so I -- I 21 22 would go out on the weekends, and I would drink, and I would leave her with family members because -- I -- I'd 23 often have lots of people staying with me, and basically I 24 would take care of everyone financially because I was 25

dancing, and -- and they would, you know, take care of
 [Daughter] or whatever else they could do.

After I decided to leave dancing because of 3 a relationship that I was in -- my partner at the time had 4 5 said that he would support me, but I -- I had to stop dancing. That's really challenging being dependent upon 6 something, especially as a man, but as a woman when you 7 don't have -- or when you don't have skills that are 8 considered valuable in society, and at that time, I didn't. 9 I had no education. All I knew of work experience was, you 10 know, being exploited and -- and then being sexualized as a 11 12 dancer.

So at the age of about 25 after I had -- I 13 had stopped dancing, I really wanted to do something 14 different, and so I started to explore ways of how I could 15 improve myself and improve my life, and this was really the 16 first time I think there was a sense of clarity and 17 consciousness around that, you know, that I wanted to -- to 18 do better. So I started looking for opportunities, and 19 20 actually, I seen this newspaper ad for adults who experienced challenges and adversities as youth why they 21 22 wouldn't have completed high school and then be able to attend university. So it was a program called the 23 Transitional Year Programme at the University of Toronto, 24 and this was a really phenomenal program because it was 25

a -- it was mostly Indigenous people and also people -- I 1 don't know what the correct term is -- also, like, other 2 ethnicities or -- some black people, south Asian, just I 3 quess what society would identify as minorities. They 4 5 worked with us in small groups, but then we also had the opportunity to attend a regular university class, so at 6 that time, I had chosen sociology, and -- so -- so then 7 you'd -- so you'd attend with the rest of the university, 8 and then you come back to the small groups with a professor 9 10 who would support you to understand the material, and when you didn't have, you know, high school and all of that, 11 it -- it was, like -- it was really meaningful. 12

At that time, I had not found my voice, and 13 I was really scared in groups. Like, I just -- I was so 14 scared to speak, and -- I was really great one on one, but 15 in -- in groups -- so I -- I didn't really contribute much 16 even though it was a small group, but when I met with a 17 professor one-on-one, we talked quite a bit, and in a -- in 18 a reference letter he had actually said that, you know, 19 20 she's -- she's very articulate and -- and eloquent. She just -- doesn't -- she thrives best in one-on-one 21 22 situations. At that time, I did.

23 So anyways, sociology really opened up my 24 eyes to different things that were happening in society and 25 that, you know, things weren't created equal and there was

inequality, and -- mind you, it was still by a western educational system, but it still triggered something in me that was like, oh, okay, maybe there's not something inherently wrong with me. Maybe there's some other reasons why I had the experience growing up that I did.

So a fire was kind of lit then, and I did 6 amazing. I -- I got As in the sociology class, and I was 7 accepted into the University of Toronto, and I did attend 8 there for a couple of years. I found it challenging, 9 10 and -- once I was accepted into the mainstream. I mean, first of all, you're a number. You're identified by a 11 12 number, and I really felt like I didn't belong. You know, I felt like I was in class with mainly white people, 13 and -- and I -- and I struggled, you know? I -- I 14 struggled with the material, I struggled to connect with 15 others in order to understand the material, and it -- and 16 it was -- it was very isolating. It was, and so I -- I 17 continued doing it because I still had some of my peers 18 from the Transitional Year Programme, and we would form 19 20 study groups. There was a sense of belonging and connection with them, and I was also supported by the 21 22 accessibility services there, so I was able to -- they identified me with learning challenges, which was a 23 blessing because I got extra time to do my exams, which 24 really supported me, and I also got a private room to write 25

my exams, so those were really great things. 1 So then I -- I got pregnant with my son, and 2 I was still going to -- I was about 28 then, so I had done 3 three years already, but three years -- actually, when I 4 was in the mainstream university, I was doing about two and 5 a half courses because that's all I could manage, you know? 6 And with trauma, like, a university experience can be 7 really stressful to begin with, right? Like, I remember 8 reading this study about if anyone has any predisposition 9 to mental health, that it often comes out in -- in 10 stressful circumstances with exam time and stuff, so 11 12 compounding that with the fact that I had been through complex trauma, like, my nervous system was consistently 13 activated, and I remember I was -- like, when I was 14 studying, I was constantly going outside to smoke, just 15 whatever I could do to get -- get through it, and, you 16 know, try to calm my nervous system and -- and get through 17 it, so... 18

So I was pregnant with my son, and I had really felt called to move to Vancouver, B.C. Can't tell you why. Just -- and people would say to me, Terriea, have -- have you ever even been there, and I said, no, and I don't care. I just -- I feel called to go there. So I -- you know, I -- I've had this pattern of attracting abusive relationships, and the father of

[Son], my son [Son], it was quite abusive, and we 1 actually -- I broke up with him pretty much right after 2 [Son] was born. So even though we were separated, he -- we 3 had talked while I was pregnant about moving to B.C., and 4 so we still agreed to do that, and also during that time, I 5 had been contacted several years before about compensation 6 for the trial with [Pimp 2], by the Crown, and somehow they 7 said that they sent me a notice, which I don't remember 8 getting, for me to appear before them to -- to talk about 9 10 the impact, so the victim impact, and they said I didn't show up, so they went ahead and decided to compensate me 11 \$10,000. I don't know. Yeah, 10,000. But that was 12 frustrating because they -- I just felt like they were kind 13 of, like, washing their hands of it. I don't feel like 14 there was a lot of real effort and intention to include me 15 in that, to -- you know, like, Victim Services making an 16 effort to contact me or anything. So that was the money 17 that we used to move to Vancouver. 18

What do I want to say about that? So I moved to Vancouver, and I actually transferred to the University of British Columbia. So I was going to school and having a shared-parenting agreement with [Son] father, and that was -- it was challenging. It was challenging to go to school with a young son, and again, it was also challenging to be in the mainstream educational system, and

I just decided that it wasn't for me, even though I -- I 1 did put in a lot of time and effort, and I imagine if -- if 2 there was more supportive ways for Indigenous people or 3 people who are struggling -- like, I don't know if there 4 5 would be an opportunity to have that -- like, the TYP program throughout your whole time, and not just that year 6 as an entrance program, but it was a -- it was a really 7 great program, and that's why I want to mention it. 8 9 So I decided to -- to not do that, and I 10 really didn't have -- or -- or felt -- I mean, it was an abusive relationship with [Son]'s father, and I really 11 12 didn't feel like I had a voice, again, that internalized sense of self-worth, and he would use my history against 13 me, and for the most part, it worked. So any time I tried 14 to speak up about issues in our parenting 15 relationship -- and that was really hard for me because I 16 was -- I was scared of him, and he would use my past 17 against me. 18

