National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Public Hearings
Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Hall
Smithers, British Columbia

PUBLIC

Wednesday September 27, 2017

Public Volume 6

Marlene Jack & Pius Jack,
In relation to the Jack family;

'Na Aksa Gyilak’yoo School (Kitsumkalum First Nation)
& Mob Bounce;

Claudia Williams & Garry Kerr,
In relation to Alberta Williams;

Ted Morris & Laura Morris, In relation to Pauline Morris

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II

APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations  Julie McGregor (Legal counsel)
Government of British Columbia  Jean Walters (Legal counsel)
Government of Canada  Anne McConville (Legal counsel)
Heiltsuk First Nation  No Appearance
Northwest Indigenous Council Society  No Appearance
Our Place – Ray Cam Co-operative Centre  No Appearance
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada  No Appearance
Vancouver Sex Workers’ Rights Collective  No Appearance
Women of Metis Nation/ Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak  No Appearance

Note: For the purpose of establishing this record of attendance, counsel are considered present whether they attended one or all of the public hearings held over the course of the day at the Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Hall (Public #1).
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**LIST OF EXHIBITS**

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**Witness: Marlene Jack and Pius Jack**

Exhibits (code: P1P020201)

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--- OPENING CEREMONIES

MS. TERRELLYN FEARN: Good morning, everyone; could I ask everyone to come in and have a seat. And maybe we could close the back doors and the side doors as well. Thank you, Molly.

If there’s anyone that finds it cold in here, any of our elders or anyone, we do have a few blankets so please ensure that you let one of the health support workers know in the purple shirts or with the purple lanyards. We’d be happy to give you a blanket.

I want to say good morning. (Speaking in native language) Thank you, Doris. That is good morning -- my attempt at good morning in Wet’suwet’en.

I’m very grateful to the Wet’suwet’en elders that are here and their patience in teaching me their language, and I ask them to be gentle with me and I will share. There’s always room for correction. So thank you for your nurturance, and kindness, and understanding, and sharing with me.

My name is Terrellyn Fearn and I’m the Director of Health and Community relations. I’m a visitor to this territory. I am from Glooscap First Nation in
Migma’gia (phonetic), which is Nova Scotia, and I shared yesterday, it’s the other side of this beautiful Turtle Island. So I’m happy and honoured to be here on this territory to support families and survivors in this hard work.

For the opening this morning I would like to call upon Mel Basel, who’s from the Gitxsan Wet’suwet’en territory to do some welcoming words and provide us with a song.

As well, I would like to ask Freda Huson to come up, who’s the appointed spokesperson by the clan chiefs from the Unist’ot’en Nation and a water protector. So I’m going to hand it over to them to open and welcome us and ground us in a good way today.

MR. MEL BASEL: (Speaking in native language). Good morning. Elders, families, delegates, the staff of the MMIWG, all the supporting communities, I’d really like to thank you all for being here together with our families and our people.

I’d like to personally thank my family for loaning me to the sacred fire outside for this week. My beautiful wife and two children Melanie, Sabia (phonetic), and Asias (phonetic), have allowed me to stay here throughout the week to not only serve the sacred fire but also your families.
I’d also like to thank the Dze L K’Ant Friendship Centre Society and the Houston Society and other staff from NSDP, Northern Society for Domestic Peace, and other communities that are trained in the aboriginal focussing orientation technique who are all working together to provide healing while this process is ongoing. You can see them. You’ve probably been working with them. They’re in the purple shirts. Thank you very much for the love you’re providing us all.

I thank the Creator for bringing us together safely, the safe travels of everybody, all the five clans in the Wet’suwet’en Nation. I thank the Office of the Wet’suwet’en as well for closing their Chiefs office meetings this week to come and support the families. It’s honourable of you to do so.

We’d like to welcome the community to Dze L K’Ant territory. Dze L K’Ant territory is the foot of this mountain here in the Yunkatni (phonetic) territory and Gitdumden clan territory. It belongs to the cas yikh, and the cas yikh is the bear house.

As I mentioned, I’m serving the sacred fire this week along with Freda and Smogelkem (phonetic) and numbers of folks who are also coming to surround the fire with love, and honour, and respect. Thank you so much for keeping it a warm space along with us. You are warming us
up and keeping us going. Thank you for coming and taking part.

We’d also like to invite you to come out and if you’re looking to leave the territories within the next two days please come in and accept a gift of some of the sacred fire ashes. We’re cooling some as it goes. It’s very difficult to take out some ashes. So piecemeal we are taking out enough for you to take home with you to add to your home fires. Please come in and welcome yourselves to come and take this. And if you’re going camping add it to your fire hearth. Build a fire, when it goes out keep the ashes. Let’s keep this love that the five clans have set out to provide us with the sacred fire. The five clan mothers of the five clans of our nation had lit the fire on Monday.

For those of you still joining us, that’s the wall tent outside that you see. There is smudge and prayer. Tonight we will be adding tables outside of the wall tent and the tables you can place pictures of your loved ones alongside the table and you can place candles on top. If you do not participate in smudge and the same kind of prayers that we do, if you want to offer your own prayers to the sacred fire and your own piece to the sacred fire with the candles we will have that provided for you before dark tonight after dinner.
I thank the organizers for providing such good food with the local caterers. They have really, really nurtured us for this week.

I would like to, before providing the official welcome, while we’re explaining some of the operations that we’re providing with the healing and the land, and the water, I would like to hand the microphone over to Freda Huson.

**MS. FREDA HUSON:** I’m just happy to be able to participate in this. And I just wanted to talk a little bit about the water. I was requested to bring water from the Wetsinqua, which I’ve been living there for the past six years and was asked to bring some water here. And the water we actually still can drink and it’s clean year round. Even in the spring it still flows clean. You could see it here. It’s in that green container on the bench outside. And this water’s still alive. All the minerals are still intact. We don’t have to use chlorine to purify it. It’s already pure.

And this is where our salmon spawn as well. They come all the way up the Wetsinqua, which they call now the Buckley, and — the Skeena Buckley and back into the Morice River with the — and they spawn and then they swim all the way back down to Lelu Island and they go into the ocean and then they come back in a four year cycle.
So this water my family has been protecting that watershed from industry destruction. So that is the reason why I’m out there and wanted to share this water when the water is healing. Because I shared with people when I have pain in my back and it’s unbearable I go put on my swimsuit and go into that water and when I come out again my back’s not sore anymore. So that’s healing water.

So I brought some of the healing water here for people to drink, and you could even splash yourself with it. So I’m happy to share that water with you, and thank everybody here that’s here to support the families, because it was a tough day yesterday and offering up a lot of prayers that will have resolve for these families and have a system in place that’s actually going to help our people, not ignore us. Thank you.

MR. MEL BASEL: (Speaking in native language).

I am Mel Basel. I’m born both Gitxsan and Wet’suwet’en. And it is my honour on behalf of the Gitdumden clan, who have welcomed you officially yesterday and will officially close with you on Thursday, but I was asked to come and provide an additional welcome to those still joining us today.

Welcome to Wet’suwet’en territory, to Dze L K’Ant territory. The Yinta is beautiful. The land
provides healing. The practitioners here can example that
to you that the land is very healing. It will help us deal
with these traumas.

So I invite you if you haven’t -- if you’re
one of the families, I invite you to come out to the sacred
fire. There are still some stones that can yet be smudged
and added to the sacred fire as a circle. So if you’re one
of the families still joining us, please come out to the
sacred fire and add a stone to the circle and to complete
it and to strengthen the circle.

Again, please continue to provide your own
healing along with you, understand where healing practices
are in your own communities where you’re living, because I
understand a lot of us have left our community here. So
going back to your home bring home fire with you please.

So welcome. I will provide a song. This is
the Gitdumden welcome song.

--- OPENING SONG

MR. MEL BASEL: (Speaking in native
language). Thank you for your warm hearts that you’re
bringing to us all. That’s what’s going to help us do this
work. We’re all in this together. For those of us here to
listen, and believe, and hear the truths, we’re helping
absorb the traumas, and thank you for doing so.

Let’s get back out on the land. In the
Hearing - Public
Opening Ceremonies

determinants of health land-based initiatives don’t get included. Landlessness is not included. It’s not included in the discussions of reconciliation. We need to add these. Our people need healthy land and water to heal our hearts and our women and children and men.

As was exampled to us by the walkers from Tamara’s Walk there’s beautiful men and women respecting each other on the highway to cleanse and provide healing and examples of how we should be living in our homes.

So bring some ashes to your homes and provide healing for your children yet to come. (Speaking in native language).

**MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** May I ask you to just stand. I’m going to ask Chief Commissioner Buller and Commissioner Audette to provide a gift acknowledgement.

So, Freda, and Mel, may I ask you just to accept that gift.

**(SHORT PAUSE)**

**MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** So I’m also going to ask at this time for Barb Sevienier, who is one of my wonderful health managers on our health and community relations team, to come up and do an opening welcome and a prayer on behalf of the Inuit people in Inuktitut.

**MS. BARB SEVIGNY:** (Speaking in native language). Good morning. Welcome. (Speaking in native
We apologize for not having our traditional oil lamp we call qu’lik. As it was mentioned yesterday, our Commissioner Robinson Qajaq had lost a loved one so she has the qu’lik and was not able to make it with the qu’lik. So we’ll improvise and I will share some opening remarks and a short prayer.

And again thank you for welcoming us into your beautiful community in Smithers; wonderful people.

And I’d like to say for those sharing their stories throughout the day today and tomorrow that you are not alone. We are all here to support you with pink lanyards or pink T-shirts -- purple rather -- sorry -- I like pink -- and a wonderful team.

And thank you to all staff of the National Inquiry to help support the family members and survivors.

(Speaking in native language).

I will say a short prayer now in Inuktitut if you could all please stand.

--- OPENING PRAYER

MS. TERRELLYN FEARN: Thank you, Barb.

I just have a couple of announcements before we ask Chief Commissioner to come to the opening.

Everyone -- we are trying to provide a comfortable and safe space for everyone. May I put an
announcement out there to ask all media that are present that after the families and survivors share their story that we respect their space and we respect them in their space? And so when they leave this room, if they head out to the fire, if they head out to the family room to sit with health supports, or their family, or their other loved ones, please do not follow them. Respect their space please. It’s in honouring of their story, their own personal story, the story of their lost loved ones. Okay. So may I ask that?

Also I want to announce that yesterday in the room there was a uniformed police officer from the RCMP, and we wanted to just acknowledge that he was a member -- one of the Indigenous liaisons from one of the local communities. And it was very nice to see the RCMP, the local liaison of Smithers, leading the walkers into Smithers on the first day on Monday as well as joining in ceremony.

So I just want to acknowledge that they wanted to share that they are here. Their purpose is to show support for the families in what is happening.

We spoke to them and we all agreed that sometimes it can be a little concerning to see uniformed police officers in the room so we wanted to acknowledge this. And we are going to be speaking with every family
that’s going to be providing testimony and asking them if they’re okay with having a uniformed officer in the room and it will be the family’s choice to do so.

So I just wanted to acknowledge that so everyone is aware of that.

At this time I’m going to call upon Chief Commissioner.

First I want to acknowledge -- I know that Mel acknowledged the local Hereditary Chiefs, and I just want to send an acknowledgement on behalf of the inquiry that their willingness and support to support the families in their local territories is beautiful to see, and the fact that they rearranged a very important chiefs meeting this week to postpone it till next week to continue that good work is an indication and example of leadership support that is needed in the work that we do.

So to the local Hereditary Chiefs from the different nations I want to acknowledge you and thank you for that on behalf of the inquiry.

At this time I’m going to ask Chief Commissioner Buller to provide her opening remarks.

--- OPENING REMARKS BY CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: I’m going to stand back here so I don’t trip on all the beautiful artifacts we have here.
Bonjour. Je me présente, Marion Buller, et je suis la Commissaire en chef. Je vous présente avec plaisir ma chère amie, la commissaire Michèle Audette.

Hello; I’m Marion Buller and I’m the Chief Commissioner of the National Inquiry. With pleasure I introduce my friend Commissioner Michèle Audette.

I acknowledge the spirits of the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. I also acknowledge the courage of the families and survivors and the LGBTQ2S people who are with us this week. Thank you very much.

I also acknowledge the unceded traditional and ancestral lands territories of the Wet’suwet’en people. We’re very happy to be here on your beautiful territory.

Welcome to our Smithers hearings. Bienvenue à nos audiences à Smithers.

From Commissioner Qajaq Robinson I send a message in her words, speak up and speak out.

Commissioner Brian Eyolfson sends his warm regards and his wishes for healing and strength and courage for everyone.

Thank you, Mel, and Freda, for starting us off in a really good way this morning, and, Mel, thank you and your family for the sacred fire.

Elders, thank you for being in the rooms with us today and keeping us on the straight and narrow
This is our second day in Smithers, and thank you to the City of Smithers and our MP in the area Nathan Cullen for welcoming us yesterday.

Yesterday we heard of tremendous losses of aunties, sisters and nieces, mothers and grandmothers. We also heard about the invisible yet very real damage caused by verbal abuse. The pain still exists here. But we also heard wonderful stories of resilience and compassion and we were reminded very clearly that we should never lose compassion.

We also heard great recommendations for safe transportation up here in this part of British Columbia, for safe housing, and also for transition houses for women and children. We also heard about the need for responsive policing and we heard recommendations about the need for responsive policing. We also heard recommendations for improved counselling and support services for families who have lost loved ones.

I truly hope, as does Commissioner Audette, that the families and survivors who spoke to us yesterday, who will speak to us today and tomorrow, find some comfort in providing their stories to us, and I hope, as does Commissioner Audette, they find some healing, because we’re very grateful for their courage, we’re very grateful for
their sacred gifts of their stories, and we’re also very grateful for their clear and strong recommendations for change.

Today we will hear of more pain, and grief, and sorrow, and loss, however, those same stories of grief, and sorrow, and loss, and of pain will provide us with a clear path for our work, and that’s to make the lives of Indigenous women and girls across Canada safe.

Thank you all very much.

**MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** Many thanks, Chief Commissioner.

Before we proceed, I just want to welcome those that are new joining us today, the families, the survivors, and those that have travelled.

I just want to remind you that the health supports are available to you in the purple shirts. Also they have purple lanyards as well. And we do have our elders’ room. We have the sacred fire. We have our private healing space as well, so if you’d like to spend some time one-on-one with a therapist, a counsellor, you can go to the registration table and book that time. It is open and accessible to everyone.

I also just want to acknowledge for those of you that may be watching from home, we do have our toll free support line, which is 1-844-413-6649.
And thank you to the media outlets and the reporters and journalists that have been retweeting that support line information as we do all have responsibility to ensure that everyone is taken care of. So please spread that number far and wide. Counsellors are available 24/7 to receive your calls in English, French, Cree, Ojibwe and Inuktitut.

I just want to hand the mic over quickly to Elder Doris Rosso, who’s going to provide some of my updated information in Wet’suwet’en.

A reminder to the families that lunch and dinner is provided to you, the families and survivors and their supports over in the college in the family room. Other members of the public lunch will be provided here.

Every night -- we heard Mel speak about the feast last night. Every night there is a dinner with the Commissioners and the families and survivors and their supports at 6:00 p.m. over in the family room at the college and beautiful traditional foods are being served, and I hear tonight is moose. So I look forward to seeing you all there.

Now, Elder Doris Rosso, so I’ll hand it over.

Oh, one other thing as well, there is a public hearing -- another public hearing that’s happening
on site over at the college in Room 122. So it is being broadcast. And if anyone else would like to go and sit in that public venue it’s open and welcome to the public and anyone as well.

ELDER DORIS ROSSO: (Speaking in native language).

MS. TERRELLYN FEARN: Thank you.

At this time, before we start into our proceedings, I would like to invite the Director of Research Aimee Craft up to explain some of our sacred items and our medicines that are here to support the families and survivors.

MS. AIMEE CRAFT: Thank you.

(Speaking in native language).

I did this yesterday so those who are in the room hearing it again you can correct me if I forget anything please. That’s why we’re here to help each other, right.

So there are four things that I’d like to share this morning. One of them is about the blankets that you see here and in some of the other rooms. These squares were done by families, survivors, community members, as well as women in institutions through a partnership with Elizabeth Fry Society. A lot of them were done in Saskatchewan. Some of them were done also in the
Whitehorse community hearings.

You can be part of making more blankets. We have squares that are in the family room just across in the college with everything that you need to provide your message, and we encourage each of you to go and put your hands on a square and help create these blankets that are going to travel with the National Inquiry every place that it goes in every community hearing.

So thank you to those who have already done their blankets and we’ll look forward to having many more squares.

To speak to some of the items here, we have representation of the Inuit qu’lik through images here on these blankets.