19 So I remember this one time I found out that 20 he was abusing [Son], like, using physical force, and 21 I -- I decided that I needed to fight for my son, and I 22 spoke to him about it, and he started getting really 23 aggressive with me, ended up smashing my hand, like, in the 24 door, and my finger got hurt. The police came. This was 25 the UBC RCMP, and he started telling them basically my

history, and I -- all of a sudden, I was treated like the 1 criminal. Like, they were calling me in there and -- and, 2 like, asking me questions about my history and bringing up 3 the fact -- the records that they had during my time being 4 5 exploited on the streets because there was times where I'd be picked up for soliciting, you know, and -- and also my 6 YO record, because I quess it's still accessible to the 7 police. So using that against me, and I was just like, 8 this -- like, I'm here telling you that he's been abusive 9 10 to our son, and you're making me be the aggressor or -- you know -- there was something else I wanted to say about 11 12 that. So they actually -- so with these 13 allegations -- and actually, before that, [Son] was in 14 Kindergarten, and [M] had made the decision to -- that he 15 was going to start school at UBC, you know, and again, I 16 just -- you know --17 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: While you were 18 at UBC as well? 19 20 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: No. So he started going to UBC after me. [M] had made the decision that he -- when 21

it was time for [Son] to enter into school, that he was going to be going to school at his place, which meant that, you know, he'd be the primary caregiver because the school is five days a week, and again, my -- my fear and my

intimidation, feeling like I didn't have a voice, I -- I 1 just went along with things. Like, I just -- you know, and 2 I know a lot about the dynamics of abuse now, but, you 3 know, people will say to you, like, oh, why didn't 4 5 you -- why didn't you just use your voice, or why didn't you just leave, and it's not -- it's not so easy. It's not 6 so easy. Like, there's so many different factors why women 7 stay, you know? And things like mediation even in an 8 abusive relationship or in a relationship that's been 9 10 abusive don't work because that underlying -- yeah, there's a power differential, and that underlying fear is always in 11 12 the room, you know, so he doesn't need to be yelling at me or hitting me, but that fear is there. The fear is there, 13 and -- and different systems just don't realize that. 14

So anyways, they -- so while he was going to Kindergarten, a teacher had actually called the Ministry as it's called in B.C. on [M], and nothing was done. He's a white man. He's a white man. Yeah. They took the report, they went to the house one time, and they left. You know, there was nothing else. So then this would have been the second time that there's these allegations --

22

COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: And

23 institutions that know.

24 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yes. Yeah. And -- so
25 then they even interviewed [Son], and [Son] had been

coached by his dad. His dad had said to him -- because he 1 told me this after. He looked at me and he said, you want 2 Daddy to get in trouble; Daddy told me that you want him to 3 get into trouble and that you want him to go to jail, so he 4 told me that I better not say anything if -- if he still 5 wants to -- if I still want to see him. And I was just 6 like, that is a burden that you do not put on a child. 7 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah. 8 9 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: You know? And for the 10 most part, [M] knew that he'd get away with it. And so they interviewed my -- my -- must 11 12 have been about 6, 7, son, and then identified, oh, we spoke with [Son]. Like, how do you -- like, how do you 13 even speak to a -- a young child and identify -- like, 14 there's so many different factors to take into 15 consideration there, and that's it. So they closed it. 16 The Ministry automatically gets called when there's 17 a -- they closed the file on him too. Meanwhile, there was 18 still an open file on me. Yeah, and -- you know, I know 19 20 we've heard this a lot in -- in the Inquiry, and you know, once you -- you're -- you know, the risk factor is being 21 22 born Indigenous, and once you've already been in the 23 system, there's just no getting away from that. COMMISSIONER OAJAO ROBINSON: Yeah. 24 25 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: There is -- that's,

like, who you are. Who you are is this troubled girl or
 whatever, woman, who's now a woman.

So anyways, I -- I stopped going to 3 university, and I had decided that I wanted to, again, do 4 something different and give back, so then I found out 5 about the volunteer program at Battered Women Support 6 Services, and I attended that program, and it was pretty 7 profound and life-changing, too, because again, we were 8 9 exploring the oppression of women, and we were exploring 10 Indigenous issues. We were exploring colonization. That was the first time I had heard about colonization, and I 11 was what, 30 years old? And I -- again, I was really 12 enlightened in a sense and affirmed again that my 13 experience wasn't only my own, my experience was shared, 14 and that there were other factors at play, and my -- my 15 passion was really lit, and I worked really hard as a 16 volunteer there, and then I was hired on as a -- the 17 Indigenous counsellor. 18

And I started working with a program in Downtown Eastside Vancouver called the Women's Safety and Outreach Program, and this program was to support women and girls living or navigating through Downtown Eastside Vancouver who might be coping with their addictions and -- you know, pretty much what -- what we know from that work is that every woman, especially if you're Indigenous,

has experienced violence and abuse in the past, or -- but 1 the -- the main intention was to support women who 2 were -- who are currently experiencing violence and abuse. 3 So we had a van, and there was a group of 4 There was a manager, a few volunteers and myself, and 5 us. we worked at building relationships with women and girls in 6 the community and supported them to navigate different 7 systems, you know, and -- it's -- it's -- it was really 8 unbelievable what I witnessed -- how I witnessed the women 9 10 and girls being treated, you know, like, within the health care system, taking them to St. Paul's Hospital after a 11 12 sexual assault, and just this real energy and -- like, they weren't taken seriously, you know? We had -- there was one 13 woman who had a very challenging time with the health care 14 system, and yet she had been feeling suicidal and had 15 attempted in different ways to -- to kill herself, 16 and -- so she had decided that, yes, she did want help and 17 she did want us to support her with accessing help at St. 18 Paul's, and the doctor literally turned to us and said, 19 20 what do you want us to do, save her? No, but she's here asking for your help, and this is very challenging for her, 21 22 and now you are denying her that help. You know, these were very common experiences. You know, there's a real 23 consciousness that women and girls in the community just 24 have no value. 25

1 So anyways, I -- I did that role for a 2 while, and then I was asked to take on the management role 3 of that role, so I did that for a year, and -- and then the 4 program lost funding, so I was laid off for a bit and then 5 came back to -- to work with the organization, as they had 6 asked me to be the manager of the Indigenous women's 7 program.

What I will say is that I worked in an 8 organization that there was an intention to support women 9 10 and girls who experienced abuse, and yet those very same tactics of abuse were being used in the organization to 11 control staff; and, you know, you -- I think so many of us 12 go into the work with these heartfelt intentions and 13 naiveté. I was a bit naive, you know, and -- and having 14 worked -- having worked in the Downtown Eastside community 15 and within these grass-roots organizations and 16 collaborating with them, I'm not so sure that they're 17 working the way they are currently structured, and it hurts 18 me to say that. 19

20 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Do you mean in
 21 terms of -- like, the work -- the services they're
 22 providing or their internal operations or both? I mean,
 23 both connect. Like, one affects the other.

24 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Absolutely. They're
25 definitely dependent on each other. The internal structure

impacts the way that you are working and supporting and 1 so-called collaborating with other organizations, and I 2 just see the way our support services are currently 3 operating, there's a dependency that is being created, and 4 5 that dependency, I just question, who is it serving? Who are we really serving? 6 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Like, the 7 people are dependent on the programs, or -- like, both, 8 9 right? 10 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yes. 11 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Because they 12 won't exist if there's no longer a program? MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Exactly. 13 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Okay. 14 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Exactly. Exactly. 15 And that's -- and also during this time, I was in -- okay, so I 16 also met my birthmother while I was working at BWSS. She 17 had contacted me on Facebook over Christmas one year, and 18 she said, I don't know if you know me or if you've heard of 19 20 me, but I'm your mom, and I said, yes, yes, I -- I know who 21 you are. 22 I always felt really connected to my birth 23 mother. It's hard to explain. It's a connection that cannot be cut despite all of the colonial ways that -- that 24 try to sever that connection, you know, through the loss of 25

her, through the loss of language, through the loss of 1 culture. I always felt a strong connection to her. 2 So she came by bus. She was in Toronto at 3 the time. She came by bus to Vancouver to -- to meet me. 4 5 My mother, while she was never in the residential school system, she was also adopted into a non-Native family, and 6 she also experienced extensive abuse by her adoptive 7 mother, and she -- it's interesting because even though we 8 didn't know each other, our lives were mirrors for each 9 other. She -- while she wasn't in the residential school 10 11 system, she was put back into the foster care system as a 12 youth, as well, and she was identified as a troubled youth, and at that time, you -- I mean, you could -- well, not 13 even just that time, but you could be identified as -- as 14 troubled youth by being sexually -- what's the word? 15 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Active? 16 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah --17 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Promiscuous? 18 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah, exactly. Sexually 19 20 promiscuous. So she was put into a training school, what was called a training school, and she experienced extensive 21 22 abuse by staff, was raped at that training school. Grandview -- Grandview Training School For Girls in 23 Ontario. 24 25 So when I met her, one of the first things

she wanted to do in order so that I knew who she was was she gave me her court papers where she also testified in court against her abuser by the -- by the man who raped her while she was at the Grandview Training School. So she gave me those court papers, and then she was also compensated, like, 60 grand, I think, as a settlement.

My mother is very impacted by what she's 7 been through, and she's a huge source of wisdom, and at 8 that time, I wasn't ready for -- for all of it. Like, 9 10 she'd try to teach me -- you know, share so much wisdom with me, but she would speak so fast, and she would be 11 really kind of aggressive in -- in the fact that I needed 12 to know it, I need to know it all now, and -- and to be 13 completely honest, she also had a diagnosis of bipolar, so 14 I had attributed her -- I wasn't taking her seriously, and 15 I had let things go in one ear and out the other. 16

My mother lives in Downtown Eastside
Vancouver. She at her age still struggles in her
addiction. She struggles to maintain relationships and can
be quite aggressive with people. She likes to start
fights.

(LAUGHTER)
MS. TERRIEA WADUD: She'll fight anyone.
And she's one of the most powerful, wise, ancient,
ancient -- like, one look in her eyes, you just know that

she carries wisdom from a long, long, long time ago, and 1 she doesn't really -- she doesn't let people in, and the 2 few times that I've seen her allow herself to feel, it's 3 been like a tsunami of such sadness and such grief. 4 So we've had a challenging relationship. 5 She's gotten aggressive with me, and I was a -- I was 6 afraid of her, so I wouldn't even speak up for myself with 7 her, and I'd allow her to treat me that way, and she really 8 hated [Adoptive mother]. She told me more about that 9 10 story. She hated the way that [Adoptive mother] treated me and she hated being, of course, betrayed by her, you know, 11 told that her kids would be returned to her when she was 12 stable enough, and then [Adoptive mother] went behind her 13 back and did that and adopted -- adopted us anyway. 14 So I stopped working at BWSS, and I 15 found -- during this time, too, I started connecting with 16

my culture and mostly through work. I was being encouraged 17 to sun-dance by my manager at the time, and I had no idea 18 what sun dance was, but there was a real pressure for me to 19 20 do it. I had never even been to a sun dance, and I was being told that I needed to dance, and I later learned that 21 22 that whole journey is one that comes to you from the ancestors with dreams and stuff, and that's -- I did have 23 dreams. It was just curious that I was being pressured as 24 much as I was. 25

So I started -- I did connect with a 1 ceremonial family, and I started going to different 2 ceremonies, Yuwipi ceremonies and then the sun dance 3 ceremony, and I just -- I -- as many of us, I hungered, I 4 5 hungered for that connection, and I hungered for that sense of belonging, and I was guite naive and decided to 6 sun-dance and then started realizing just all of the 7 internal hurt and pain that has been passed down, and 8 instead of having this safe space became this unhealthy 9 10 power dynamics and causing harm to each other. The woman who was leading that sun dance was 11

12 abusive to us. She was abusive to us, and I again at that 13 time did not have my voice, wasn't in my power, and I 14 didn't know how to speak to that, and so many -- the other 15 women, the other girls who were dancing and women 16 didn't -- didn't know how to speak to that, either, and 17 nobody did. You know? So I kept dancing even though I was 18 feeling scared every year, not feeling safe.

And this last year, I made the decision. I -- and my work and my sun dance family was all interconnected, so I felt really -- really controlled in that because if I left one, then I'd have to leave the other, you know? So I -- I ended up making the decision that I was. I was going to -- I was going to leave them both because this is what was going to be right for me. I

was experiencing the abuse at work, and I was experiencing
abuse in a -- in a space that I was supposed to be safe,
and I just said, enough already, and I knew that this was
being asked of me, you know, as a woman at this time, you
know, in order to take my power back.