And we have a basket here. It’s called a miskawaabimaag basket. It’s a red willow basket. Red willow is very healing. And it’s from Manito Ahbee, a sacred site in Manitoba. And that basket represents truth gathering, the many truths, all of the work that this National Inquiry is going to be doing throughout the country and gathering these truths and bringing them together in the work of the National Inquiry, those truths that families and survivors are going to be sharing, and that red cloth that lines it is to make sure that that is kept safe, that those words are part of that medicine that
comes into that gathering process.

And sitting with it there are some feathers that were gathered by women from Haida Gwaii who are -- that are to share with the families, an acknowledgement of what it is that you’re sharing.

And there’s the water that sits beside that, and we heard this morning about the importance of that water, and other sacred items that support.

So if you want to know more about the basket there’s a banner there that describes the making of the basket. And you can see the women’s hands in the photo making that basket. And that was a donated gift to the National Inquiry.

We also have another banner that describes the gifts of reciprocity, and this is a gift that you will receive when you come and share with the National Inquiry, and it’s to acknowledge that gift of what it is that you’re sharing and to create relationship, so those seeds that are here that will be part of the gift that will be shared to create that relationship. And we’d love to have photos or hear your stories as you work with these seeds and the life that comes from working with the earth and planting those seeds and to continue that relationship, because it’s not about sitting together for one day but creating a relationship that honours women and their loved ones.
And we have some wild strawberries, and fireweed, and things that are from each region that we visit, because we don’t want to introduce things that are not from the regions, right. We want to honour every place that we go in the way that it is and has been.

So those are the three things. The fourth thing is artistic expression. And it’s very important to understand the healing power of art. That’s something that the National Inquiry will be talking about throughout. But we have an opportunity at every hearing for people to express in the form of art their story. There’s a room set aside for people that want to make donations. We have Petra, who is our senior archivist, who is responsible for artistic expressions. If you have something that you want to gift, a song, a dance, a poem, whatever it is, you can share that with the inquiry and we have ways of doing that.

Because we know that not everyone is able to or wants to tell their story or is ready to tell their story in the way that some of the people that have come forward are able to so we want to make sure that all of those ways are honoured. So if you have an artistic expression you can find me, or Petra, who’s sitting back there -- wave, Petra -- or register at the table, we would really like to hear from everyone about their way of expressing their thought and story and honouring their
loved one.

And more information is on the website and, as I said, on these banners. These are the seven seeds of reciprocity that are described here. And we’re always happy to share more information about any of that.

So thank you for allowing me the time to share a little bit about this. Miigwetch.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: We’ll just take a short break for a few minutes to get organized for our first hearing.

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

--- Upon resuming at 10:10 a.m.

Hearing # 1

Witness: Marlene Jack and Pius Jack

In relation to the Jack family

Heard by Commissioner Michèle Audette

Commission Counsel: Breen Ouellette

Registrar: Bryan Zandberg

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Madam Commissioner,

we’re ready to proceed.

My name is Wendy van Tongeren, and I am Commission counsel, one of many, and my last name is spelled V-A-N, T-O-N-G-E-R-E-N.

And I have the privilege of being with members of the Jack family and their supporters.
And so I would actually like to start, if it is okay with the Commissioner, that everybody who is present here with us I’ll pass around the microphone and I’ll ask them to introduce themselves, including spelling their names, unless it’s something like Joe Smith and we can all figure that out, but if it’s something other than that then it needs to be spelled so that we can record this properly. And I’ll start with Marlene Jack.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Marlene Jack, M-A-R-L-E-N-E. I’m ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: J-A-C-K.


MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Perfect. Thank you.

CHIEF CORRINA LEWEEEN: Chief Corrina Leween from the Cheslatta Carrier Nation, C-O-R-R-I-N-A, L-E-W-E-N.

MS. MAVIS BENSON: Mavis Benson, M-A-V-I-S, B-E-N-S-O-N.


MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And, Audrey, did
Hearing – Public
Marlene Jack & Pius Jack
(The Jack family)

you want to introduce yourself?


MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Thank you.

MS. AUDREY SIEGL: Thank you.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And so both Marlene and Pius are the people that we anticipate speaking, at least from our preparation, and so I’m asking that they be affirmed. They agreed to that process. So if the registrar would assist us with that we would be grateful.

MARLENE JACK, AFFIRMED

PIUS JACK, AFFIRMED


QUESTIONS BY MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And that was going to be my first question. If you could just go around to everyone who is here and tell us is it a family member, support, or -- just so that we know why people are here, because you’ve invited them all.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes. To my right is Chief Corrina Leween. She’s our cousin. Mavis Benson is also our cousin on both sides. Uncle Pius is my dad’s brother. Jocelyn is my half-sister. We both have the same mom, different dads. Penny, missing and murdered inquiry.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, she looks familiar.

MS. MARLENE JACK: And Gladys -- Gladys Radek has been a strong speaker for myself and our families with the missing and murdered inquiry. She’s been very strong for me.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, for me too I think, yeah.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes. And Audrey I know her from Vancouver, a huge support and very strong speaker.


MS. MARLENE JACK: Did I miss anybody? No.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Well thank you for being here. And you actually came from Vancouver ---

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- to speak today.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So where do we begin? There’s so much to tell, isn’t there. Where would you like to begin?

MS. MARLENE JACK: I’ll start from when Doreen and I were growing up.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Great. And
I’m just going to say something just to put things in context.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Believe it or not I found this on the blanket.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah. I have -- yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I think maybe a benevolent guardian put it there for us to use.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So it’s a Crime Stopper announcement about members of your family who went missing in 1989.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And it was actually on August 2, 1989.

So I’m just going to read one paragraph that gives a little bit of the background.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Okay.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And then we’ll start with your birth and your life with Doreen when you were little girls, and then teenagers, and then later.

Because Doreen went missing, didn’t she, when she was 26 years old.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: She was still very
young.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yep.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Ronnie Jack was her common law or ---

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes, common law.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And he was 26 when he went missing?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: “Ronnie Jack met an unknown male subject in the First...”

MS. MARLENE JACK: First Litre Pub.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: “...First Litre Pub on August 1st, 1989 who offered him and his wife Doreen jobs at a logging camp five miles past Bednesti in the Cluculz Lake area. Mention was also made of a daycare facility being available at the logging camp site which could take their two children while they worked their respective jobs. Ronnie Jack was offered a job bucking logs and Doreen Jack as a cook’s helper in the camp kitchen. The four Jack family members left their residence with this unknown male in his vehicle...”
No description available of the vehicle.

"...at approximately 1:30 a.m. on August 2nd, 1989, and were never heard from or seen again. The Jacks did not own their own vehicle. It appears that the Jacks had every intention of returning to their residence, which was at 2116 Strathcona Avenue in Prince George."

And so the poster goes on. They’re seeking assistance from the public if they know anything at all about this, any circumstances at all that could assist the police and the family to find these members of the family.

And so there’s actually photos on this Crime Stoppers poster and the pictures include Ronald Paul Jack on the far left -- my left. And then that’s your sister Doreen Anne Jack?

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Yes.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And she was older than you were?

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Yes.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** About three years or so, was it?

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Yeah.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** You were born in
'66 and she was born in ’63?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. And Ryan Jack, that was her son?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And he was four when he went missing?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And then there’s Russell Jack, and he was nine when he went missing?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So in order to give credit and for people to understand the comprehensive nature of this you’re going to start telling the whole story from the time that you were a little girl with Doreen. Is that right?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Now, when we -- we met a few times to try and figure this out, right, on how to best -- so that you felt comfortable, and you were assisted by me when you spoke?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And so we made up kind of a calendar of the years, because you were born in 1966, and we put some important events that you told me
Marlene Jack & Pius Jack  
(The Jack family)

about on that. So I’m just going to have it in front of me just to be of an aid to you and to me as we do this to make sure that we get it as accurate as possible.

MS. MARLENE JACK: M’hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So I’ve got it here.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Okay.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So go ahead. And if you want me to ask questions, I will, otherwise just proceed, and I’ll listen.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Where do I start?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Well, you could start ---

MS. MARLENE JACK: Okay.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: How about -- you know, if you look on here we’ve actually got a notation from 1969 about what you called the first traumatic event that you had in your family.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Oh, yes, yeah. That was -- we had a house (inaudible), eight kilometre mark. I was small. We were all -- I remember us being at home. There’s Loreen, and myself, Doreen and our mom. It was quiet and all of a sudden we hear these loud banging. We had no idea what it was. And our mom got scared and told us to hide. So us being so small we could hide in the
smallest areas where adults don’t get into. The loud noises scared me so bad that I could remember that night how dark it was in the place cause we had those -- what do you call those lamps that ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Kerosene?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah, kerosene. They burn the plastic, or the bag. Yeah, one of those. I can still remember how dark it was in the place.

And I was hiding under the stairs. And then all of a sudden the door swung open and I can hear screaming, yelling, banging, and then I can hear the voices leaving our place going down the road.

And then a half hour later maybe -- maybe shorter -- I’m not sure -- somebody came back in and then it was our dad. He said “I’m your dad. Come out and come to your dad. Everything’s okay.” And I told -- I came out. We were all crying, all of us kids. And I told dad “Somebody’s fighting mom you should go help mom.”

After that I don’t remember. Just that night I remember.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And you’ve described that you were afraid so that’s why you called it the first traumatic event that you recall.

MS. MARLENE JACK: The first, yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So I’m just
not sure about this. Had you met your dad before that night?

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** See, I don’t remember that.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I see.

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Yeah, I don’t remember that. I just remember that night when I -- all that happened. I don’t know. I know I was there with my mom. I guess -- I don’t know. I don’t remember anything before and I don’t remember anything after up until we went to Lejac Residential School.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. And that started the next year in 1970?

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Yeah.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Now, did your mom and dad stay together?

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** No.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Tell us about that.

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** I’m guessing that was my mom and dad fighting that night and mom left. She went back to Quesnel I’m thinking two weeks after. I’m not sure. But I know we didn’t have contact with her after. Yeah, I don’t remember her growing up with us.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Did you stay in the same place though, that place with the stairs where you
hid?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yep.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And who looked after you?

MS. MARLENE JACK: My dad.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. And tell us about that, your dad looking after you. How did that go?

MS. MARLENE JACK: We had our up and downs. Our dad he used to drink. I know he left us a lot of times with babysitters or sometimes by ourselves. Sometimes the parties they go all night and then he’d come home all angry, really drunk. He used to beat on us. A lot of stuff. A lot of stuff.

I remember the one time he shot at us, me and Doreen. Loreen was hiding on top. He was drinking.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: In here you said that happened about 1974. Is that what you remember?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Somewhere around there, yeah, when we were out of Lejac. Like the residential school sometimes they sent you home or sometimes they kept you there. And that summer they sent us and we were staying in Fraser Lake just not too far from Lejac.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. And this chart’s kind of handy because I know that your sister Doreen she was born three years before you.
MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So on this chart it’s handy, because I know your birthday is February 3rd, so that means every year you become a year older, like all of us, so I look at 1974 for example, so you were eight in January until you turned nine. And you had a younger sister. Her name was Loreen.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And she was born about nine months after you.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes. The same year; nine months.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So she was close to the same age when your dad did the shooting thing.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And then Doreen would have been three years older than that.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Probably around 12 or so.

So how did the shooting thing come about?

MS. MARLENE JACK: I don’t know. He just came home really angry. He started swearing at us and getting all angry and kind of telling us how we were a burden. I guess he saw how scared we were. We were not
answering him. We didn’t want to listen but we had to. And he got the gun and he says “Do you want me to shoot you” and he had it pointing down and then he fired a shot down first when he was standing there. And that’s where Doreen and I got scared and we started running out the back door. Doreen was swinging the door open, and just as we were going out the back door the bullet hit next to the door frame. A bullet hit there. And I don’t think we even tried to walk down the stairs we just dove out. And we ended up sleeping outside until our dad would allow us back in or he calmed down. That was for probably the whole day that day. We didn’t have our shoes or jackets on. No time. Just run.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So what do you remember about waiting outside?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Cold.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: It was cold, eh?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Slugs.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So -- and your dad’s name was Charlie Edmond Jack?

MS. MARLENE JACK: M’hm. Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: That’s like E-D-M-O-N-D, Edmond?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Charlie, C-H-A-R-L-
MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Great. Thanks.

Okay. There’s something else here. Like Doreen was three years older than you were. And there was something about other men coming in the house.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Tell us about that.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Well, our dad would be partying or away 1:00 o’clock, 2:00 o’clock in the morning. We’d have men come down and they want to have sex. They tried with me and Doreen wouldn’t allow it. She said “I’m older you can try with me.” She was too young too, and they said “Is there anybody else here that I can do this with” they asked. I don’t even know who these guys were.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Had you seen them before then?

MS. MARLENE JACK: No.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And how often did that happen?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Quite a bit. A lot.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And where was your dad?

MS. MARLENE JACK: He’d be occupied somewhere else. Yeah, he would be busy doing other things.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And what do you know about whether or not any of them actually did have sex with Doreen?

MS. MARLENE JACK: I don’t know. I know I was trying to fight them off. Like I’m small, I tried to hit them, bit them, whatever I could to get them off, and they just shoved me across the room. They’d give up because they can’t get anywhere, too small.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Where were you living at that time?

MS. MARLENE JACK: If I remember I think it was in Fraser Lake.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And were there other houses around?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes, there was, yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And do you know where those guys came from?

MS. MARLENE JACK: No, I never knew any of them. I don’t even know what their name was.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So when we spoke before you put this in 1970 with the men that would come and that Doreen tried to save you. And so in 1970 you were four and then you turned five. And I’m just wondering how long that type of behaviour lasted where you were subjected to that.
Maybe let’s go to the residential school part and then that might sort of place things in your memory. It might help. You started residential school in 1970, right?

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Yeah.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And did you leave residential school because it actually was closed?

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Yeah, in ’76.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** In ’76. And you’ve already told us that the shooting incident happened in ’74.

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Yeah.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So does that help at all in terms of when these events were happening with the men who had been drinking coming and demanding sex?

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** What do you mean?

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Did it happen when you were seven, or eight, or nine, or 10, or 11?

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Oh, it went on the whole time.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Until when?

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Yeah, until after residential school closed from Lejac we didn’t go home we went to -- Doreen went to Prince George College and Loreen and I went to a group home in Prince George that was funded by the federal government.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. That was after residential school?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And so at the group home you went to school did you? You went to school on a daily basis?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So, you know, I’m doing what they call leading, so if I -- make sure if I get it wrong you correct me, okay.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Like I’m just trying to help, but I really do want to help, I don’t want you to say things or agree to things that I don’t say -- that I say and you don’t agree with.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Okay.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Now, Doreen left school early?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And why was that?

MS. MARLENE JACK: When she was in Prince George College she had gotten pregnant. I believe -- I was there at the time too. But when she got pregnant I didn’t know. I found out from one of the ladies that was -- one of the supervisors that was there at the -- I forget what
they call them. And our dad didn’t want us home because Doreen was pregnant, but he did take us back after a while. So during that time I asked Doreen, I said “What did you do? How did you get pregnant? Why?” and she said that it wasn’t consensually, he pushed his way on her. So, to me, I would call that rape.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: You would call that what?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Rape.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: R-A-P-E?

MS. MARLENE JACK: It was not consensual.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Right.

MS. MARLENE JACK: She didn’t want to do it but he insisted and was persistent. And for that Russel is the result.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Did she tell you who persisted? Who the father of the baby was?

MS. MARLENE JACK: No. No, she did say a name. For her mentioning that name she got beat up for that. And they said it wasn’t true.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So Russell was born in 1980, and that’s one of the little boys that went missing ---

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- in 1989 when he
was nine years old. He was born the same month as you, on February 28th, right?

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Yeah.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. So there’s something else on here about the downtown eastside.

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Yeah, I ended up in Vancouver. After our dad passed away in 1982 Doreen and I we hitchhiked to Quesnel to visit our mom and maybe like she’d let us stay with her. And she was staying up in a motel somewhere. We came in and me and Doreen knocked on the door. We found her eventually. And then a couple hours after we arrived she looked at us and kind of swore at us and told us that she gave us up a long time ago and she doesn’t want nothing to do with us now so why did we come over there and see her. She basically called us -- excuse me for swearing, but she called us “fucking bitches”, Doreen and I.

Doreen was devastated that our mom talked to us like that and she ended up hitchhiking back to Burns Lake with Russell because Russell was with us. I stayed in Quesnel and I think I stayed there for five months, six months, and then I ended up somehow downtown eastside Vancouver and on the streets there for two years.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I just want to ask you what your mom’s name is just so we know.
MS. MARLENE JACK: Katie Paul.


MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: P-A-U-L ---

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- was her last name?