So I did. I quit my job, and I said to the 6 sun dance -- I -- I called a meeting with her, and I said 7 to her, I'm not going to be a part of this sun dance 8 anymore, and she looked at me and said, well, you wouldn't 9 10 want anything to happen to your son. Yeah. And that was speaking to the ancestors, like, the energy -- I guess what 11 12 we call bad medicine, you know? It's just like, I -- what was I involved in? What was I involved in if you're 13 threatening my son? Like, just how naive was I to -- to 14 get involved with -- with a ceremony that I thought was 15 about love and supporting one another and connecting with 16 Creator and praying for the people and the land and the 17 animals, and -- and now you're telling me that if I leave 18 that my son can be harmed? That was -- that -- I 19 20 was -- I -- I knew in that moment that I had made the right 21 decision.

22 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah.
 23 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Because she was speaking
 24 on an energetic level. I just want to speak to that
 25 because our ceremonies are very important to us, and we

have a lot of healing to do. Yes, like, I really believe 1 that there is a relationship between the systems that are 2 supposed to serve us, not serving us, and our own 3 responsibility to ourselves to do our work. You know, 4 in -- in doing my work, I realized that I have power and 5 not power that I'm ever going to be able to access outside 6 of myself, and I've also realized -- and this is only my 7 truth -- that by accessing and -- and realizing and owning 8 my power and my worth shifts my external experience, and 9 10 part of that realizing this was attending a program called Clearmind. Clearmind is a program -- it's called 11 12 transpersonal psychology, and it's a program where there's a very spiritual perspective and basically saying that our 13 own experiences are connected to all experiences. 14 You 15 know, so there was a lot of that resonated for me in terms of all my relations that my experience wasn't just my own, 16 and it also spoke about family systems work, so how 17 patterns are passed through the generations, and some of 18 that work in the first year was doing a genogram, and 19 20 although even for myself I didn't have a lot of information, there was a lot of information in that lack of 21 22 information about loss, how my system was rooted in grief and loss, and you could literally see and not necessarily 23 in my genogram but in others' genograms, how 24 patterns -- until somebody in that system shines the light 25

by just wanting to become more aware of -- of 1 their -- their family history, nothing changes until 2 somebody starts looking at those patterns, and it's -- it's 3 been so profound and life-changing to see -- to see those 4 5 connections, and -- and when you see the connection, then you can see, okay, well, this is how it's always been done, 6 how can I do something differently? With literally by 7 doing the opposite of what's been done. 8 9 MS. AUDREY SIEGL: M'hm. 10 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: So this program is unique in that. The first year, it's all a focus on you. 11 12 Actually, your life is the curriculum, and a lot of the work is just gestalt-based, so it's experiential. So you 13 bring every -- every week into the classroom. You bring 14 what's happening in your own life into the classroom, and 15 then the instructors will support you experientially to use 16 your work to move through it. So you're learning the 17 material, and you're living the material, and you're 18 healing yourself because their -- their philosophy is that 19 20 the best counsellors are the ones who've done the work 21 themselves because you can only take a person as far as 22 you're willing to go. So that's the first year. Anyone can do the 23

24 first year. That could just be, like, self-improvement.
25 The second year is about our relationships to each other,

to the land, to -- just everything, how -- how connected we 1 2 are in that way, and then the third year is leadership. So now -- and all of -- it's all done in house, so the 3 third-years are counseling the first-years. 4 5 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Oh, okay. MS.TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah. And there's, like, 6 a lot of, like, really neat, innovative experiential 7 things, so as opposed to, like, reading a textbook, we 8 had -- we'd do things like alter-ego weekend, so an alter 9 10 ego weekend is where your classmates would identify 11 what -- what traits you have cut off from, so if you don't 12 usually use your voice, they're going to pick a character where you're going to use your voice, you know? 13 (LAUGHTER) 14 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: So --15 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Mine's Janet 16 Jackson. 17 18 (LAUGHTER) 19 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Nice. 20 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: No, I get 21 this. 22 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah. So they picked 23 Sandra Bernhard for me --24 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Okay. 25 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: -- because Sandra -- and

they wanted me to own my sexuality, so own it, not 1 have -- not have somebody else tell me what I do with my 2 body. I get to say what I do with my body. I get to use 3 my voice. I say whatever because she's very, 4 like -- she'll just tell you straight up, so they wanted me 5 to own all that. Unfortunately where I was at in my own 6 journey at that time, I didn't show up for that weekend 7 because that's just kind of one of my patterns. You know, 8 I don't show up. But yeah, so things like that, really 9 innovative things like that, and this program has -- has 10 literally been life-changing for me. 11

12 So last year, we had the honour of walking the Highway of Tears in the Walk4Justice, and then -- and 13 then we had the opportunity to support the hearings in 14 Smithers, B.C., as health support, and I -- it was such an 15 honour to walk that highway and to -- because I -- I'm, 16 like, an experiential feeler. Like, I -- I -- it was 17 profound in being able to have some idea of what it must 18 be -- what it must have felt like to be on that highway. 19 20 It's alone and isolating and no cell service, and there was this one part where I was walking with my sisters, and it 21 22 goes around a mountain, and so normally if there was nowhere to walk, we'd walk on the highway, but you couldn't 23 because it was very narrow and you'd die. All right? 24 There was no -- there was no space for us to walk. So our 25

only other option was to kind of -- to walk on these train 1 tracks, and a train had just come, so it was a train track 2 that was being used, and I was scared. I was really 3 scared. I remember turning to my sister and 4 saying -- like, and I was crying. I was crying. I was 5 like, jeez, when do we get to stop being afraid? 6 MS. AUDREY SIEGL: M'hm. 7 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: And just really, like, 8 getting a sense of just how scary that must have been and 9 just -- it was a real honour and -- to -- to do that walk. 10 So then I was being health support at the 11 12 Smithers hearings, and I was -- I was in awe of this process. You know, I had my own reservations, especially 13 working in grassroots organizations that were calling for 14 the National Inquiry and doing that work with the Oppal 15 Inquiry, as well, to now have it be here and questioning 16 whether things were being done in a good way. And without 17 a doubt -- and I -- I know things and I have a felt sense 18 of things. I was in awe of the authenticity and the 19 20 genuine concern for the lives of women and girls, and I felt called to be a part of it. 21 22 And I -- I don't believe in coincidences. I 23 know that each and every one of us who are sitting in this room today and each and every one of us who are part of 24 this Inquiry has been called to be here, and I actually 25

believe in this -- this is only my truth -- that I have 1 been prepared for this through my life experiences, and it 2 is an honour and it is a privilege to hold space for 3 stories. It's not -- it's not a job. It's a calling. Our 4 5 women matter, and I want them no know that they matter --MS. MARY CRATE: Yeah. 6 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: M'hm. 7 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: -- and our men matter, 8 and I want them to know that they matter because them 9 10 knowing that they matter will hopefully call them to do differently in terms of the way they treat women. 11 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yeah. 12 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: One thing I realized 13 about my mother and her abusive relationship when I was in 14 her womb was that it was two wounds of being unworthy 15 interacting. His externalization of being unworthy was 16 abusing. Her externalization of being unworthy was staying 17 in it. So I want us all to know that we matter, and I want 18 us to have opportunities to -- to know that and to have it 19 20 reflected by society. MS. MARY CRATE: Yeah. 21 22 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: It begins with us, absolutely, but reflect -- society needs to reflect that 23 back to us that we matter. It can be this relationship 24 where we work together, and I believe that we -- we need 25

more programs to be accessible, like Clearmind, and I 1 believe that we need opportunities to -- to have that time, 2 you know? So for example, if a healing center is opened, 3 women and children or men, whatever that looks like, 4 5 they -- they need that time to possibly bring their children with them --6 MS. AUDREY SIEGL: M'hm. 7 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: -- and have maybe three 8 months or, I don't know, longer to focus solely on their 9 10 healing, you know, and not have to open that up and then close it and then go back to their life. No. Let it be 11 12 open, be supportive, be witness in that, be connected in that, and when you're ready -- it's almost like when you're 13 ready, even, when you're ready then. I really -- I really 14 feel that there's -- there is a need and that we are being 15 called for this really intensive healing. 16 And then there's the other part where the 17 system and -- systems and governments have to -- have to do 18 19 their work, have to do their work and work on the policy so 20 that -- there's an -- our work and their work is in 21 alignment. 22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. 23 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: And the Clearmind program, who ran that? 24 25 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: I'm forgetting the

founder's name. It's a private --1 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Okay. 2 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah, it's a private. 3 What else do I want to say? My daughter 4 is -- despite what she needed growing up, she is one of the 5 most wisest and strong -- she's strong and she is doing 6 things differently. She is. She's a beautiful singer, an 7 amazing singer, but again, like, not believing, that wound 8 that's been passed down that she's not worthy, we're not 9 10 worthy, especially amongst the women. She doesn't believe in herself enough to embrace her gift, and she's still very 11 12 angry at me, and she has a right to be, you know, and I've tried to hold space for her to say, okay, this is your 13 time. This is your time to let me know exactly how my 14 behavior impacted you. That doesn't mean you get to take 15 that out all the time. This is your time, and if you need 16 more time, then let's consciously do that. 17 My son, I -- there's, like, a sense of 18 wanting to coddle him in ways that he grows up to be this 19 20 loving, nurturing man, you know, and at the same time, I have to remember that that's -- that's not his burden to 21 22 carry either, you know? Like, he doesn't have to be

responsible for every man's -- every -- all the harm that
has been caused by males. You know, that's not his
responsibility, so I'm trying to be mindful of that as

well. He's very sensitive. He's super caring. Like, he 1 just says some things, it's like, huh? How old are you? 2 Like, at 4 years old, he said to me, love is a gift and it 3 goes to Mommy. Did you read that off a Hallmark card? 4 5 (LAUGHTER) MS. TERRIEA WADUD: You know, I've struggled 6 with trust, and I've struggled with relationships, you 7 know, and -- and a lot of that is a survivor, is -- what I 8 realize, also, through Clearmind is -- is how my own 9 behavior was sabotaging my happiness, and it makes sense 10 why I was acting in those ways, but I was sabotaging my 11 happiness; my inability to trust, so you need to control 12 everything to -- to feel like I'm creating safety, but it's 13 actually pushing people away. 14 15 So that was another huge piece to not just see what the systems were doing but to see how I was now as 16 an adult contributing to my suffering, contributing 17 to -- what I was wanting was to be seen, heard, and 18 connected, and yet the behaviors that I had learned was 19 20 doing the opposite, so that was -- that's been really huge to gain, just have that awareness and say, okay, that's 21 22 happening again, I'm doing that again. I'm learning to trust. I'm learning to let 23 love in, and that's a journey, and I imagine it's going to 24

25 continue to be a journey, and I think that's all I have to

say for now. 1 2 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Can I ask you 3 some questions? MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm. 4 5 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: I want to talk a little bit about the grassroots organizations, and I'll 6 be blunt with you because you know me. 7 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah. 8 9 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: That's how I 10 do. So many people, especially grassroots organizations 11 say, well, we are the solution, we know what's wrong, you 12 just have to give us the resources to do it. MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm. 13 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: And you're not 14 the first person to share with me that these -- some of 15 these grassroots organizations, although well intentioned, 16 it's -- there's toxicity, and they are part of --17 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm. 18 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: -- the 19 20 industrialization and commoditization of the violence against Indigenous women. 21 22 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah. Yes. Yes. It's 23 big business. COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Do you have 24 thoughts on why that's happening at the grassroots level? 25

I mean, I think we can say it's happening at the Indigenous 1 organization levels, too, at the NIOs, at the band 2 councils, at the -- you know --3 MS AUDREY SIEGL: (Indiscernible). 4 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: -- the NY 5 (ph) -- whatever. It's -- it's -- and I think Bernie might 6 just have spelled it out with the wiggle of her fingers. 7 (LAUGHTER) 8 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yes. Yes. It -- I -- it 9 is big -- big business. It is definitely -- it's big 10 business, you know, and -- but that's created. It's been 11 12 created that way. Right? It just didn't happen to be that way. We've been pitted against each other, you know, with 13 western values of competition and, you know, survival of 14 the fittest. You know? We've internalized those colonial 15 values, and we're all just trying to survive. You know, 16 one thing I -- I wanted to say was I -- I had a job in 17 Vancouver, B.C., and yet I was living pay cheque to pay 18 cheque. When I was laid off, I was homeless. 19 20 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah. MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Like, I'm living -- I'm 21 22 doing what you want me to do, and yet where is my sustainability in that? I was literally homeless. I had 23 to end up renting a room. It -- it was an okay experience. 24 It was a collective house, but, like, that's crazy, and 25

even today, you know, I could lose my job and not be able 1 to pay my \$2,000 rent because that's what rent is in 2 Vancouver. You know? So even those who are doing what 3 we're supposed to be doing, there's no guarantee of our 4 safety or our family's well-being. 5 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: And that's a 6 lot to do with how these programs are funded as well. 7 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm. 8 9 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: It becomes a 10 divide-and-conquer over this small pot of money that's made available for the projects year by year that the state's 11 12 willing to support. MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Exactly. And now -- I 13 mean, one thing that was shifting towards the end of my 14 work experience with BWSS was grants were actually calling 15 for organizations to collaborate, so in theory you're 16 writing that down on paper, you know, and we'd have 17 collaborations. The reality was a lot different. Like, 18 for example, you'd have a sex trade exiting program, and in 19 20 theory all of these organizations were supposed to be working together to make it happen, and the reality is when 21 22 you get in that room with all those other organizations, 23 too much time is being spent on arguing --MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: Yeah. 24