MS. MARLENE JACK: M’hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Thank you. Okay. So one of the questions I asked you when we were talking before is what things in your life have occurred that have contributed to any vulnerabilities that you might feel; in other words, that make you feel that you can’t always achieve what you want to achieve, you can’t reach your fullest potential, it feels like there’s obstacles in your way, and what are those things?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Like I said, we were in the residential school, and the way the nuns, the supervisors, were treating us they always -- I don’t understand how they can do that. Like we were forced to go to church every Sunday and we had to pray, and love thy neighbours, and love whatever, but then as soon as you leave the church they tell you how you should be ashamed of yourself your mom gave birth to you. They would talk to us
like that. And always telling us how we’re going to be so useless. And for seven years every day I hear that. And I’m guessing, I don’t know, maybe I still haven’t gotten over those -- yeah.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** The words?

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Yeah.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** The negative messages to you?

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** You know, I feel ashamed of my life.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Now, there’s another thing that you mentioned to me that you feel contributed to any feeling of vulnerability which had to do with the way that men treated you. Can you tell us about that?

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** For the way we grew up, like what the men did when our dad wasn’t there, it made me really upset that I wasn’t able to defend myself. I find men disgusting and pigs because they only think about themselves. That’s the way I thought when I was a kid. I still do. Sometimes I feel that way if I find the way men whistle at women and degrade them in ways I get really angry at them. Because these men would actually think that a six year old can actually have intercourse, pedophiles that’s all they are.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And did that experience with men or anything like it continue when you were in the downtown eastside?

MS. MARLENE JACK: I would say I was raped three sometimes four times a week.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Tell us about that. You know what, there’s people who hear that these things go on but they don’t really know how it happens. Can you give us some true insight about how that happens? How can a woman like you, who deserves fairness, and equality, and good treatment, be raped three times a week? How did that happen?

MS. MARLENE JACK: I don’t know. You’d have to ask the men that did the raping. I was just trying to survive. I was drinking a lot to not have the pain. I was always drunk. I drank pop to kill the pain of hunger. I’d steal. Go in the liquor store and steal bottles of booze. I’d be drunk and then I ended up with these men. They figured oh yeah we’re going to have a party and then end up being raped. How many parks I had to crawl out of. I was always alone.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So it was -- when you think about it, I don’t think people normally sort of say -- or always say “Do you want to have sex” and then hear a yes. There’s something else that happens sometimes.
So how did this happen?

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** They pretend to be -- these people that had raped me they pretended to be my fiend. They said “We can just sit and talk.” Because I was homeless they decided that they would take advantage of the situation. Sometimes I’m drunk I don’t remember, but I do know -- I don’t know. Like I said, being in residential school what they tell you every day that you’ll amount to nothing sort of sticks with you and then you just don’t care about yourself the way you should.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And when you say “rape” like rape is -- I’m a lawyer so I kind of know what rape is from what used to be in the Criminal Code ---

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Yeah.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** --- because it was -- and it’s no longer in the Criminal Code. It came out in 1982. Now it’s called sexual assault. But what rape said was that every -- no male person shall basically penetrate his penis in a female person who is not his wife. So rape was actually legal in Canada until 1982. Now it’s very different. It’s called sexual assault.

So when you used the word “rape” is that what you were talking about is penetration of a penis in a ---

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Well, that and the beat
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Beat ups too?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Tell us about that.

MS. MARLENE JACK: If I didn’t say it was okay that we would have sex and I say no and I try to leave I would get beat up.

I know I ended up one time in a park and this guy he was -- he had some alcohol. We were sitting there talking. And then I said “We should get back into town, downtown” and he said “No, no, no, stay here and maybe we can have sex” and I said “No, I don’t want to.” I was already drunk. And he decided that the sex was going to happen so he started severely beating me. He ran over me with his car. After he finished he just kicked me out and reversed his car up and I was run over from the front tire.

I think a day later from me lying there I was finally able to have enough courage to get back into town. I didn’t seek no -- I didn’t report to the police because I know they’re not going to do nothing and they’re going ask me who is this guy, do you know who he was or where he is, I’m going to -- I don’t remember him, I was drunk too. I know the car he was driving. So I can’t remember his name.
That’s what I’m saying is I don’t remember a lot of names. I don’t -- because in residential school you were not allowed to talk back to your -- yeah. So from them -- me learning that I just never bothered with names or anything. Faces, you were not allowed to look at them.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So I understand that you actually found a guy who wasn’t quite so disgusting that he ended up helping you quite a bit.

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Yeah. I met an older guy downtown on Hastings. My cousin Annette Morris introduced me to him. He was -- I think he was 20 years older than me. He didn’t drink. I think I knew him for a year before he finally let me move in with him and stay with him. And he was the one that helped me get my life back on track to try and make a better life for myself.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** And was that about 1985 when you were 19, 20?

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Yeah.

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** You’re sure? I’m reading because you told me but...

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Yeah.

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

**MS. MARLENE JACK:** Yeah, because I was 19 when I had just gotten all my I.D. back and I did a driver’s test and passed that year.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yeah, that’s fantastic.

And you actually had contact with Doreen at this time, didn’t you?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Because she was living nearby I think.

MS. MARLENE JACK: No. No, she was ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Or in Maple Ridge.

MS. MARLENE JACK: --- living in Prince George.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, in Prince George.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, I’m sorry.

MS. MARLENE JACK: And I was living in Maple Ridge.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, that’s it. I thought she was in Maple Ridge. Okay.

MS. MARLENE JACK: No, I was.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: You were in Maple Ridge and she was in Prince George?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yep.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So you had occasion to talk to her?
MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And how was your relationship at that point?

MS. MARLENE JACK: It was good.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

MS. MARLENE JACK: We talked sometimes two hours maybe, sometimes half an hour. We always had something to talk about. She’d tell me what she’d be doing. Most of the time she was happy. She says “Oh, I’m having my friends come over” and she’d always invite Leah there. She’d talk about Leah. She’d talk about uncle and aunty. She told me one time ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Uncle Pius here?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M’hm.

MS. MARLENE JACK: She told me one time how her and Pius they used to race from Burns Lake to Prince George and Uncle Pius got a speeding ticket.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. The truth is out, Uncle Pius.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Because Pius was ahead of Doreen and yeah he got a speeding ticket and she blew the horn when she drove past.

(LAUGHTER)

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I also understand
that was the year that Doreen’s second child Ryan was born.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah, I’ve never met Ryan myself.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

MS. MARLENE JACK: I have spoke to him on the phone. He used to always call me aunty; Russell too.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Now, it looks like things starting looking better for you because you took a number of courses.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So tell us about that.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Okay. When I was staying in Maple Ridge I took a super host bartending course. That one I passed. That’s the only one I passed. And that’s where I learned how to be -- do waitressing, or hosting, or bartending.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And that was in ’87?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Well, those are handy things to know even if you never go in a bar.

And then you took a massage course.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah, I was taking -- I was going to start taking a massage course. I think I did
five months before things started getting out of hand again
and never finished.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Who was helping you
get these courses?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Ron was a big contributor
to some of those, but -- yeah he kept on saying “you should
do something. You should do this. Now you have your
licence you can do a lot more.” And that’s when I started.
And then when I did the massage course I think I started
losing interest. I started drinking again.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I hope that didn’t
have anything to do with taking the massage course. What
was going on that made you unhappy again?

MS. MARLENE JACK: I’m thinking it was
because massage you have to touch other people and I don’t
like -- like just flashbacks I guess.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I see.

MS. MARLENE JACK: That’s why I never
finished. Just -- yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Were you getting
any counselling at that time?

MS. MARLENE JACK: No.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Had you ever
received any counselling up to that time?

MS. MARLENE JACK: No.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And so we’re in
1988 when you -- it looks like -- it sounds like you were
triggered by taking this massage course and touching
people.

MS. MARLENE JACK: M’hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And it was the next
year in August that Doreen, and Ronny, and Russel and Ryan
disappeared.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Now, you
have a daughter and her name is Brigitte.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes, Brigitte.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: She’s got kind of a
Hollywood name, doesn’t she?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes. Brigitte A Costa Lopez. I want to change it and take that A Costa off so
she just keeps Lopez. And when people meet Brigitte I
always tell them she’s Jennifer Lopez’s cousin.

(LAUGHTER)

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Between Brigitte
Bardot and Jennifer Lopez she’s got ---

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah, she’s famous.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And I understand
you’ve had a number of health problems that have been
diagnosed -- inappropriately diagnosed -- mistakenly
diagnosed as something else.

   MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

   MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: But more recently it’s been properly diagnosed so you’re getting proper care. Is that right?

   MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

   MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. And in 2007 you took a course for looking after elders, giving you ---

   MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

   MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- some ideas about how to properly look after elders.

   MS. MARLENE JACK: Yep. I didn’t finish that course. That -- it was homecare ---

   MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: M’hm.

   MS. MARLENE JACK: --- and I guess -- I don’t know -- I had gallstones. I didn’t finish the last month of that course. I ended up in the hospital. That was 2007 Mother’s Day I was in the hospital.

   MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: You probably get a decent meal there, did you, for Mother’s Day?

   MS. MARLENE JACK: No.

   (LAUGHTER)

   MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: That’s too bad.

   MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah. No, I think I got gooey fries from that restaurant in the mall.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, I see.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So you’re 52 today?

MS. MARLENE JACK: No.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: How old are you?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Experienced.

(LAUGHTER)

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Sorry, I should have kept that for the in-camera hearing.

Any other things that you’d like to -- like I’ve got some other note of things here but I don’t know if they’re relevant or if you want to talk about it.

MS. MARLENE JACK: I was -- in 1986 I was staying in Maple Ridge and I had a lot of pain in my joints. The doctor diagnosed me with having rheumatoid arthritis, so all those years I was treating rheumatoid arthritis. In 2012 when I was in a course, a culinary arts program in Vancouver, I kept on going to the doctor and tell her because I had so much pain, and I said “You need to give me something stronger” and she got tired of me asking her too many times so she sent me to a specialist, because I told her I had rheumatoid arthritis, and it turned out that that was not the case, I never had rheumatoid arthritis, it was SLE. In short it’s lupus that I had and I was treating rheumatoid arthritis, so during
the years I guess treating the wrong disease it just -- too late to fix the wrongs. And that’s where I ended up in the hospital when I had those gallstones. So 2012 I found out that I had lupus I had to go to Quesnel for my mom’s funeral.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And your dad is also diseased?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So you’ve told us some things that contributed to any feelings of vulnerability that you have. And what -- did you ever talk to Doreen about how she felt about life, and what was going on for her, and what are some of the things that contributed to her being happy or contributed to her being vulnerable? What do you know about that from talking to her and making observation?

MS. MARLENE JACK: It’s the stuff that Doreen and I went through when we were small growing up. I know that bothered her a lot. She did tell me a few times that -- how all of our lives we were F’d up. Like I can’t -- she felt pretty much the same way I did. She just never showed it. She hid hers really well.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. And what about -- what can you say about her relationship with Ronny? How was that going?
MS. MARLENE JACK: I know -- Doreen has told me a couple of times, and I have experienced it myself, that she was abused in her relationship.

That one time Doreen and I were talking, we were drinking at a rodeo grounds just outside of Burns Lake, and me and Doreen were sitting there talking, bonding as sisters, and we were laughing away, and then all of a sudden I got punched across the -- like just punched out. I couldn’t -- I didn’t even feel the punch I was that drunk. Anyway, I looked up and then I saw Ronnie beating up on Doreen. And then Doreen she wasn’t even crying, or screaming, or nothing, she just was protecting herself.

And the Bert (phonetic) boys were there, like Robert, and Ken, and Jack Bert were there. Dad was -- yeah, so anyway, the Bert boys stopped Ronnie from beating up Doreen and I guess the Bert boys beat Ronnie up and told him that he can’t be touching women.

While they were fighting, Doreen and I ran away, and it shocked me because she just started laughing and she goes “I wonder got into Ronnie, why he did that” and I said “Why did he punch me? What did I do?” and we didn’t understand. That’s the first time I know Ronnie was beating up on Doreen if she did something wrong.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And was it the first and only time, or what do you know about that?
MS. MARLENE JACK: I know I have -- because I left -- after dad had passed away I left and the only contact I had was with Doreen over the phone. I was never there. I was always talking to her on the phone, and she told me that he would beat her up if she said or did something wrong. So she was really careful on what she did.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And there was some information you received about the managing of the finances in the home. Do you remember that that you told me about?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah, they didn’t have a lot of money. I’m guessing they were on social assistance. So one of my cousin’s Karina told me Doreen was stealing medicine for her boys because they had a cold and she saw her doing that. So Doreen didn’t have any money with her all the time. It was financed -- I guess Ronnie took care of everything.

So I know -- we grew up, so we done it long before. Our dad, uncle, never knew about it. We used to steal all the time. Yeah, not the first time.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Was Doreen working outside the home at any time to have her own income?

MS. MARLENE JACK: No, I don’t think, no.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Was she getting any allowance from anywhere?
MS. MARLENE JACK: She was on social assistance I believe.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And Ronnie?

MS. MARLENE JACK: I’m not sure.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

MS. MARLENE JACK: She -- yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Can you look between -- look over the head of the women in the red sweater?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And what do you see?

MS. MARLENE JACK: I see a picture of the Jack family. Doreen is on the left; Ryan is the baby in the middle; Russell is on the bottom front and Ronald Jack on the right.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Can you recognize, from what you see there, approximately when that would have been taken as a photo?

MS. MARLENE JACK: To me, right there looks like -- cause Ryan looks only one or two, eh -- one year old. He was born -- that would be in ’86 probably.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Good. Okay. And then we’ve got some other pictures. And I’m just going to give one copy to the Commissioner. So I’m afraid our
version is black and white but I think it does the trick.
Okay. So there’s four pictures. And this looks like the
same one, right?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Actually

they are the same I believe.

I think we have all four of these up here
but I don’t know technically whether they can be shown.

MS. MARLENE JACK: That one is ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, there you go.

So here’s the little guy.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Do you know which

one this is?

MS. MARLENE JACK: This one is Ryan.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Ryan. Okay. Born

in ’85. So he looks probably again just a toddler at that

point.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So it’s probably

around ’86 or so.

MS. MARLENE JACK: M’hm.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And this is

Russell, the next picture?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes, Russell.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: There you go. So about how old do you think Russell was at that time?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Six maybe.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. And he was

---

MS. MARLENE JACK: I remember that leather jacket.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, do you?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So that would have been about 1986?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah. I know he had -- Doreen she was collecting clothes for him.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. And then we have a picture if Doreen.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Oh, no, no, take that off.

(LAUGHTER)

MS. MARLENE JACK: Sorry.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Something happened that I don’t know about. What, there’s a picture up there that you don’t want?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, okay. So should we stick to the hardcopy?
MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah. That was -- actually, that was us at the residential school.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, was it?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah. Doreen is the one in the arm brace; Loreen, my younger sister, is in the front, and me trying to hide behind her.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So why didn’t you want that shown?

MS. MARLENE JACK: That shocked me. I didn’t ---

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Oh, I see. But you sent it to me.

MS. MARLENE JACK: I was looking at this and I saw that is why.

(LAUGHTER)

MS. MARLENE JACK: That was at Lejac Residential School. That year Doreen she was in the Lejac band, she was playing the clarinet, or whatever that thing, and they left Lejac to go play somewhere and she fell off the top bunk and broke her collarbone. That was when that photo was.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So I’m expecting that there’s this picture on there too but maybe we shouldn’t take a risk.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.
MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Who knows what we might find.

(LAUGHTER)

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: But I have a picture here of Doreen.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And she doesn’t look that great there.

MS. MARLENE JACK: No.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And, you know, who knows, there are days we don’t feel great.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: But when -- can you recognize, in terms of like her hairstyle and glasses, when that might have been?

MS. MARLENE JACK: I don’t.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. And then there’s the poster.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I’ll give you that.

MS. MARLENE JACK: This -- yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: And so I’ve just given Madam Commissioner a copy of that.

And so similarly that’s just pictures of the family again.
MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah. This is a photo I received from -- I had a meeting with E-PANA yesterday and he had this photo and I asked him if I can have a copy and it’s a photo of Ronnie, Doreen, Ryan and Russell.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay.

MS. MARLENE JACK: I should have got it in colour, to be honest. It doesn’t cost that much for colour.

So I never had photos of Doreen while we were growing up. Anything we had got lost after our dad passed away. So I never had any.

And I would like to thank Mabel Jack for producing all these photos that the police have. Mabel Jack is Ronnie’s mom. Thank you for her to submit these photos. I wouldn’t have a copy if it wasn’t for her.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Thank you for thanking her.