25

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: -- with each other, so

our own stuff being in the room than the whole intention of 1 2 the program. 3 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah. MS. TERRIEA WADUD: So it's not working. 4 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: It's 5 like -- we talk sovereignty, but it's still economics. 6 MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: Yeah. 7 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: And if you 8 keep trying to create sovereignty through economics --9 10 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah. 11 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: -- you'll 12 never get there. 13 MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: Mm-mm. MS. TERRIEA WADUD: No. No. 14 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: So what do we 15 do? I think you talked a lot about healing, and I think --16 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm. 17 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: -- we heard 18 19 from -- this week here in Winnipeq, we heard from Amy 20 Bombay the importance of that healing and that time, and 21 you touched on that. 22 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yes. Absolutely, because even if -- you know, I know we're calling 23 for -- for us to -- to have the money to heal our people 24 and to support our children and to identify what works for 25

our children in terms of healing family dynamics and 1 dysfunction. What was I going to say to that? Sorry. 2 Could vou --3 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Well --4 5 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: -- maybe say something to bring -- bring me back? 6 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah. Just, 7 you know, these organizations, there's definitely the time 8 needed to heal individually --9 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yes. 10 11 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: -- and 12 cognitively. 13 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yes. COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: And I think 14 time to breathe. One of the things that has been brought 15 up other places -- and Audrey's going to laugh at this 16 one -- there's always the poverty and economic security, 17 and then you'll have some people say, well, that's why we 18 19 need pipelines, that's why we need these mines, et cetera, 20 blah, blah, blah. One of the things that I've been 21 thinking about and other people have talked about it is a 22 guaranteed income --23 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yes. 24 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: -- security --25 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yes.

1	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: and I see
2	that as being so essential to that time to breathe
3	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yes.
4	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: and the
5	time to heal.
6	MS. AUDREY SIEGL: Uh-huh.
7	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: And also just
8	how we take care of each other as humans.
9	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah. Yes. Yes,
10	because you know, even so we're calling for us to to
11	do the work for ourselves, but giving giving that money
12	and the work's not being done, that's a recipe for
13	disaster.
14	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah.
15	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: So exactly, having that
16	guaranteed income, having that ability, to have that time
17	to do that work in a good way, be connected, create a sense
18	of belonging, and then move that forward; from that place,
19	move it forward.
20	
	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: And once
21	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: And once we once there's the ability and capacity to move
21 22	
	we once there's the ability and capacity to move
22	we once there's the ability and capacity to move forward, and every people are across the country at

dysfunction and lateral violence because of that. 1 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm. 2 3 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: How do -- I quess the question is -- maybe useless because we need to 4 5 go through those first steps before you take the next --MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: M'hm. 6 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm. 7 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: -- and then 8 you'll know when those first steps are taken. 9 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm. 10 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: So I'll shut 11 12 up now. 13 (LAUGHTER) MS. TERRIEA WADUD: And that's why I really 14 feel that healing centres is what is needed right now. 15 We just need that time, that time to heal, that time to 16 remember the truth about us. None of this other stuff is 17 the truth, you know? Our Creator would not -- our Creator 18 knows that we are love. You know, the truth of us is that 19 20 we are love and we matter and we're important, and we need 21 to remember that first and then do everything from that 22 place of value. 23 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: That's right. MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Everything will flow 24 from there. 25

COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah. 1 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Just give us that time 2 and that resources to do that in our ways -- other ways 3 too. Like, I've had the honour and blessing of connecting 4 with many different healing modalities, and I think that we 5 shouldn't assume that what works for me is going to work 6 7 for the next person. MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: That's right. 8 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: There are people out 9 there who don't want -- maybe don't want to do Indigenous 10 11 ways for whatever their reason is. There's other ways. 12 There's yoga. There's Buddhism. Have it. You know, maybe even have the option of some -- of different -- different 13 modalities for the individual to choose from. 14 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah. M'hm. 15 MS. AUDREY SIEGL: M'hm. 16 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: And I think 17 what you guys have taught me, particularly on the health 18 19 team, is that's what trauma-informed is. Trauma is taking 20 away the choice. MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yes. 21 22 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Trauma is 23 taking away -- it's that surprise, it's that helplessness, hopelessness, and what's so key in -- in doing that on its 24 head is making that choice and empowerment central to 25

1 whatever's done next.

2	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Exactly. Exactly. To
3	not assume that we know what is best. You know, just
4	be I might be like, oh, this is this is best because
5	it's worked for me, but I can't assume that because this
6	has worked for me and not to say that I haven't at
7	certain times
8	(LAUGHTER)
9	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: I'm still
10	human that this is best for Tim, you know?
11	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: I don't think
12	I have any other questions. Thank you.
13	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah, and I guess the
14	only other thing I would say is the the child welfare
15	system is a risk factor. I want to I want to on the
16	record identify that. It's a risk factor for violence
17	against Indigenous women and girls.
18	MS. MARY CRATE: Yes.
19	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: And it's not working.
20	It's a continuation of the residential school system.
21	MS. MARY CRATE: Yes.
22	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: There is no sense of
23	care like, broad sense of care and attention. I mean,
24	yes, there are certain individuals who you can feel a sense
25	of safety with; overall, no, and it's a system that you

1	just want to get away from. So where do you get away from
2	it to?
3	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah.
4	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: To places like the
5	streets and pimps.
6	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.
7	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: So
8	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Who know
9	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Who know. Yes.
10	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: that what
11	that institution is not giving you
12	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.
13	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: was that
14	love and belonging.
15	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's right.
16	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Exactly.
17	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: And that's how
18	they rope you in.
19	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Exactly.
20	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah.
21	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: So that that needs to
22	be completely dismantled.
23	MS. AUDREY SIEGL: To its knees.
24	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: To its knees.
25	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: To its knees.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: And I think that that's 1 all I want to say other than thank you very much to each 2 3 and every one of you. MS. MARY CRATE: Thank you for sharing your 4 truth. Yes. I got -- I learned a lot from you too. 5 Learned a lot from you, too, how to continue to do my work 6 as an Elder for the young people. *Miigwetch* and (speaking 7 in Ojibway). 8 9 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Thank you. MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: You know, 10 Commissioner, I -- that's one of the reasons why -- and I 11 12 think Audrey can speak the same, you know, because her and I have spoken so much -- is the importance of having some 13 of our grassroots like this on those panels, why -- you 14 know, and this is what -- I'm sorry, Creator, but I'm 15 really pissed about this. 16 (LAUGHTER) 17 MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: It -- it doesn't 18 take -- I love Cindy Blackstock, I love the -- you know, 19 20 but you know what? We're the grassroots. MS. MARY CRATE: (Speaking in Native 21 22 language). 23 MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: I don't need people, like -- pysch -- what's --24 25 MS. AUDREY SIEGL: Neurology.