I know that there’s volunteer work that you do. Do you still do that? Are you still doing it in recent years?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: In Vancouver?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So what type of volunteer work is that?
MS. MARLENE JACK: I volunteer at Carnegie Community Centre. That’s Hastings and Main. And I help down at the women’s centre. Mainly -- majority of the volunteer I work is I call bingo for seniors or the women downtown eastside.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Now, I note the time, and -- but I just -- one thing I wanted to finish off with is to give you a chance to talk about anything you know about the disappearance and also the impact of the disappearance of your sister and brother-in-law and the children has had on you and the family, and also to address any thoughts you have that you feel the Commissioner should hear about how some of these things that you’ve experienced in your lifetime that have contributed to your vulnerability and potentially to that of Doreen how can things be changed so that both of you, if you’d had that life, you would be in a safer place.

MS. MARLENE JACK: I found out Doreen disappeared 1989. My Aunty Laura phoned me. I was living in Maple Ridge. And she asked me if I’ve seen Doreen or Ronnie down in Vancouver and I said “No, I haven’t seen them. Why? What happened? Is everything okay?” And she said “They’re missing. Nobody has seen them for two months and we’re just looking for them.”

So after my aunty told me that I went
downtown eastside because I was down there a lot of years
so I knew a lot of people. I asked around, watch for them.
I phoned the police to try and get information. They
didn’t give me that much then so I left it.

A few years later I phoned back again and I
said “Doreen is my sister. I need to know what’s going
on.” So he did give me some information but also told me
that if in any way with the information that they have
provided me talk to the media about that they will cut me
off of all information that they have about Doreen’s case
and will only be talking with Mabel Jack about Doreen’s
case.

I got afraid then and I didn’t -- like I had
media trying to ask me for an interview and I was afraid to
talk because I needed to stay in touch with Doreen’s case.
For the longest time I was like that. And I kept phoning
and they did give me some information.

So it was up until I met Gladys -- Gladys
Radek and Bernie -- they were very strong -- and Gladys
told me I should speak for Doreen and tell what’s going on,
and I said “No, no, no, I can’t talk” and she said “Why?”
So I told her what the officer had told me and Gladys said
“No, you need to talk. You cannot hide. They can’t get
away with what they’re doing. So what if they cut you off;
there’s other ways you can find out.” Gladys helped me a
lot with keeping me speaking about Doreen and need to know
about her.

They tell me the same thing every year,
they’re still investigating her case they’re still looking
at tips that were phoned in, the same thing.

I just recently phoned them and they had
lost my contact information so I have to redo everything
all over.

Allison, another officer I met when they had
the B.C. gathering in Prince George, she told me a lot more
than what I have been getting on the phone.

And this is like really hard because I was
not there -- I was not living in my community -- to be my
sister’s -- my family’s side.

We were in residential school and we were
not allowed to bond as family members. I’d be sitting in
the same room and if we talked to each other in our -- if
we’re in the same room and we’re talking to each other and
bonding as family the nuns would grab us by our ear or
something and pull us apart and tell us that’s not
permitted, really scold us and tell that you’re not allowed
to do that here. So for us sisters knowing this we were
not close.

I don’t talk to my sister Loreen anymore.

We never did since we left residential school. Doreen we
talked on the phone, but being in the same room we remember when we were in -- well you’re not allowed to bond. I guess we talked better on the phone then we did when we saw each other.

Those things they would say were the main contributing factors for us girls growing up the way we did.

Our dad he was a good guy. He wasn’t drinking all the time. But when he did it was never good. He was very strict and very mean. But us being kids at the time we never understood. Now that I’m older and I think about the things -- the reasons why he did and I could say I pretty much could understand where he was coming from looking after his daughters. Like he could have given us away to somebody else when our mom left but he kept us. He did show us love in his way, what he knew. I know -- I’m pretty sure he was at Lejac school too.

I’m trying. I have my daughter. Like I didn’t want her to grow up the way I did. We were homeless. People called us hobos all the time because we never had a place. My daughter I don’t want her to grow up the way I did.

And I know I am racist in some ways. This is what I learned. And she’s a constant reminder to me that she’s --- like if I get out of hand she stops me and
Marlene Jack & Pius Jack
(The Jack family)

tell me “Mom, that’s racist.” She’ll always, always be a
constant reminder. I can say like -- I don’t know. I know
what I know. What they taught me doesn’t go away. I try
hard. I haven’t drank for a year and a half.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Do you think we
should give Uncle Pius a chance?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah, uncle needs to
talk.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: So, Pius, there
were some things that you specifically wanted to tell the
Commissioners about the situation with the missing
relatives.

MR. PIUS JACK: Yeah, I have three comments
to make regarding the missing family.

First of all, I read in the newspaper back
in 1989 a police officer or an investigator went to look
for the Jack family. I don’t know how long it took before
he came back and made a report and sent it to the Prince
George Citizen or at that time The Free Press. What I’d
like to know is what he said they were found and they found
a job and they didn’t want to be found. I’d like to know
why he said that, they didn’t want to be found. I’m not
saying that he is involved in it but it’s just a comment
that I’m making, why did he say that. And to this day I
still never get that answer.
And the second comment I’m going to make is just the other night I got a phone call from my daughter into the disappearance. I guess they phoned the Vanderhoof Police Department or the investigator. They said the family is buried between Vanderhoof and Stoney Creek. There’s a farm between there and a lone house or a barn. Now, the investigators or the RCMP went to that location and they searched. It was the right location but they looked in the wrong area. From what my daughter told me, they said they’re buried along the fence line not around the building. Now, I’m hoping if the word gets back out to the investigators go back and search the area along the fence line and then I’m hoping that they’ll be found.

And my third comment, back in June or July I received a letter in my mailbox to one of the oldest boys Russell, Russel Fabian Jack. It was from the health department to renew his health insurance. Why did they send it to me in my mailbox? Because I don’t give out my mailbox number or my address to anyone except when I’m filling out the government papers.

And I told my niece here Marlene about it. And my oldest daughter scanned the paper and sent it to her -- Marlene. And she made a few phone calls down to the lower mainland to the health department, and what they told her, and she told me, they made a mistake. Why you make a
mistake if they send me a letter to Russell in my mailbox?

All those questions I need it to be answered.

That’s all.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Pius, thank you very much for being here today.

Madam Commissioner, those are all the questions that I have, and you may have questions.

QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:

LE COMMISSAIRE MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci beaucoup, Maître Wendy.

I’ll start by saying thank you. I have to keep my emotion. I have to breath. Because it was -- I thought I knew you but there’s a new woman sitting in front of me. So next time that I’ll see your text messaging or when I’ll see you in Vancouver I’ll be very honoured. I am honoured to be in the same room with you right now at this moment.

I have a question; E-PANA -- is that what we say in English, E-PANA? Did you -- how come they just -- when did the first time approach you about your family?

MS. MARLENE JACK: I think they approached -- Freda asked me -- Freda Ens, the victim service worker. The first time I was aware of E-PANA was when they did the press release out in Surrey. Mavis and I went to that one.
COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: In 2012 ---

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: --- 2013?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah. And then that’s when I asked them about the Jack family because of Bobby Jack Fowler. So that was the first time I met them. And I believe it was yesterday Freda asked me if I wanted to meet with E-PANA to go over the case of what they have. And I was interested. I wanted my whole family there. It turned out just Mavis and I met with them yesterday. And they told me pretty much all yeah the same.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: I’ll try to make sure I understand. The first time you heard about and met with them it was around 2013?

MS. MARLENE JACK: They did -- yeah, the first time when they did the press release about Bobby Jack Fowler, they found DNA evidence that ---

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: M’hm.

MS. MARLENE JACK: --- he was -- that was the first time they did that press release in Surrey.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: That was around there. And it’s in 2017 that the first official contact was made?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yesterday.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Yesterday.
MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: I hope -- I’m sure they’re listening. I hope this is not the end, that the communication will stay ---

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: --- with you and your family. I strongly hope.

And what would they say -- what did they say yesterday when they met with you?

MS. MARLENE JACK: What did they say?

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: To you.

MS. MARLENE JACK: Freda asked if I could meet with them. What they -- they talked about the case and pretty much did the highlights of the case where I think it was all the information I had pretty much. There were a couple of new names in there. And with all the interviews and stuff they have done in regards to Doreen’s case a lot of them were -- how is it -- they said they were ruled out, yeah.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: What is ruled out?

MS. MARLENE JACK: It means after their interrogation and their lie detector tests and all that they passed and they were ruled out, yeah.

LE COMMISSAIRE MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci
beaucoup.

And before -- my last question is I know you
and your uncle I’m sure -- I don’t want to put words in
your mouth, but the three questions that your uncle raised
or shared to us do you feel the same that -- do you have
the same questions that he does?

MS. MARLENE JACK: Yes. Yeah, I did see the
newspaper clipping where they said that Jack family was
found and they didn’t want to be found or something. I did
see that.

E-PANA touched on that a bit yesterday and
they said it was miscommunication on the RCMP’s behalf
because the location of one witness was not there to
confirm the information so they just went ahead and put
that through.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: For your
uncle, I’m sure the RCMP heard your question. We’re in a
public hearing. And I’m sure there is big oreille we say
in French who are listening. And you deserve those
answers. And of course among the Commission counsel and
the Commissioners we’ll have a discussion and -- because
it’s in my book because I’ll bring this book to have those
what do we do on our end.

And for Canada, who is listening right now,
and I’m sure around the world, because Gladys made that
sure with the walk, and you, Bernie, but also for the
Indigenous women across Canada who is listening, this
inquiry we have the name National Inquiry for the Missing
and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, yes, it’s
something you push for many years but it’s also about the
systemic cause, the violence, and violence is huge, huge.

You know, your message, your truth, your
testimony, is showing that the moment that you were born
until today that system failed you, or the family, or
residential school, colonisation we say in French -- in
English I don’t know how we say that -- colonization.

So when I say I thought I knew you, I know
you’re strong but now it’s -- if I feel weak I know who to
call. I know who to call because you have a strength that
many of us is still searching. And I hope that you’re
opening doors for other women across Canada to say if
Marlene was able to do it I want to do it, in a private
healing circle, or public. But there’s an inquiry and
you’re making history today with us. I’m honoured. Merci
beaucoup. Very honoured.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: If that is the end
of the communication part then another form of
communication in terms of gifts.

LE COMMISSIAIRE MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Oui.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Thank you.
COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: So I want to ask -- I’m blessed again. I have beautiful elders with me. Alors Madam Rosso et Bernie. We have a grandmother. She’s still young that’s why. She’s not old yet. She’s missing some wisdom maybe. She’s got lots. Okay. You know English sometimes and French.

(LAUGHTER)

COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: Thank you so much all of you for being there, and we stay in touch.

(SHORT PAUSE)

COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: While we’re doing this -- this is not my territory, as you know. First my accent, you can tell. I’m from the Eno territory. And a year ago I was introduced to Marlene and her daughter and of course on behalf of the National Inquiry. So a few months ago she asked me to come in Vancouver. So I went. And she said “I have a special gift for you”. And it’s this that she made, first hat.

(SHORT PAUSE)

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: I’m looking at the schedule and I actually need to be at another location. And there is a family that is scheduled to be here at 11:00 o’clock in this room. We’ll proceed. Thank you.

There will be a fifteen minute break so that the parties can get to the appropriate rooms that they need
to be. Thank you. So that means about 10 to 12:00 we’ll reconvene.

--- Exhibits (code: P1P020201)

Exhibit 1: Digital colour photo depicting the missing Jack family (Ronald, Doreen, Ryan and Russell Jack).

Exhibit 2: Digital colour photo of Prince George Crimestoppers poster of missing Jack family announcing $2000 reward for information.

Exhibit 3: Digital copy of photo of young woman with dark hair, glasses, white sweatshirt and eyes half open.

Exhibit 4: Digital copy of photo of smiling baby in a bathtub.

Exhibit 5: Digital copy of photo of male child in what appears to be a leather jacket.

Exhibit 6: Digital copy of photo of three young children standing in a field.

Exhibit 7: Digital copy of photo of young man in white t-shirt and brown-and-black Browning ball cap.

--- Upon recessing at 11:41 a.m.

Hearing # 2 (Artistic Expression Panel)

'Na Aksa Gyilak’yoo School (Kitsumkalum First Nation) & Mob Bounce
MS. TERRELYN FEARN: Good afternoon, everyone.

Could I get the doors -- the side doors and the back door closed. We’re going to get started.

So please come in and find a seat. Just a reminder to everyone that cellphones -- please put your cellphones on vibrate or silent.

Could I ask one of the health supports to close the door in the back please? Thank you.

I’ll ask everyone to have a seat if you want to be more comfortable.

At this time I’m going to introduce our Director of Research Aimee Craft. We’re very excited to have an opportunity to have an artistic expression. And I’m going to hand it over to Aimee Craft to explain what’s going to be happening over the next little while.

MS. AIMEE CRAFT: Thank you, Terrellyn.

I am so excited. We’re so thankful to have these young people here today that are going to I think inspire you, because they inspired me. I shared with them earlier that they were a huge inspiration when I joined the
National Inquiry, and I thanked them, I raised my hands to them for the work that they do. And they’re going to share a little bit with you about what it is that they have put together, but they’re going to show you, which is just really beautiful.

So these are youth from Kitsumkalum, and the school -- and their principal Colleen Austin is here and is going to introduce each of these students, but they’re going to start with a prayer song today. No need to stop recording. You can continue recording. And we’ll hear from them. And I’m just so excited. Have I said that already? Yes. Okay. So thank you. Miigwetch.

--- ARTISTIC EXPRESSION PRESENTATION

MS. BIILTS’IK COLLEEN AUSTIN: (Introduces children)

I’m the principal of ‘Na Aksa Gyilak’yoo School in Kitsumkalum. And I, a few years ago, completed my Masters of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization at the University of Victoria, and during my research for my thesis this song, this prayer song, came to me in a dream. And it is a law -- the law -- number one law of the Tsimshian territory, the law of respect, the law of klombs (phonetic). And in the song “The Highway”, which the students here wrote, they included some of the klombs, some of the iyow (phonetic) in that.
So I’d like to, without further ado, have
the highway performers step forward for you and to share
the song which they wrote last November as part of a
creative writing and artistic expression project at our
little school in Kitsumkalum. It’s a First Nations school,
and independent school with almost 70 students and about 25
adults supporting them. So I’m going to turn the mic over
to them. I hope that you enjoy the klomps song, the prayer
song. (Speaking in native language).

(VIDEO PRESENTATION)

MS. AIMEE CRAFT: These guys are good.

We’re going to take a short break so we can
set up some chairs and hear from these young people. So
please be patient with us for about five minutes while we
set up chairs and then we’ll come back. Thank you.
Miigwetch.
--- Upon recessing at 1:46 p.m.
--- Upon resuming at 1:51 p.m.

MS. AIMEE CRAFT: That was pretty efficient.
I think it was five minutes.

I’m going to ask Colleen Austin to introduce
this group of young people and tell us a little bit more
about them, and then we’re going to hear from each of them.
They’re going to share with the Commissioner and
grandmothers on why it is that they do this work, what
their inspiration is for the video, and they’re each take
an opportunity to share a few words.

**MS. BIILTS’IK COLLEEN AUSTIN:** It is an
honour to be here with you this afternoon. We travelled
from Terrace this morning. We left the clouds behind. And
we’re here in this beautiful sunshine in Smithers among
people who we know love us, as I hope that you will know we
love you too.

The youth who are here in front of you today
are, in my opinion, extraordinary. I’m sure their parents
and grandparents will agree. They have worked very hard to
bring a message to the world with their song, one that was
started with many of you here today and people who are not
here with us today who started the journey -- this journey
of understanding and of hope for all of the men, women,
boys and girls who have gone missing or have been murdered.

We are a small school but our message is
very strong. The youth have stepped forward. They have
all taken time out of their school day today to be here. I
know many of them are nervous to speak. But in preparation
for today they took some time with -- apart from all their
homework that they had to do to write a few words about the
song phrases that they wrote and they have also decided to
share with you some of the way that they feel about this.

I’m going to pass the microphone down the
line. So there will be some students who might not feel comfortable to speak immediately but we’d like to be able to give them an opportunity once their colleagues have sort of filled the air and the energy in here with their youth and with their words, because they might feel more inspired and less nervous. So I’d like to give them a chance to give the mic back to them.

And then we’ll close off with Melynee McDames, who is going to -- who’s our grade 12 student. She’s going to be graduating this year. And she will have a little more insight about her experience and what this all means to her.

But we are deeply honoured to be invited here today and to be among you.

I wanted to mention that we have our cultural advisor from the school (speaking in native language) Larry Derrick, and he has travelled with us today as well as some chaperones and our bus driver who we’re very grateful for getting us here safely today.

So I’ll pass the mic onto Annalee first. And they will introduce themselves. (Speaking in native language).

MISS ANNALEE PARKER: (Speaking in native language). I am a grade 10 student at ‘Na Aksa Gyilak’yoo School in Kitumkalum near Terrace B.C. (Speaking in
native language). My name is Annalee Parker. My crest is the killer whale. I’m from Kitumkalum and I live in Kitumkalum. I’m happy to see you all today.

**MISS MADISON SEYMOUR:** (Speaking in native language). Good day everyone. My name is Madison Seymour. I belong to the killer whale clan. I am originally from Prince George, British Columbia, but I now live in Terrace, British Columbia. Thank you.

**MISS MEGAN CHRISTIANSEN:** (Speaking in native language). I am a grade 10 student at ‘Na Aksa Gyilak’yoo School in Kitumkalum near Terrace, B.C. (Speaking in native language). My name is Megan Christianson. My crest is raven. I am from Kitumkalum and I live in Kitumkalum.

**MR. ELIJAH STEPHENS:** (Speaking in native language). Good day, everyone. My name is Elijah Stephens. I am a grade 11 student at ‘N Aksa Gyilak’yoo School in Kitumkalum near Terrace, B.C. My traditional name is grey eyed raven. My crest is a frog. I am from Greenville, the Nisga’a Nation. I live in Terrace, B.C. I’m happy to see you all here today.

**MISS ALYSON GUNO:** Alyson Guno. I am a grade eight student at ‘Na Aksa Gyilak’yoo in Kitumkalum near Terrace, B.C. Mehi Duwayu (phonetic), my traditional name. (Speaking in native language). I live in
Kitsumkalum and I am from Kitsumkalum.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** (Speaking in native language). Good day, everyone. (Speaking in native language). My name is Autumn Venson (phonetic). I am a grade five student from the ‘Na Aksa Gyilak’yoo School in Kitsumkalum near Terrace, B.C. (Speaking in native language) My crest is wolf (speaking in native language). I am from Kispiox. That is one of the seven villages from the Gitxsan Nation. (Speaking in native language). I live in Terrace, B.C.

**MISS LINDA SPENCER:** Linda Spencer (speaking in native language). My name is Linda Spencer. I am a grade 10 student at ‘Na Aksa Gyilak’yoo School in Kitsumkalum near Terrace, B.C. (Speaking in native language). My crest is raven. (Speaking in native language). I’m from Terrace, B.C. and born in Terrace, B.C.

**MISS CHRISTINE DERRICK:** (Speaking in native language). I’m in grade six.

**MR. CHRISTOPHER SPENCER:** Christopher.

**MS. BIILTS’IK COLLEEN AUSTIN:** So the students have introduced themselves. Some of them are just starting to learn Sm’algyax. Others have had classes with me for a couple of years so you can probably tell.

And I’m going to just pass the mic onto
MISS ANNALEE PARKER: The message I’m trying to send through my work is that it’s never safe to hitchhike and that hitchhiking is definitely not worth anything in this whole wide universe. Hitchhiking is super dangerous and I really want to keep as many people safe as possible.

I also wanted to attempt to bring as much support and comfort to the families who have lost loved ones to this highway. I may never understand how painful it is but I want to extend my hand to those who need extra support.

This is important because this issue needs a lot of awareness brought to it so that we can stop it from happening more than it is. We have to use our voices and sing as loud as we can so that we are heard and so that we can fight this problem.

MISS MADISON SEYMOUR: Good evening, everyone. My name is Madison Seymour. I live in Terrace. And I’m here today to talk about the highway, more specifically my part and how we use the internet to get the word out on hitchhiking and the dangers.

Today was my last performance with the group because I’m in a different school now and I have a very
tight schedule. I’m going to miss all of the lessons we
got at NAGK, especially about respect.

My part is specifically about respect.
Growing up I never really got to see my biological mother,
but my grandmother, my mom -- sorry -- taught me and had
very high standards on respect. She often told me that you
have to have respect for yourself before you can expect
others to show respect for you. This is also what ‘Na Aksa
Gyilak’yoo is built on, respect.

As for the healing tribe lyrics in my part,
that means that we will fight together and against not only
the Highway of Tears but drugs and alcohol. Drugs and
alcohol is something that is very common nowadays and that
can tear a family apart. I use the healing tribe to
describe this because we are a strong nation and we can
fight through anything, whether that’s fighting against
pipelines, fighting to keep our culture, or fighting
against stereotyping of First Nations people. It may seem
hard but we will stand tall and together to stay strong in
our culture.

(Speaking in native language). Thank you
for listening to what I have to say. (Speaking in native
language).

MR. ELIJAH STEPHENS: I had wrote my part of
the song “The Highway” because I was told about the project
from my principal and was offered a role to play in it. Although that may be a very bland and dull reason I still wrote my verse with heart and meaning not just the first thing that rhymed in my head.

My verse starts a bit off topic from the song. It starts with a personal problem I have and tells about how bad it was in the past. These are issues with my anger management.

The second sentence is a reference of how First Nations people were treated by the Europeans and how bad it was.

The next sentence talks about the hard time I had, specifically before I got to 'Na Aksa Gyilak’yoo but after I moved to Terrace. At that time there wasn’t any exploration of my culture in the schools that were in town. Whereas with ‘Na Aksa Gyilak’yoo they are very amazing and revitalizing the culture that was almost lost.

Finally, the last sentence refers to how little to nothing has been done about the Highway of Tears regarding the government. Nothing has been done to solve the cases of missing and murdered men and women along Highway 16 and nothing has been done to help families affected by these missing and murdered people.

My hopes for the song is that it and the problem it represents will rise to a national level and
problems dealt with.

(Speaking in native language). See you all later. Thank you, everyone.

MISS ALYSON GUNO: Good afternoon. My name is Alyson Guno. I am on the youth council. I am here today to explain why we made “The Highway”, to raise awareness for those who have gone missing and murdered.

Along the Highway of Tears there is a lot of Aboriginal women out there that experience violence every day and that are missing from along Highway 16. This 720 kilometre stretch runs from Prince George to Prince Rupert. These women have gone missing since 1969. And about 19 women have disappeared over five decades. The exact number of women who have disappeared or have murdered along Highway 16 is disputed. And I feel that it’s important that the families are not forgotten and feel that they need justice and closure. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The message that we are trying to send in our video “The Highway” is about murdered and missing women who walked on this one certain highway called Highway 16. Women and men have gone missing when walking on this highway. I think this is important because I have family members, Lana Derrick and Rebecca Guno have gone missing. Lana went missing on Highway 16. My mother Caroline had her friend Tamara went missing.
Tamara Chipman went missing on Highway 16. I would not like to hear more people go missing on Highway 16.

See you all later. Thank you, everyone.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When I wrote my part on “The Highway” song I was a new student at ‘Na Aksa Gyilak’yoo School. In my part, as seen on the video, it showed in the background a school. That school was my old school where it all started. I thought I really never had a choice on who I was going to be and what I was going to do in the public schools and I was always in situations that I couldn’t get out of. This is really difficult for me to write down and put my lyrics into the song. I wasn’t so happy when I went back to do my part there but I felt like I should do it there to show where it all started.

When they told us about the theme of the song I really didn’t know how to relate to them, to the highway, till I started thinking on what was going through my mind during this situation, what was going through my mind when this was happening. That’s when I started relating myself to the highway and to the song.

After I put all my feelings down on paper and we finished the song we all ended up breaking down and crying because we’re putting our voices out there, we’re standing up for what we are trying to show, trying to raise awareness to the situation.
MR. LARRY DERRICK: (Speaking in native language). Ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to be with these children. As you all heard, our foundation is respect and it’s a constant reminder to all of them that their footstep -- every footstep that they put forward is of respect, being able to respect themselves.

That highway teaches us something. We can’t close our eyes to what has happened.

I remember in my youth when I was getting ready to go to residential school I listened to my uncles and my aunties and the message they gave me was don’t go, don’t go. So they turned to my great-grandmother, who was living in Prince Rupert and they told her the same thing. My great-grandmother was under the same feeling that I shouldn’t go.

And in the line just like I’m standing here with my suitcase down by my foot I see a taxi pull in, and my cousin was behind me. She called me forward. I thought she was just going to talk to me. She said “Grab your suitcase you’re coming with me.” So I grabbed my suitcase. I thought we were just going to have something to eat and come back. Well I didn’t come back to the lineup. She made me go to school in Prince Rupert.

So I never got to experience the residential
but I knew all about it. In that lineup my heart was
pounding through my nose. It was pounding through my nose.
I could not hear anybody, but when I seen my grandmother
pull in there in a taxi it was joy to me.
So as a result of that I hung on to my
culture and my language.
So as an advisor to these students, I gave them what my grandmothers, my grandfathers, and my
ancestors been handing down to you and I all along.
And so I thank these students for having to
get up on their feet and rise to help those that have gone
beyond. They know that their friends, their family, who
could have been our ancestors, have gone before us, you
don’t know where they went, they just simply disappeared.
And I say you’l1 hear them, you’l1 feel them.
Ladies and gentlemen, I want to tell you,
when we entered this arena here we felt you. We felt them.
So the family that prays together stays
together. (Speaking in native language).

MS. BIILTS’IK COLLEEN AUSTIN: I would like
to pass the mic on to Melynee McDames, but I’d just, first
of all, like to say something about her.

A few years ago Melynee came to our school
and she I think at the time had planned on only staying one
year and then going back to public school but now she’s
graduating with us this year.

And I’ve seen Melynee grow so much in this short period of time, both as a young woman and a young Indigenous woman. She’s very strong and she has taken on the role -- the leadership role in our school of providing most of the media contact for “The Highway” song and with some of the other work that we’re doing at the school.

Melynee was also involved, along with some of the other high school students, to decorate Gladys’ car. And they did a good job, hey, Gladys. And they really took a lot of care and attention. Of course Gladys had very high standards, which is exactly what we expect at our school too. We know that the students can rise up to those high standards that we set for them as long as they have the support that they need.

So I’m going to pass the mic on to Melynee.

The reason why I’m sitting beside Melynee is because we have developed over the years a very close connection in body, mind, and soul, and I’m very, very proud of her.

And thank you for giving Melynee the opportunity to give you a little bit more of -- a bit more information today. Thank you. (Speaking in native language).

MISS MELYNEE McDAMES: (Speaking in native
Hearing - Public

'Na Aksa Gyilak'yo
School & Mob Bounce

language). My name is Melynee McDames. I am from the wolf crest. I was born in Kispiox, B.C. and I currently live in Terrace, B.C.

Sorry -- my name is Melynee. I’m from Kispiox and I currently live on the east end of Terrace on a reserve called Kitselas.

I want to speak as a student, as an individual, and as a young Indigenous woman about an ongoing problem for many people in B.C.

In our song and video our goal was to spread attention to the Highway of Tears. We are very proud of what we have accomplished and what we are yet to accomplish.

When we had our opportunity to write our song we all had to agree on what we wanted to write about. It didn’t take much time for all of us to agree on what we wanted to write about so we chose to write about something everyone here knows, the Highway of Tears. We wanted to spread word of something that is very dear to all of us because we’ve all -- we all know someone who is affected by this highway. And we are also very tired of our women and our men going missing and murdered along this highway.

In our culture we were raised to know that all life is precious. We are tired of our women going missing and murdered. Women are the givers of life. In
our culture we are taught to respect everyone because we know that all life is sacred.

We decided to spread this message, with a huge help from N’we Jinan in the music and on social media. We chose those two because social media is something everyone is on and the music everyone likes music, everyone likes a certain genre. And social media is an easy way to spread a message and get attention to such a touchy subject like this and music is universal.

We are happy to have spread some awareness to the Highway of Tears. And as young Indigenous peoples we are trying to stand together to bring awareness to this ongoing issue that we care about very much. Like I said, our women are sacred and all life is precious.

The Highway of Tears is a highway that stretches from almost one end of B.C. to the other. The highway has been a huge problem for many communities since 1969. The cases that have been reported have been mainly Indigenous women and girls. The fact that it is mainly Indigenous women is quite scary since my own community and the school sits directly on this highway.

I bet you’re wondering why, right. Well, my friends here Annalee Parker, Megan Christianson, Alyson Guno, they all walk home, and they walk a short distance along this highway, and it doesn’t take much -- it doesn’t
take long for something nasty to happen. And fear often
creeps onto my mind about how, to this day, there’s still
violence against Indigenous women and how so many lives
have been taken on this single highway. It needs to end.

The Highway of Tears is an ongoing problem
for many families and we have been sick of it for a long
time now. We need to come together to end this and the
only way to do that is to continue what we are doing here
now. We need to stand strong together and raise our
voices.

We have great love for our women who have
gone missing and murdered and this highway has broke many
families. Families grieve and mourn about their missing
family members and friends to this day.

Speaking of breaking families, I’ve lost
many family members due to this -- I’ve lost a few family
members to this highway. Their names are Lana Derrick and
Rebecca Guno. I’ve lost both before I even got to know
them and to hear this is heartbreaking. To know that I’ve
lost family and my family is still grieving truly does
break my heart. No one should ever have to leave this
world like this.

This highway is a main transportation for
many people and we need to find solutions for
transportation from town to town. Our government has been
talking about getting transportation along this Highway of Tears for years now and it has still not happened. A simple bus going from a town to the next can easily help this issue and maybe some of our women will hop onto the bus instead of a stranger’s car.

Like I said, hitchhiking is the main transportation for some people. My older sisters used to hitchhike from Kispiox where my family lives to Terrace where we also have family. Knowing that you have a loved one being transported by a stranger on a highway, let alone the Highway of Tears is quite scary.

As an Indigenous woman I think that we need to stand strong together for what we believe in. And we believe that one day we will get the attention and the support we need to decrease the amount of our women and sisters going missing and murdered. The Highway of Tears is a major problem here in B.C. and it needs to end now.

We have in hopes that our song and the message behind it reaches the national level. Our accomplishments include being on CBC, CBC Daybreak Radio, Open Connections, and on CFTK, Journeys on CFNR and the First Nations School Association Conference. We are all honoured that we could be a part of this and try to make a difference.

Thank you for letting me speak here today.
MS. AIMEE CRAFT: Thank you so much, Melanie.

And to each of you, is there anything that anyone wants to add? I want to make sure everyone has the opportunity.

Thank you, and thank you for your courage, because we see young leaders in front of us. This is really a beautiful gift that you’re sharing.

I’m going to turn the mic over to Commissioner Audette.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci, Aimee.

(Speaking in native language). Alors merci beaucoup. Thank you. Thank you so much. Even if it’s -- when I was in your territory Friday you showed us this amazing clip video and we had emotion, and still today I had emotion, and -- but everybody was there. It was very impressive, very powerful.

And your moms, your grandmothers, your aunties demanded this inquiry, and many women across Canada, family members, even fathers, grandfathers, and men demanded this inquiry 40 years ago. I was young. You were still in the sky when that happened. And we have it today. We have it. And I always say it’s not our inquiry it’s our inquiry. It belongs to all of us, human beings, elders,
you know, all of us, youth, and it’s your inquiry.

And this inquiry what the hope -- I’m a mother too. I have five beautiful children. Well, we wish that the women, the girls, the people that come here speak out, speak up, tell the truth, because we have that mandate to gather, to collect that truth. This is an important mandate that we have. We have to listen to families and survivors. We have to listen to people who became like a family member or people who went to school, school of life or at the university, who became an expert in this issue. We have to collect that truth, ask them, collecting and gathering.

But also what makes us special with this inquiry we have a special power that we never had before in other inquiries, telling the government, the institution, we need answers. We have that power. And yes we will use it. We will use it, and for us and for you. We made a commitment, the four of us, with our beautiful staff and team, amazing women and men coming from all over Canada that policing, child welfare, human trafficking, and the impact of colonization is our top priority. Why are our women missing and girls? Why are we still facing so much violence today in Canada?

And one of our beautiful mandate it’s also what you just did, what you just did that for me as a mom,
like I said earlier, you’re hope, you’re representing hope. And I don’t know where you got that strength but it’s telling me that it’s possible, and it’s there, and it’s so alive, that you’re keeping our laws alive for today and tomorrow.

My question -- I have a few questions. The first one, I listened carefully your voices when you introduced yourself and you made some comments. If we could have your presentation, or your piece of paper, if we could take a picture to make sure that it’s a part of this process. And it would be so beautiful to see your message in that report, because this report will go to the federal government, all government across Canada, and our governments, First Nation, Metis and Inuit, that hey our youth are talking to us, your youth, our children. So if we could have that. That’s my first question.

And also, Melynee, you mentioned several recommendations about transportation, but do you have other recommendations, because this is unique? We will have through Amy and the other people who work with us and for us they’ll give us that tool that we’ll present to Ottawa and across Canada those recommendations. So if you have an idea, use us. We’re a tool. What would you recommend? So that was two questions.

We’ll start with this. Can we have a
picture of your statement, all of you, or a few of you?
And the other one, if you had the opportunity right now,
this is what we want, I would like to hear.

And if you agree to share your statement, we
have this beautiful basket that will take care of your
statement. You can put it here.

(SHORT PAUSE)

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci.