1	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah, yeah.
2	MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: Well, you know what I
3	mean.
4	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: I know exactly
5	what you mean.
6	MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: I don't need to look
7	at fricking books and that.
8	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah.
9	MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: Well, you know,
10	Skundaal just like what you said. I have a T-shirt that
11	says "stop trying to fix me."
12	MS. MARY CRATE: Yes.
13	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: M'hm.
14	MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: Your other medicines,
15	your lithium, your Paxil, you you know what? Thank you
16	for giving it to me, but I'm good to go. I don't need that
17	shit.
18	(LAUGHTER)
19	MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: This is where
20	the you know, these people need to be educated by us.
21	COMMISSIONER ROBINSON: Yeah.
22	MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: Because we know what's
23	broken.
24	MS TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.
25	MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: And that health,

healing, and wellness centre, I -- I listened to Harriet 1 (ph) and Reta (ph) and them for almost 40 years. We need 2 to have these spiritual healers come in. 3 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah. 4 MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: We don't need 5 to -- like, you know? 6 7 (LAUGHTER) MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: Like, she was talking 8 about -- do you know how much I get in shit in the Downtown 9 Eastside because I tell them -- even [Woman 1] from 10 [Organization 1]. I -- well done, I said. Your home is 11 12 paid for off the backs. I don't give a shit anymore. 13 (LAUGHTER) MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: [Woman 2] from the 14 [Organization 2]. Your home is paid for? Well done. Off 15 our backs. Why am I having to pay such astronomical rent 16 when you listen to her, when you listen to Audrey? We 17 speak the same thing. 18 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah. 19 20 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** M'hm. 21 MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: We have worked for 22 them. 23 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah. MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: 24 They haven't done nothing for us except, you know, collect -- who gets paid 25

1	\$160,000 while we're doing the grunt work?
2	(LAUGHTER)
3	MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: Like, I'm just you
4	know, then you got these ones that come in with their
5	Ph.D.s and BAs or STDs. I don't know what they have.
6	(LAUGHTER)
7	MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: You know?
8	MS. MARY CRATE: KFC?
9	(LAUGHTER)
10	MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: You know? It's all
11	these things that you know, and yet it's right here.
12	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah.
13	MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: The common sense of
14	the common sense. This is what's not working. I have shut
15	down meetings just by me coming in: Well done, nice car, I
16	see your big Jeep out there, whoa. You know? Come on.
17	You never had that shit before, but you know, they know how
18	to manipulate it, and you can guarantee the same thing
19	happened with the First Nations organizations. It's very
20	picked over. They pick and choose. Nepotism. We all know
21	that.
22	MS. MARY CRATE: Yes.
23	MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: We will I will
24	never own a home in my life. I should have had at least
25	three or four of them by now

MS. MARY CRATE: That's right. 1 MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: -- with the work I've 2 done. How come I'm not being paid, you know, 45 to 50, 50 3 bucks an hour, you know? I'm a big risk to these 4 organizations. They will never hire me. I'm a liability. 5 They should be, you know, embracing us to come in --6 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Because it 7 8 maintains the status quo. 9 MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: Exactly. So I get to 10 live in poverty just like her. It's from paycheque to paycheque. You never know when that's going to be pulled 11 12 from you. At my age now, there's talk about me not being able to go back. You know how scary that is? I feel what 13 she feels, and she's younger than me. But these guys that 14 are all presenting and they all come in -- like, I -- I 15 walk out of the rooms now because you know what? We've 16 been saying this for how many decades, but because you got 17 a Ph.D., you matter. We don't. 18 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Or you're 19 20 published in an article --21 MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: All right. 22 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: -- that the Government will then decide to read because it's 23 peer-reviewed and therefore legitimate. 24 25 MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: And why isn't our

spiritual Elders up there, you know, on the topic, you 1 know, of holistics? 2 3 **TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm. COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: M'hm. 4 MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: You know? This is 5 where it's going to work. I mean, if I want to do yogi, 6 whatever, who decides for me? 7 (LAUGHTER) 8 9 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yogi. Yogi's a bear --COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Can you --10 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: -- by the way. 11 12 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Can you? MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: But, you know, this is 13 where it is, and I'm -- I'm -- you know, I mean absolutely 14 no disrespect to -- you know, to the panelist, but this is 15 it. 16 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah. And 17 that's --18 19 MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: Right here. 20 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: -- why I'm 21 here, and... 22 MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: You know. 23 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Thank you. There's one more thing I just wanted to say that Tim reminded me of. 24 So I miscarried a month ago, and I just wanted to speak a 25

bit to the experience with the health care system and that too. First of all when it was first happening, we were sent home, and it was -- it was horrific, and I was almost hemorrhaging, and we had to call 911 again, and the paramedic had said to us, you shouldn't have been sent home. This happened to me and my wife. You shouldn't have been sent home.

8 So he actually brought us to a different 9 hospital, and just the real -- and I understand. So I want 10 to acknowledge that in the health care system, so I don't 11 know what can happen with that, but they are overloaded, 12 overworked, and there was just a real lack of empathy. It 13 was so --

14

MS. MARY CRATE: Cold.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: -- so cold. Yeah. 15 So very cold. I mean, they had -- because I was still going 16 through it when I was there, the doctor had said to me that 17 she thought it would be best if I had a D and C to clear 18 out whatever else was left because I was almost 19 20 hemorrhaging at home. We had to wait for that surgery, and we waited in the maternity ward, you know? Like, so here I 21 22 am going through this, and there -- there -- I'm on a bed 23 going through a -- a hallway with pictures of babies and pregnant women, and -- you know, and then we had to wait 24 there, you know, for a couple hours before -- you know, 25

and -- it was a -- loss is loss, and -- it was very cold. 1 And then, like, there's always like -- she's 2 talking to us about, oh, well, you could get pregnant again 3 right away. It's this -- the biggest moment for me was 4 5 when I got out of the surgery and the nurse, she says, little one, little one, I'm very sorry for your loss, and 6 that was so meaningful to just have it acknowledged, and it 7 wasn't acknowledged the whole time, you know? 8 So any -- and just to finish up, you know, 9 10 yes, many of our experiences and family systems are rooted in grief and loss. My legacy is not going to be loss. You 11 12 know? My legacy is not going to be loss, and I'm going to own that and claim that, and I just want all of our people 13 to do that, and that's it. 14 MS. MARY CRATE: I just want you to know 15 that I love you. 16 17 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: I love you too. MS. MARY CRATE: Okay. 18 MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: We rise. 19 20 MS. TIAR WILSON: Do you want anything? COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Say a little 21 22 bit. I -- I can picture the streets of Toronto because that's where my dad's mom was from -- my dad's mom's side 23 of the family was from. I grew up in Igloolik, though, 24 northern (indiscernible), so I know Toronto, Oshawa, 25

Scarborough, those streets, because I walked them in the
 summertimes when I'd come visit my nana and my dad's side.
 My mom's side, a French-Canadian woman, her family was from
 Montreal, so I visited her, walked those streets, so I can
 picture where you were.