We’ve heard a lot about transportation,
believe me, and also other family members when they had the
symposium it was one of the recommendations a few years
ago. And do you have other recommendations or other ideas
that how can we make sure that our women and girls are
safe, that our families are safe today and for the next
generation? I have Facebook if you want to write it later.
Don’t be shy.

My last question or favour, would you do us
the honour that each time -- each time that we do a hearing
across Canada with the families and survivors, or with the
institutions -- institutions, it’s government across Canada
-- we will have quite a few of them -- and also with the
expert panel that we call, and so we’ll find another name
for that probably. So we will meet a lot of people. Can
we start our meetings, and events, and gathering, with your
video?
MR. LARRY DERRICK: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MICHELLE AUDETTE: Merci.

MR. LARRY DERRICK: You asked for a statement, and a statement I’d like to offer is to -- it was the way it started. It started leaking out in our homes. That’s where it really started. And I remember my uncles and my aunties telling me about this highway a long time ago. So, to me, if it leaked out in our homes how can we get it back into our homes to work from there again? Our hearts and souls are from our homes, our Nations, and we can address them to help us. Maybe it’s a direction. So it’s just a thought.

COMMISSIONER MICHELLE AUDETTE: Merci.

(Speaking in native language).

MS. BIILTS’IK COLLEEN AUSTIN: May I as well?

I would like to reiterate a little bit about what Melynee said with regards to the recommendations apart from the transportation. Because she made reference to how important -- actually she and Elijah both made reference to how important it is to educate around these important issues, these truths that are happening to our families, in our families.

We have curricula around the residential schools. A large part of that was developed in B.C. by our
First Nations Schools Association of First Nations Education Steering Committee. I’m the president of First Nations Schools Association for B.C. so I’m responsible for 138 First Nation schools ultimately. And I would really like to see more awareness around the inquiry -- the National Inquiry in our schools.

And there are first places that you can go to do that. By picking up the phone and talking to me, for example, I can reach 138 schools and 10,000 students in no time. And I think that -- and this is just a drop in the bucket compared to the public schools, for example. There’s tens of thousands of First Nations students, for example, in our public schools in B.C.

So I would just really like to say that education plays a huge part, but I would like to caution that the education can be so impactful -- so much more impactful when it’s done with artistic expression. And so that’s what really brought us here today to be with you, because you -- we could see that you believe in artistic expression as well, as do we.

So if we can try to focus the recommendations on education and artistic expression we would be very grateful, because, as you can see, this is how our youth learn, and know, and understand so well, and this is how they get the confidence to be here today.
They’re not at home. They’re not hanging out on the streets. These fine youth are here today at the National Inquiry because you have reached out and given them that invitation to share with you their artistic expression around this very important issue, so if we could please remember that and how impactful that is. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci.

Merci beaucoup.

And yes, it is, and we have wonderful women, I would say warrior women within the inquiry making sure that it’s alive at every step of this inquiry. And I’m not ashamed, I’ll point her. So we should tick, tick to her.

Bravo Aimee, bravo.

So I will finish with this; if you had something to say to a friend or a woman -- a young woman who is listening to you right now, because we’re either webcast or there’s some TV that is showing this across Canada, and probably news will take your message, what hope -- what message of hope would you give to a person who is struggling right now, or a family; what would you say to them or to her?

MISS MELYNEE McDAMES: I know that everyone has a struggle. Everyone is going through something. Everyone has something that will bring them down. I know this sounds corny but life does get better. Life will get
better. And if you hit rock bottom the only way you can go
from there is up. And I also want them to know that you’re
never alone and if you reach out for help, help will come
to you.

COMMISSIONER MICHELLE AUDETTE: Merci.

MR. CHRISTOPHER SPENCER: Like Melynee said,
ever give up. Everyone’s here for each other. Our school
I have to say it’s nice and that people help. And I would
say everyone is nice in their own way.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Kind of doing what
Chris kind of said already, that the good thing about
having a small community or having a small school is that
you always have people to connect you, you have people to
talk to. Even if you can’t talk to family, talk to
friends, talk to a teacher. Like everyone’s going to be
there to support you no matter what your decision is.
There is always going to be someone who’s going to stand
with you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: As I was always been
told when I’m down and they always notice -- like my
principal Colleen and (inaudible) they always tell me don’t
let people bring you down because we’re young leaders,
we’re the new generation. And that’s all really I have to
say. Just don’t let anyone bring you down. You’re going
to be a young leader. You’re going to lead. Build
yourself up not down.

COMMISSIONER MICHELLE AUDETTE: Does my elder or grandmother wish to say something?

ELDER BERNIE POITRAS WILLIAMS: I just want to say howa (phonetic) to you and thank you for showing and teaching what respect is really about. It’s right here. Howa to you.

COMMISSIONER MICHELLE AUDETTE: Merci beaucoup. (Speaking in native language). Thank you so much.

MS. AIMEE CRAFT: So the gifts that are going to be handed to you are seeds that grow in this area. So there’s fireweed and wild strawberry. Beautiful strawberry medicine. And these you can plant in this area. They’ll grow in your area.

And if you want to send us pictures of how they grow, or your experience planting them, or a story about what you did with them, if they’re planted to honour someone in your family or a friend, we’d be happy to hear about that and to continue that relationship that you have started by coming here today and gifting us with your voices.

(SHORT PAUSE)

MS. TERRELLYN FEARN: Hi everyone. There is a final part to this artistic expression session. We’re
going to take a 10-minute break. So we’ll reconvene at 2:45 for the final part of this.

--- Upon recessing at 2:43 p.m.

--- Upon resuming at 3:04 p.m.

**MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** Okay, everyone. One minute. May I ask Commissioner Audette, who recently became a grandma, and now has a baby in her arms, may I ask her to return the wonderful baby and make her way up to the front here please, and anyone else who is going to be presenting.

Okay. Thank you, everyone. May I ask for the back door to be closed? Thank you.

We’re going to get started on the third part of this artistic expression submission. I’m going to hand it over to Aimee Craft, our Director of Research, to lead us through this piece.

**MS. AIMEE CRAFT:** Thank you, Terrellyn.

Commissioner Audette and grandmothers, I have with me today -- I was going to say young man. Do you still consider yourself a young man? This is Travis Hebert from Mob Bounce. And he’s going to share with us today about the importance of artistic expression, how to work with youth, including in workshops, to bring youth voice out and the importance of youth voice. But I’d like to ask him to introduce himself.
MR. TRAVIS HEBERT:  Hi. My name is Travis Hebert. I am Cree Métis. My mother is originally from Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, Waterhen First Nation. My father is from Slave Lake, Alberta, Sawridge Nation. I was born on Kletle (phonetic) Dene territory and raised up on Wet’suwet’en territory. I sit with Salteaux clan at feasts.

And my alias in our hip hop group is Heebz The Earthchild. And, yeah, I do music professionally but also facilitate workshops, get to travel all across Canada to connect with lots of youth in rural and urban communities. We’ve been able to go to Haida Gwaii and all the way into Ottawa, and we look to go further, you know, the other side of the coast.

Yeah, for myself I was a youth and music, creativity, art, being able to express myself has been important in my development as a man today. Yesterday I turned 30 so yes I’m officially a man.

(LAUGHTER)

MS. AIMEE CRAFT:  Happy birthday.

So you have seen like all of us in the room, and many that are watching, the performance by the youth of “The Highway” -- the song and video that they produced, and that’s through N’we Jinan, which you are associated with now in your group and in doing youth workshops.
So, you know, the first thing I would like you to share is your reflections on what it is that you saw both in the video and in the performance today.

**MR. TRAVIS HEBERT:** What I got to see translating from the music but also getting to see the young people and the community that made the video and made the song is the importance of having that space held for the young people to express such issues, whether it is a good or bad thing -- or not good or bad, I’d say more or less the light and dark aspects of some of the issues that exist in our communities and abroad.

So what I get to see is a lot of the vulnerability and the strength that exists in the young people to stand up and talk in front of cameras, lights, and people, that’s quite a process that you’ve got to go through and I respect that a lot. Because as a performer I’d say the best and stronger aspects of myself are when I’m performing and when I have prepared myself. And there’s a vulnerability with speaking and having something come up.

And during that -- just during -- witnessing that, my heartbeat started to pump, and that’s like a -- it’s more of an excitement. I’d say nervousness and excitement is like your spirit readying and preparing itself. And so when I started to feel my heartbeat pump
like that it’s a reminder for me to just breathe, breath into that. And in the video I get to see the strength, you know, the ultimate strength in each one of the lyrics they wrote.

So that’s what I do, I go into those spaces, those vulnerable spaces, and I write and then I ready myself to perform it. So in the work that I do that’s exactly what my job is to see young people raising their voices and being the leaders that they are. Because when I was that age I wasn’t there. So to see that process speeding up and to see it reaching, you know, younger people is important. And so we’re in a time where, you know, one day I’ll be able to sit back and enjoy that process and let the young people, you know, be the leaders that they are.

MS. AIMEE CRAFT: Can you tell us a bit about the process that Mob Bounce uses in the workshop with youth to bring out that youth voice.

MR. TRAVIS HEBERT: A lot of it relates to being able to connect with inner space and sacred space. And when we go through experiences in our lives, whether they’re trauma or memories that are difficult, you know, even good ones, there’s this inner space that’s tampered with that creates walls and blockages. And when we go into communities, you know, you can see through the body
language, you know, where the eyes are -- you know, some youth tend to go into this space and look down. It’s because they’re protecting themselves. There’s a very vulnerable space within.

And, you know, I know this through my own experience. There were certain defences I had. And sometimes it’s about being tough -- having a tough exterior, and, you know, that’s more likely to scare people away or something like that.

And so through the process of lyric writing we invite kids in to be vulnerable, to open up some of those spaces. And, you know, when we’re sitting with, say, about 20 you might have five who open up and write something, but they get to be the seeds that are planted within their own communities as we get to travel.

Yeah, there’s just -- there’s so much -- so much there in those spaces. And each community is different. Each youth that we get to meet is different in their way. And so it’s just about coming in and holding space for them and knowing that we can be there with them. You know, we’re not going to stand up over top of them and say we have all the answers and that we know everything, you know, we want to sit with them, next to them, be with them, and hold space so that they feel safe in sharing those stories, whether it’s personal or collective.
Yeah, it goes back to my personal experience. For Craig and I and Mob Bounce, you know, we—we’re both sensitive people and art and music has been able to help us, you know, take some of that energy.

And so in these workshops it’s—you know, that energy could be floating around. It could feel like it’s over here, down here, there, over. And so when you hold space for a young person to write it’s like being able to pull that energy in, take it, and then bring it outside of itself so that you can reveal it to yourself so that it’s not jumbling around in the air and that you don’t know what it is.

Because some of it is ancestral, it comes from a deeper rooted place through either colonization—so it could be intergenerational trauma or intergenerational knowing. It could be the personal experience from your womb—or from being in the womb, to being a youth, you know, to being a young adult. There’s a lot of energy all over.

So creativity I’d say is the sprit coming outside and revealing itself, and so that’s an act of Creator, the Creator within you.

**MS. AIMEE CRAFT:** So N’we Jinan and Mob Bounce are working with Indigenous youth. What is it in particular that is happening in an Indigenous context when
you’re talking about that space, and bringing those things out, and creating music and art in that Indigenous space?

MR. TRAVIS HEBERT: I could say that I didn’t grow up with my culture. It wasn’t something that was, you know, there and was being taught to me as much. So what music did was it helped me take that journey into reconnecting with my culture and finding myself in that space.

So with what we do now is we talk about, you know, the drum vibration, your voice. You know, hip hop music has so many parallels to our traditions and our culture. You know, the way that we live is through art, whether it’s carving, painting, dancing, singing, drumming, all of it is there. It’s like the foundation of who we are. And so that needs to be fostered a lot more in education. You know, like creativity should be, you know, at the centre of education, because that’s who we are.

So we’ve been able to take what we’ve learned and what has, you know, been taught to us and share it. But when we go to different communities there is different -- you know, there is different Nations with different aspects and their culture, and so we’re going into all these different spaces and learning the parallels but also the differences and how we can respect those as well. And so that takes a lot of learning and it’s just
back and forth and in between.

**MS. AIMEE CRAFT:** And what, in your view, is the importance of artistic expression for something like the National Inquiry and what we’re doing, and, you know, what’s the importance of hearing from young people and others that are expressing themselves in an artistic way when the role of the inquiry is to come up with some recommendations and to investigate systemic violence?

**MR. TRAVIS HEBERT:** It’s everything. You know, to watch that video it definitely inspires me in the work that I do, you know, to see the young people expressing themselves, and it’s a conversation that needs to happen between youth a lot more.

I feel, you know, in the society we live today technology is raising our children and raising our youth, you know, parents are busy at work and they’re trying to navigate as well, and we have a younger generation and the internet has so much stuff in it, there’s a lot of content, a lot of media, and, you know, there’s a large amount of anxiety in our young people today because of that. The world is just oversaturated with way too much. And, you know, with watching a video like that there’s not actually that much content on the internet that is like that, and so it also gives other youth from other communities and spaces to watch a video like that and be
inspired and to know that those types of things are in the
air and that they’re happening.

And so a lot of it is around the celebration
of what we’re doing too. You know, there’s a big healing
process. There’s a lot of pain being lifted out. But
that celebration that comes with it, and I think
that has a lot to do with just the space that’s being held
today for us to be able to do that, such as the National
Inquiry of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. You
know, to have this space is very important, as much as it
is important for the young people to express themselves and
to -- yeah, to have that space to dream and have goals if
they wanted to be a musician or just be leaders of their
community.

**MS. AIMEE CRAFT:** The National Inquiry has
put a call out for artistic expressions to receive them as
part of the submissions to assist the Commissioners in the
work that they’re doing to inquire but also to make
recommendations.

I know some people will probably think I’m
not an artist. Do you have a message about how people can
start to think about artistic expression as a way to
contribute?

**MR. TRAVIS HEBERT:** It’s understanding that
we’re all artists. We all have those gifts within us. I
think it has a lot to do with, you know, that inner space, and the external space, and how a lot of things are pushed on us, and it creates a limiting pathway for us in some ways. So, you know, to open up that space and to allow for that creative expression there’s more healing, or the healing is more exposed so that others can connect to that.

I have this one lyric where I say “I don’t want your sympathy I want your empathy because your apathy is getting to me.” And so the more that we reveal ourselves the more that others can perhaps feel that empathy and connect with it and heal together a lot of what has happened and is happening currently. So the more we expose it the more -- I feel the more that, you know, people are -- what’s the term -- being held accountable, you know, to do that work, and to heal, and to -- you know, to encourage just people to be strong and allow for that stuff to come out, to not suppress it.

**MS. AIMEE CRAFT:** Everything you shared is a big gift today. Is there anything else that you want to add into this bundle, into this truth gathering process, share with the Commissioners and grandmothers?

**MR. TRAVIS HEBERT:** We do have a song that we did. But I also would like to share some of my lyrics and maybe it would inspire the young people who shared today, because I was definitely inspired. So I’ll share
two pieces. And this is where I feel I shine best. When I’m talking it does come from the heart so when the heart starts to pump I need to breathe a little bit. And I’m also quite flighty sometimes too, so I can be up here over here and I need to like do the same thing, you know, bring some of that energy in. So I’ll share this. This is from our song “Walk with our Sisters” and it has a lot to do with, you know, an Indigenous man standing and walking with our grandmothers, and our aunties, and our mothers, and our sisters, and our cousins.

(TRAVIS HEBERT SINGS)

MR. TRAVIS HEBERT: I wanted to do the other one again because I lost a piece of it so I’m going to do it one more time.

(TRAVIS HEBERT SINGS)

MR. TRAVIS HEBERT: And so those are some of those vulnerable spaces. And I know some of that connects to my mother’s experience, my sister’s experience, the collective experience. I have a lot of friends -- you know, a lot of female women that I look up to in my life there’s a lot of strength and resilience and it’s powerful. And women are important to me, you know, and they’re important to this world. They’re life givers. They’re sacred just like Mother Earth.
You know, and a lot of that conversation goes hand-in-hand with the environment as well. Women are the environment -- I mean, we’re all the environment, we’re made of water, we’re made of light, we’re made of all of these things, we are medicine, this is medicine, it’s just all there.

MS. AIMEE CRAFT: Thank you.

I’m going to ask Commissioner Audette if she would like to say anything and give you this mic.

COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: Merci beaucoup.

I’m not going to sing. Everybody will run away if I do.

(LAUGHTER)

COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: Travis, c’est sa ton nomme -- your name? Merci beaucoup.

I listened carefully and what I understood was that in art expression or artistic expression, or being an artist doesn’t matter if we’re beating, or painting, or singing, there’s a healing space for sure there, but there’s also a strong -- and you said it -- educational -- is that what we say -- awareness. And you, with the, youth are making this inquiry very unique. I think you were there when the youth were presenting. And it’s -- we never saw any inquiry doing this in an official, you know,
mandate.