I don't know how our paths met here, and
when I was asked to be a commissioner, I didn't know why,
but same thing. You get a calling, and you can't -- you
can't walk away.

10 So here we are. I want to thank you for sharing with me your truth. I've been so mad, at the 11 12 brink -- I was telling, I want to do pushups or punch something. I just -- since the first day I met you, you've 13 emanated love and strength, and the first day I met you in 14 Vancouver, I didn't know you, but that's what I felt from 15 you since day one, and what you shared today and also what 16 you shared about this process, what we've created together 17 helped answer -- answer one of my questions a little bit as 18 to the why, so I thank you for that. 19

I'm not going to talk a whole lot more.
It's not my time, but I just cannot emphasize enough how
much it means to me to walk with you, to stand with you,
all of you, and then for you to want to share with me and
to honour -- give me the honour of being present here with
you, and you connected so many dots today and as we've

1	walked, and I want to share that with you. Thank you.
2	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: And I just want to say
3	men like my partner Timothy give me hope.
4	MS. MARY CRATE: Yay, Timothy.
5	(LAUGHTER)
6	MS. MARY CRATE: We love you. We love you.
7	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay. That's it.
8	MS. AUDREY SIEGL: We did the the
9	feather. Bernie cleaned out the cases because it's been a
10	fiasco for the last few cities, and we found one of
11	the can I touch it?
12	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yes. Of course.
13	MS. AUDREY SIEGL: When we had some of the
14	first expert panels and witnesses, the only feathers we had
15	left were white feathers, and I will tell you, it is a job
16	to find feathers, and the white feathers, as it was shared
17	with us I believe in Winnipeg, they're the they're the
18	feathers for the warriors.
19	MS. MARY CRATE: Yes.
20	MS. AUDREY SIEGL: And before they go to
21	battle, a feather is given to them, and I know that there
22	are there are probably many different teachings about
23	the white feathers and so many so many other aspects of
24	culture and spirituality, and I saw that it was wrapped in
25	this and I picked this fabric because I loved it, and I

25

wanted for the feathers -- once we finished the community 1 hearings, I wanted the feathers to be wrapped in something 2 different because it was different work that was happening, 3 and when Bernie said look, look -- look what's here, and 4 5 then when we were getting ready for last night, I saw it and I thought getting ready to go to battle. You did it. 6 When I was rushing you off, I asked Tim and 7 then I asked Terriea, I said, did you call your people, 8 because usually when people call their peoples, they come. 9 No, no. And then I looked, and then I told her, I said, 10 they're -- they're lining the room, and she shared about 11 12 some of her family history and what I -- do you know who they are in here, who came for you? 13 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: No. 14 MS. AUDREY SIEGL: A room full of men --15 MS. MARY CRATE: M'hm. 16 MS. AUDREY SIEGL: -- coming to stand here 17 to make this space safe and to honour you for the work that 18 you're doing for you and, as we know, for all of the women 19 20 who came before you, and they're not going anywhere. They have stood silent watching and listening and pushing this 21 22 energy out so you can do your work. The balance has 23 started, and the balance continues. MS. MARY CRATE: Hay hay. 24

MS. AUDREY SIEGL: The beauty that is in the

relationship between men and women, and it has nothing to
 do with sex.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: No. 3 MS. MARY CRATE: That's right. 4 5 MS. AUDREY SIEGL: The balance of that is coming for you now, and they're here to mark that, and 6 also -- so they take -- they're taking -- what all those 7 other men did to you, they're taking it. It's not yours 8 9 now. 10 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay. MS. AUDREY SIEGL: And this feather is 11 12 because as Bernie -- in the time I've known her -- because we are the red women rising, we are warrior women, and we 13 fight on all different fronts, and some are on the land in 14 the front lines in different places, and some are on the 15 land in the front line in others, so because of the work 16 you do and because you are a warrior and because you 17 fucking deserve it, that's -- that's yours. 18 **MS. MARY CRATE:** (Indiscernible) pray 19 (indiscernible). (Speaking in Native language). Hay hay. 20 MS. MARY CRATE: Hay hay. 21 22 MR. TIM ELIJAH: Haw'aa. 23 MS. MARY CRATE: Can you -- I present you this feather. (Speaking in Native language). That means 24 "warrior woman" in the purest way. (Speaking in Native 25

1	language).
2	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Thank you.
3	(CHEERING)
4	MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: (Unreportable sound).
5	(LAUGHTER)
6	MS. TIAR WILSON: So
7	MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: (Unreportable sound).
8	(LAUGHTER)
9	MS. TIAR WILSON: Close off?
10	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yeah. Yeah.
11	MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS: Sorry.
12	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: She's got to
13	close.
14	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).
15	MS. TIAR WILSON: You know, everybody's said
16	everything, but I just it's nice to be in here today.
17	It's kind of funny, actually, because I actually wasn't on
18	the schedule. It was supposed to be a different statement
19	gatherer, but it like you said, you know, we're supposed
20	to be where we're supposed to be, and I just wanted to
21	acknowledge you know, you you said that you always
22	felt like you didn't have a voice, and today I heard a very
23	powerful voice.
24	MS. MARY CRATE: (Unreportable sound).
25	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Thank you.

1	MS. TIAR WILSON: You know, you you've
2	had it, and I'm and I'm glad that you're starting to see
3	it, and you need to use it more, so thank you.
4	MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Thank you.
5	MS. TIAR WILSON: (Speaking in Native
6	language). With that, I'd just like to say that it's
7	1:08 p.m. on Wednesday, October 3rd, 2018. It's Tiar
8	Wilson here at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg, Manitoba,
9	and we are closing Terriea's session. Thank you.
10	Upon adjourning at 1:08 p.m.

I, Jenessa Leriger, 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.

Jenessa Leriger October 25, 2018