So I’m very honoured that you accepted to be part of this process -- important process, and healing and awareness, but you have also the magic today right now to tell us what should we put in that report, what recommendation you would give us or share to us.

**MR. TRAVIS HEBERT:** Most importantly, just having done so much work with youth and being able to be there for so many is -- you know, to have more of those -- those testimonies and the voice of the youth and their -- to even have their perspective in there is so important.

Because I know it’s -- you know, we don’t have the answers to everything. The young people are the seeds and they’re learning and growing. So yeah, to just -- to have more of that artistic expression being -- you know, being fostered, and carried, and supported. That space just needs to be held a little bit more for young people to express themselves.

Because, you know, even I see some of the, you know, the strongest young people coming up and they still have things that they hold deep inside that are hard to share. And I know that because, you know, I’m there personally. I’m at 30 years old and I’m still doing the work, you know, the inner work, and then just sharing as much of it as I can, you know, with other people in my
community, and abroad, and further.

COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: Merci beaucoup.

Two things I would like to say to you; I have high respect for we say artists today, but I think we are keeper of the knowledge, making sure that we’re keeping our past, present, and future very alive through our songs, through our beating, and what we do best to keep this alive. So I’m very honoured to be with you in this room at this moment that you’re doing this. And women are giving birth and we are also giving birth to men, to boys and becoming men. We need allies. We need men walking with us, not for us but with us, and I see that you’re doing this. So it’s always good to hear that we have men that are part of the solution. Merci beaucoup. Thank you very much.

MS. TERRELLYN FEARN: Okay. Thank you, everyone.

A lot of inspiration today from our families that spoke and from our young people.

We have about 10 minutes to break and we’ll come back for the next family to share.

--- Upon recessing at 3:30 p.m.

Hearing # 3

Witnesses: Claudia Williams and Garry Kerr
In relation to Alberta Williams

Heard by: Commissioner Michèle Audette

Commission Counsel: Wendy van Tongeren

Registrar: Bryan Zandberg

--- Upon resuming at 3:49 p.m.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Madam Commissioner, Wendy van Tongeren, for the records, V-A-N, T-O-N-G-E-R-E-N. And I have an insight. I realize that my watch and that clock don’t tell the same time. So it actually --

In any event, no matter what time it is, it’s time to start. And the next family is represented by Claudia Williams, and then there are members of her family who will be introduced as well as a friend. So I would like to start by actually sharing the microphone and asking each person to identify themselves with their first name, last name, spelling the names if they think that we’re going to make a mistake in the spelling. And we’ll start with you, Claudia.


MR. GARRY KERR: My name is Gary Kerr, and Garry has two R’s in it and Kerr is K-E-R-R, and I am with today to support Claudia.
MR. LES WILLIAMS: my name is Les Williams, and it’s spelled L-E-S, W-I-L-I-A-M-S. I’m here to support my mother and representing Alberta Williams.

MS. KARLA WILLIAMS: My name is Karla Williams, K-A-R-L-A. I’m here to support my mother-in-law and my husband.

MS. LAVITA TRIMBLE: My name is Lavita Trimble, L-A-V-I-T-A, T-R-I-M-B-L-E. I’m here to support my sister’s family, Claudia, and her son Les. And Claudia and Alberta were my neighbours in 1989,

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Thank you very much all of you and for being here today.

And, Claudia, this is your mic. It’s already activated so you don’t have to do anything.

So I’m going to start with giving something to the Commissioner and to the registrar, which I distributed. This is exceedingly important not only to this presentation but is an example of the type of thing that we all hope will contribute to solving some of these unsolved homicides that exist in the context of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

So you all see it’s Alberta Gail Williams, age 24, murdered. Alberta was last seen August 25th, 1989 in Prince Rupert, B.C. around Popeyes or Bogey’s. Her body was found September 25th, 1989 west of Prince Rupert at the
Tyee Overpass. And this is Crime Stoppers asking for information.

And this is a day, August 25th, 1989 when your life changed when you started your search for your sister, and you’re here to tell us about that today. Go ahead.

**Ms. Claudia Williams:** My sister Alberta was -- on August 25th, 1989 my sister Alberta Gail Williams went missing and was found a month later murdered. I’ll start by explaining a little bit about her, her history.

**Ms. Wendy Van Tongeren:** Claudia, I have to start because I -- there’s something that Mr. Registrar reminded me of ---

**Ms. Claudia Williams:** Okay.

**Ms. Wendy Van Tongeren:** --- which is in terms of options you opted to swear on the bible, did you?

**Ms. Claudia Williams:** Yes.

**Ms. Wendy Van Tongeren:** So we just need to do -- go through that process first and then you can start.

**Ms. Claudia Williams:** Okay.

**Ms. Wendy Van Tongeren:** I apologize.

**Claudia Williams, Sworn**

--- Statement by Ms Claudia Williams

**Ms. Claudia Williams:** On August 25th, 1989 my sister Alberta Williams, she was 24 years old, went
Claudia Williams & Garry Kerr
(Alberta Williams)

missing and about a month later she was found on Highway
16. Her body was discovered outside of Prince Rupert.

I’ll explain a little bit about Alberta.

Alberta -- my sister Alberta came from a very large family
and she was the daughter of Lawrence and Rena Williams.
They’ve both passed away now not knowing who murdered their
daughter. Alberta had five sisters, Kathy, Pam -- Pamela
is predeceased -- Martha, Karen. I also have three
brothers, Herman, Francis and Kevin. Alberta was one of
the granddaughters of The Honourable Dr. Peter Williams.
He’s now deceased. Our grandfather was also the president
of Gitanyow, also known as Kitwancool, who worked for land
claims through most of his life. We are from the Gitxsan
Nation and lived in Gitanyow, B.C.

Our family travelled to Prince Rupert during
spring break and summer for seasonal work. Our father
Lawrence was a gill net fisherman, marine mechanic, airport
bus driver, owned his own trucking company, L. Williams and
Sons Trucking Limited. He taught his sons Herman, Francis
and Kevin to drive trucks and work in the company. Our
mother Rena worked in the cannery and was self-taught in so
many ways. She learned how to knit, crochet, sew, bake,
and much more, which she taught all her daughters. She
taught her daughters the importance of how to become
respectable women through love, patience, forgiveness and
Our parents ensured that all the children grew up with instilled values, respect, honesty, compassion towards others. If we did not obey our parents discipline was practiced; as our father would say, “If I don’t discipline you my father the Creator would discipline me”; his way of explaining why the discipline. I respect my parents very much. I would not be the person I am today without their remarkable parenting.

As you can see, my sister Alberta came from an exceptional family. It’s very difficult to understand why someone would take her life. Alberta was only a petite 5 foot 1”, 105 to 110 pound lady. She was kind, loving, and a gentle person.

During the summer of 1989 Alberta and I went to Prince Rupert from Vancouver to make some quick money working in a cannery, long hours, plenty of overtime. Alberta stayed with my parents. I stayed with my brother Francis and his family.

On August 25th Alberta decided to go out and celebrate her last payday and last night in Prince Rupert before we returned to Vancouver. I wasn’t sure if I wanted to go out but then I decided I would go meet her. I got ready and I went downtown to find Alberta. She was in Bogey’s Cabaret with people, two tables pulled together.
Alberta was sitting at the end of the table, Jack Little to her right, and others that I recall were Kevin Kitchen, Carol Russell, Gordon McLean, Phoebe Russell, Alfonso Little. I did not sit with them because there was no room and I wasn’t too comfortable with that particular group of friends. So I decided to mingle around, listen to music, say hi to people I knew, but I kept going back to the table to see how Alberta and everyone was doing. There wasn’t anything peculiar about that night. But now I recall Alberta never got up once to come and see me nor did she leave the table.

At closing time Alberta was standing next to the right of Jack Little and a group of friends outside of Bogey’s. This is when Alberta finally talked to me from a distance. I was about three feet away from her standing to her right. Jack was to the left of Alberta. Alberta called my name “Claudia, come to a party. We’re going to Jack’s place.” To my right Wayne Benson called me “Claudia, I need to talk to you.” I turned to Alberta, asked her to wait. Again Wayne “Claudia, I need to talk to you.” I turned to Alberta. She was gone. So were all the friends. They left very quickly. I was shocked because Alberta would never leave me in this way. I turned to my right. Wayne Benson was gone too.

I quickly ran around the corner to the
ladies washroom hoping Alberta may have gone there. I hollered underneath all of the stalls. There was no answer. I went back to the corner of Bogey’s where I lost Alberta. I waited for at least an hour and a half. She did not return. Here was the very last time I seen Alberta. Her body was found on the outskirts of Prince Rupert.

My sister Alberta’s murder changed my life completely. I search for answers. I think of her each and every day. I know she would do the same for me. The loss of my sister has affected my health physically and emotionally, in and out of the hospital. It took 28 years to start grief counselling.

To lose a member or a friend due to sickness or an accident is hard enough, but to lose a sister, Alberta, through murder, is tragic. Her life was taken from her. She did not deserve this. She had her whole life ahead of her, and a fiancé waiting for her in Vancouver. He came to the funeral.

Many times I wish I didn’t turn my head and get distracted. My sister Alberta would be alive today. I know I can’t change the situation but I can hope and pray for justice.

Our family has placed a headstone for Alberta in Gitanyow to allow Alberta proper rest. This is
the beginning of closure as we continue to search for answers on who killed Alberta.

It’s a very hard situation to lose my sister, and I know I’m not alone with this. I have a huge family, brothers and sisters. I never thought that I’d gain so much help in the investigation. I’d like to express thanks to Ray Michalko, CEO at Valley Pacific Investigations. There’s not enough words to say thank you for your time and effort in trying to solve my sister’s murder, along with other unsolved cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women. Ray Michalko was an amazing friend, private investigator, who gave everything and asked for nothing in return. Ray dedicated 10 years to trying to solve British Columbia’s infamous Highway of Tears cases. Unfortunately Ray passed away March 2017 but not without coming to say goodbye and have a coffee and a big hug. Rest in peace, Ray; you are dearly missed.

I’d like to thank also Garry Kerr for sending an email to CBC, which prompted the podcast by Connie Walker and Marnie Luke. It’s “Who Killed Alberta Williams”. It’s an eight part podcast. I have in this podcast there’s a lot of really fresh memories, putting faces together in the hopes that the public will recall the night Alberta was last seen.

Many people who were not willing to come
forward to the police have come forward and were a part of the podcast. Thank you.

If you haven’t watched the podcast produced by CBC, Connie Walker and Marnie Luke, please watch it. You may have the answers in solving Alberta’s murder. Who killed Alberta Williams? Thank you.

--- QUESTIONS BY MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Claudia, we spoke several times in preparation of you coming here today, by phone mostly, and one time in person. And you wrote out this in preparation for speaking. Is that right?

MS. CLAUDIA WILLIAMS: Yes, I did.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. So that becomes your testimony. You’ve prepared it, you’ve read it, and you adopt it. Is that right?

MS. CLAUDIA WILLIAMS: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Thank you.

And is the situation here that there is an ongoing investigation and so there’s some sensitivity about what you say publicly?

MS. CLAUDIA WILLIAMS: Yes.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Okay. Thank you so much. Those are the questions. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTÉ: Merci beaucoup. Thank you, Alberta. Thank you, all of you, to
be there for your mom, your friend, your sister.

--- QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: You mentioned about Wayne -- I didn’t get his last name.

MS. CLAUDIA WILLIAMS: Benson.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Benson. He used to be an investigator -- he was an investigator on this case?

MS. CLAUDIA WILLIAMS: No, he was a person that was outside of Bogey’s that night who distracted me while Alberta was trying to talk to me. So I looked away from Alberta once, back to Alberta, then I looked again, back to Alberta again, and then Alberta was gone. So no, he wasn’t a private investigator.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay. Ray -- I want to get the name ---

MS. CLAUDIA WILLIAMS: Ray Michalko ---

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay.

MS. CLAUDIA WILLIAMS: --- was the private investigator.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Madam Commissioner, I could go through this and ---

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Please.

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: --- reiterate the names and spell them, if that would help.
So I’ll go to that portion. So it starts on August 25th, 1989. And Alberta was at Bogey’s Cabaret and there were a number of people that were seated and Alberta was sitting at the end of the table and Jack Little, J-A-C-K, L-I-T-T-L-E, was to her right. And others that she recalls were Kevin Kitchen, K-E-V-I-N, K-I-T-C-H-E-N, Carol Russel, C-A-R-O-L, R-U-S-S-E-L-L, Gordon McLean, G-O-R-D-O-N, M-C-L-E-A-N, Phoebe Russell, F-O -- that might not be not pronounced correctly, but F-H -- sorry -- P-H-O-E-B-E, R-U-S-S-E-L-L, Alfonso Little, A-L-P-H-O-N-S-O, L-I-T-T-L-E.

On the next page, when Claudia is describing this effort to speak to Alberta, “Alberta called my name. Claudia, come to a party. We’re going to Jack’s place. And then to my right Wayne Benson” -- W-A-Y-N-E, B-E-N-S-O-N -- “called me Claudia, I need to talk to you.”


And I think there might have been a reference to Garry Kerr, G-A-R-R-Y, K-E-R-R, who was one of the original investigators.

And there are family members, the

Any other questions?

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci beaucoup pour la clarification.

The investigator that you mentioned, he’s the one who passed away, this guy Ray?

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Were you able to see all the information that he collected or got?

MS. CLAUDIA WILLIAMS: I kept in touch with Ray Michalko. Like Ray left his phone number like for any time for me to call. Right up until March 13\textsuperscript{th} when I met him in person he would update me, you know, how the investigation is going, whether he needed phone numbers, people he wanted to speak to.

And, as far as I know, the information that Ray Michalko has I have no idea where that information went. All I know is that there was going to be a ceremony for Ray that I was going to attend but I never heard anything from that.

Now, that’s a very good question, because I
Claudia Williams & Garry Kerr  
(Alberta Williams)

would really like to know where the information is, you know, on the investigation on Alberta and so many of the other women.

**COMMISSIONER Michèle Audette:** So thank you very much for clarifying this. I want to make sure that we all understand that Madam Williams wishes to know where all the information went, and if it’s something we can discuss, Commission counsel.

**MS. Wendy Van Tongeren:** Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER Michèle Audette:** Merci.

**MS. Wendy Van Tongeren:** Thank you, Commissioner.

**MS. Claudia Williams:** Yeah, I think that’s really important that we find out where that information went, because Ray had interviewed some people that the RCMP were not able to interview or were not willing to cooperate with the RCMP.

Just as the podcast Connie Walker and Marnie Luke they got people to -- they got to interview people who were not willing to talk to the police as well.

So I think this combined effort I think we’d be able to find some answers providing we get all the information together.

**COMMISSIONER Michèle Audette:** And if I understood well, this same person worked on different
missing persons in this region. Is that what I understood in your testimony that Ray ---

**MS. CLAUDIA WILLIAMS:** Ray?

**MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Ray has different clients.

**COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Clients we say.

**MS. CLAUDIA WILLIAMS:** Yes, he did. Ray was actually working with a number of different families, a number of different missing and murdered women cases.

**COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay. Merci beaucoup. Merci beaucoup.

And, Madam Williams, if you had other recommendations to -- what do we say -- ask us to put forward what would be?

**MS. CLAUDIA WILLIAMS:** I would have to say that, you know, in the past I’ve heard of recommendations and where it’s a big pile of recommendations, and, you know, a smaller level would be better.

And I think for -- each case is different. Each case is different. I would say okay, look at what’s the possibility of solving this case to put it higher on a priority list. Where my sister is in with all the other missing and murdered women, time is very important right now, because since 1989 this happened, time is very
important, are we ever going to get an answer if anything happens to any of the suspects.

And I think, you know, we should move on this, because, you know, I’m sitting here, and so is everybody else, and what are we going to do, we’re going to still carry this on after, you know, we collect all the information, and everybody has information, and then the suspect or suspects, you know, aren’t there, where do we go from there.

I think Alberta’s case is a very strong case and I think it should put forefront, not to disrespect any of the other missing and murdered women.

**COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Merci beaucoup.

And today do you have any -- a specific person from the RCMP or police force in touch with you or keeping you informed?

**MS. CLAUDIA WILLIAMS:** Right now I have Wayne Clary (phonetic).

**COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Parfait.

**MS. CLAUDIA WILLIAMS:** Wayne Clary I talk to him -- I try to keep in touch with him, say, on a monthly basis. I try to phone him, you know, every week, every two weeks. I know that, you know, they have a lot of work to do.
Again, Alberta is again with a bunch of other cases. I understand that they’re all important, but, you know, what, to me, again, I’m not going to say it any more clearer than I am now, the time is so important right now. It is so important. I mean, I know -- you know, I know the suspects in Alberta’s case and I know exactly, you know, when you have it in your gut feeling that, you know, okay, where are we going to end with this. I mean, all you’ve got to do is speak your heart and speak for what you want.

And, you know, I don’t want to -- I mean, I’ve been working on this for such a long time. You know, it would be such a relief for everybody in the family, for myself for being with her that night, it’s -- you know, everybody -- I’m not going to say like everybody -- my family would have been here, but everybody handles it in different ways.

My brother put up a cross at Highway 16 in between Prince Rupert and Terrace. He was working with me and he was really hoping to get answers. And, you know, I imagine he took a break from it and hopefully I’ll get a call from him again.

But, you know, I’ll say it again, time is so important. I know it would be different if we didn’t find Alberta but Alberta is found. There is her body and there
is suspects in this case. You know, I mean, I just think
that there should be more effort into finding out. Go out
-- it shouldn’t have taken a podcast for people to come
forward. It shouldn’t have taken a podcast at all. I wish
we’d have gotten answers before that.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci

beaucoup. I know it might contradict what you’re saying,
that it shouldn’t take a podcast, but, if I may, I would
like to invite anybody across Canada to go visit that and
watch that podcast -- I know I took note of it -- and if
there is any information.

MS. CLAUDIA WILLIAMS: I think Connie Walker
and Marnie Luke did an exceptional job on the podcast.
But, you know, my point was, you know, that they
interviewed a lot of people that the police weren’t able to
interview was my point. So now, you know, you’ve got the
podcast, you’ve got -- hopefully we can find out where Ray
has his information, plus Wayne Clary, you know, I think we
have more than enough information there. Again, time is
very important; 1989 that’s a long time.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci

beaucoup. And for sure we’ll have strong discussion, good
discussion with this wonderful Commission counsel Madam
Wendy, and I’ll continue asking questions, and we always
stay in touch. So merci beaucoup.
MS. CLAUDIA WILLIAMS: I’m just glad that Garry Kerr is here. He was -- he’s a retired RCMP now. He was there when my sister Alberta ---

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: From the RCMP?

MS. CLAUDIA WILLIAMS: Yes.

MR. GARRY KERR: I guess I would just like to say thank you to the Commission for not only listening to what Claudia said, but from all the other family members from all of the other missing and murdered. No one is more important than the other. They’re all obviously very important.

One thing -- and this is just from myself personally, obviously having a number of discussions with Claudia. I spent about 32 and a half years in the RCMP and worked homicide for more years than I would care to even remember all through British Columbia. Having been through obviously many investigations and seeing a number of inquiries that have come and gone over the years for various other issues, the one thing I really and truly do hope if there is one thing I can leave with the Commission is once you’ve heard everything that everybody has said -- and a lot of it is -- it is what it is. It’s a very harsh reality. And I hope the Commission, obviously yourself and the other Commissioners, do take the time obviously to
listen but I also really do hope you take the time to ask the hard questions.

The Commission’s been a long time coming. It’s obviously in progress right now. And I guess with everything in life there’s always been a few bumps in the road, but again, I think if you listen, ask the hard questions. And in the end, once your work is complete, obviously there will be a report that will be available, whenever that might be. I guess the most important thing I would ask of the Commission is I would really hate to see the Commission come out with 100 recommendations, or 50 recommendations. I’ve seen, as we all have, in the past, the recommendations that do come out have to be workable and they have to be realistic. And that’s a pretty tall order but I would much rather see the Commission come out with even two, three, maybe a maximum of five recommendations that are truly realistic and workable to put in place.

And again, with everything that has gone on in terms of obviously the work that’s gone into bringing us here to where we are today, I think if the Commission in its work I think if the Commission fails to come out with some truly realistic and workable recommendations this will be an opportunity that is lost and I don’t think any of us will see it again.
But, just in closing, again I would like to thank the Commission yourself. For myself, it’s an honour and a privilege -- now I’m getting emotional -- to be with Claudia. I was one of the original investigators in Alberta’s homicide. I dealt with the family. I was there -- well not there -- when her body was found. I was there at the scene. Again I seen that investigation for many, many months. And again I hope that there is closure not only in that investigation but again also for all the other families that have spoken to you and will speak to you on the days, weeks, and months to come. So again thank you for your time and -- thank you.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci beaucoup.

I didn’t you were a former RCMP police. Alors the hard question we want to ask those and we will. And the reason why we have and we will do it it’s we won’t have another inquiry so we have to do it right. I committed for that along with my other colleagues, the other Commissioners, and Chief Commissioner, and grandmothers and people that are following or making sure that we’re on the right track.

In order to ask the hard questions the process for me will be very important that people like you, and there’s others across Canada who got involved in cases,
retired today, and so on, that has that expertise, the eyes
that we don’t, I don’t. So in order to build that and have
those good hard questions for the moment when those
questions will be asked I will commute to stay close to us.

MR. GARRY KERR: Thank you for your
comments.

Can I add one other minor thing?

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Sure.

MR. GARRY KERR: Throughout the
investigation that I was involved with in Alberta’s
homicide, and here we are looking back almost 30 years
later, it truly feels like yesterday when Alberta went
missing and, you know, thank God she was found, but the one
thing that I’ve had many, many discussions with Claudia
over if I could turn the clocks back as a police officer at
the time and an investigator, an investigator in obviously
a very serious offence, the one thing that is absolutely
crucial, and I hope the Commission will take forward, I
don’t know if it’s workable, I don’t know, but it simply
boils down to one word and that’s “trust”.

And what I mean when I say that, when
Alberta went missing she was reported missing by her mom
and at first it was dealt with as a missing person’s case
and Alberta was found and obviously it was turned into a
homicide case, but I can’t even find the words to explain
how much or how important trust is. And when I say “trust”, that’s trust on the part of, in this case, Alberta’s family entrusting the police but also that role is also reversed, we have to have trust in them they have to have trust in us.

And the reason I bring that up is over the last couple of years in my many conversations with Claudia, and throughout the podcast series that I truly hope everybody does listen to, is it’s absolutely crystal clear now as I’m sitting here speaking to you that there were many, many things that took place, or people had certain information that we didn’t get as the police at the time. And again there’s probably many reasons for it. Maybe mistrust I would say was the biggest factor.

I truly think that Alberta’s parents went to their grave thinking that the police didn’t do everything they could to solve their daughter’s disappearance and murder. But I truly think if we had had more trust in place, and that is with Claudia’s parents, Claudia, the rest of the family, some of the information that I’ve learned just in the last year or two, I think would have truly made a difference during the initial or first few months of the investigation.

And I’m not sitting before you today saying that that would have resulted in somebody being charged --
I want to make that absolutely clear -- but it certainly would have put a lot more emphasis on certain avenues of investigation. And again, it’s awesome to get that information some 30 years later but 30 years is an awful long time.

So I guess the point I am trying to get across is for a serious investigation the police have to make that extra effort. I don’t care whether a person is First Nations, Asian, blue, pink, I don’t care. Some people do, and I mean we’ve probably all seen it. But trust in any truly serious investigation -- and nothing is more serious than a homicide, especially of a young truly innocent victim, as Alberta and many of the others are -- again, that mistrust has to be put aside.

Because there are people out there that do have the answers, or the keys, or that key piece of information to truly move these investigations forward. I mean, to me, that’s nothing more than common sense. And I’ve seen that happen in the recent months and I wish we would have had that information many, many years ago.

So I just want to make that point as to that initial contact that the police have with family members is -- I mean, to say it’s crucial doesn’t even sort of get at it. You have to own it.

And again, I thank you for your time and
thank you for listening to me.

COMMISSIONER MICHELLE AUDETTE: Well -- do you want to add something?

MS. CLAUDIA WILLIAMS: No, thank you.

COMMISSIONER MICHELLE AUDETTE: Okay. Well, I think it’s more us to say thank you. Thank you so much to have the courage. And for all of you, and for the two of you who spoke, spoke the truth, and I have to say I have high respect.

And the workable and realistic recommendation it’s the wish that many of us have and it’s something that will come through this -- every hearing that we have and the meeting that we have also with the families and so on. So thanks for reminding us or putting this as a recommendation I would say so everybody can understand the importance of something workable and realistic.

So yes I believe and I hope that we stay in touch, the inquiry, through our amazing staff, amazing colleague.

Encore, again, merci. Merci for all of you. The beautiful wife. And of course, Gladys, amazing to see you supporting every family, I commend you. Thank you. And you too.

(SHORT PAUSE)

MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN: This is the end of
this particular session. And I suggest that we take a break because there is another session, so perhaps 15 minutes.

**Exhibits (code: P1P020203)**

**Exhibit 1:** One-page information sheet about Alberta Gail Williams, including contact info for Wayne Clary and Connie Walker.

**Exhibit 2:** Laminated colour photograph of Alberta Williams, about 8.5 x 11 inches.

--- Upon recessing at 4:34 p.m.

--- Upon resuming at 5:05 p.m.

**Hearing # 4**

**Witnesses:** Ted Morris and Laura Morris

**In relation to Pauline Morris**

**Heard by Chief Commissioner Marion Buller**

**Commission Counsel:** Breen Ouellette

**Registrar:** Bryan Zandberg

**MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you, Chief Commissioner.

For the record, my name is Breen Ouellette, and I am a lawyer with the National Inquiry.

It is my honour to introduce Ted Morris, sitting beside me, and Laura Morris, sitting three chairs beside me. Laura and Ted are brother and sister. Ted has travelled here from Sigos (phonetic) reserve and Laura has
travelled here from Southbank. And they have family members sitting with them in support.

Mr. Registrar, Ted and Laura have requested to affirm using an eagle feather.

TED MORRIS, AFFIRMED
LAURA MORRIS, AFFIRMED

QUESTIONS BY MR. BREEN OUELLETTE

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Ted, I want to offer you this cedar tie in support of your testimony today. And, Laura, I want to offer you this cedar tie in support of your testimony today.

Ted, could you start by telling the Chief Commissioner the name of your family member you’ve come to talk about today?

MR. TED MORRIS: Pauline Morris.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And what is your relationship to Pauline?

MR. TED MORRIS: I am her brother and she’s my sister.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And so she’s also Laura’s sister?

MR. TED MORRIS: Correct.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Are you here today because your sister was murdered?

MR. TED MORRIS: Yes, I am.
MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Was Pauline missing for a time before it was discovered that she was murdered?

MR. TED MORRIS: Yes.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Do you remember approximately how long it was before she was discovered?

MR. TED MORRIS: Four months.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Do you remember the date that Pauline went missing?

MR. TED MORRIS: As far as I remember it was March 14th, 1978.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Laura, can you tell us the circumstances of the day that Pauline went missing?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: She was in school at the time and the teachers told my mom that she was sick -- well they didn’t tell her they just took her to town, went to see the doctor. And they took her to town and they brought her back far Northside but nothing was heard ever since. They said she had an earache, or a toothache, or -- they didn’t tell us why they took her to town but they said she was sick.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And for the people that haven’t had the pleasure to visit Southside. When you say they brought her back to Northside are you referring to the ferry location?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: Yes, the Francois Lake
MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: So the teachers brought her back to the ferry and then left her there to catch the ferry by herself to go back home?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: I don’t know if the teacher lived in Burns Lake or she -- they lived in Southside, I’m not sure, because I wasn’t in school at the time.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: When did the teachers come to tell you about that?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: My mom had to go to Grassy Plains School to find out where did Pauline go and that’s when they told her that she was -- they brought her to town for an illness and they brought her back to Northside but they didn’t bring her all the way home.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Do you remember how long it took for your mother to learn that from the teachers?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: I think it was right the next day, cause Pauline usually comes home from school and she never did show up. That’s how my mom got worried. She walked to Grassy Plains School to find out what happened to her, why didn’t she come home.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And, Ted, do you remember the date that Pauline’s body was found?
MR. TED MORRIS: Well, I know it was in July, because I had Indian Day all by myself at the camp, and then my late cousin Dick Tom told me that they found Pauline, that they know that she was passed on, or whatever. I said “Good they found her.” That’s all I remember saying.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And so July of 1978?  

MR. TED MORRIS: Yep.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Laura, do you remember the circumstances of how Pauline was found?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: Well, at -- there’s an old wharf that’s always been there throughout the winter. One day a ferry crew they were moving that wharf. They were going to move it somewhere else or pull it out. At the time then my sister’s body came floating up from under.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And, Ted, do you want to just clarify what the wharf is?

MR. TED MORRIS: As far as I know it’s not a wharf. A wharf is stuck to the shore. What I think she’s referring to is a barge.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Laura, can you tell us where you were when Pauline’s body was being transported to the hospital?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: We were going to Burns Lake. We were in the ferry lineup and we seen a commotion
over there and we didn’t know what was going on. We sat in
the car. And then they parked us right behind the truck
that had my sister’s body in the back wrapped up in a tarp.
They didn’t tell us who it was. We just later found out
when we got to Burns Lake.

Then my older sister Julia had to go and
identify her body at the time at the hospital, and all she
could remember was her red runners she was wearing. And
the other parts of her body were unrecognizable from being
under the water for so long.

**MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you remember if
anybody else was called to the hospital to identify
Pauline?

**MS. LAURA MORRIS:** Well, after my sister
went up to -- she had an appointment at the hospital.
That’s why she was up there. And they knew who she was so
she had to identify. And then later when she came back
downtown she told my mom and asked about. Then we all went
up there and we had to identify her body, and it was her.

**MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Laura, how long did
your mother grieve for your sister?

**MS. LAURA MORRIS:** She grieved for a very
long time because Pauline was our younger -- youngest of
our family.

**MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And, Ted, did the
police fully investigate the murder?

MR. TED MORRIS: As far as I know they
didn’t even investigate anything.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Laura, do you remember
the police speaking to your mother about investigating and
what she told them?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: When they did speak with
her she just -- she’s a strong believer in the Catholic
religion, and she just told them “Leave it up to the Lord.
The Lord will take care of whoever did this to her.” So I
don’t even know if they did any investigation after she
told them that.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Do you think that the
police should have stopped investigating just because your
grieving mother said that?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: I’m not sure, cause she -
- I don’t know if they continued investigating after that.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Ted, do you believe
that that would have been justification for the police to
stop investigating if your mother told them to leave it up
to the Lord?

MR. TED MORRIS: No, I don’t.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Ted, could you
describe how you learned the names of the men involved in
the murder of your sister?
MR. TED MORRIS: Well, I was told by my cousins, Ken Burt, and -- when we were at his place. And the person who told him was his ex-brother-in-law. So then that’s how he told me. And he told Laura. And they didn’t want to do anything.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Do you also remember a Ron Venzetta Sr. (phonetic) telling you about it as well what he heard?

MR. TED MORRIS: He didn’t tell me. He told Kenny Burt. That’s his brother-in-law.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And where was this heard?

MR. TED MORRIS: Well, I -- Ron told Kenny that the guys were in Alaska Way Cabaret and they were bragging about it.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And when you say they were bragging about “it” what was it that they were bragging about?

MR. TED MORRIS: The rape and murder of my sister.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And were you told the names of these men?

MR. TED MORRIS: That would be second hand information.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Does that mean you
MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: You have provided the names to me in the past. Can I provide them to the Commissioner if the Commissioner agrees to an anonymity order for the purposes of looking into it?

MR. TED MORRIS: Yes.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Chief Commissioner, will you agree to that anonymity order?

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Yes, certainly I’ll make that order.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: I’ll provide those names to you after the hearing.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Thank you.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Ted, I understand that you have spoken with a gentleman, whose name you provided to me, in the last few years about your sister’s murder. Could you tell us what happened and what that person told you?

MR. TED MORRIS: Well, it only come about after I submitted a letter to the Lakes District News. And every newspaper should have a history, whatever, of everything they publish, so it’s pretty well there. When I put the letter to the editor saying my sister got murdered
and there was no investigation at all, just another dead Indian, and that’s when one of the parties asked me to come -- get a ride into town with them and he told me he didn’t have anything to do with it.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: What did he say about the other people that he spoke about?

MR. TED MORRIS: He told me he left right away and went home because he was scared of them.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Did you believe him?

MR. TED MORRIS: No.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Why is that?

MR. TED MORRIS: Well, I just saw -- what do you call one bunch of people who live in the same area and they’d stick up for each other.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Were the men that you became aware of, this group, were they a group of Indigenous men or a group of non-Indigenous men?

MR. TED MORRIS: They’re all Caucasian.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Ted, I also understand that within the last year you have been given information about these same men by your cousin Wilma Morris. Can you tell us about that conversation?

MR. TED MORRIS: Well, our cousin got her residential settlement, and she come up from Vancouver, and driving her truck up Murray Road and then passed going
through this one field to the right and there’s a lake there, and then she was telling me that these people raped her and her sister down in that cabin.

**MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Laura, I understand that you also have been told about the men who killed Pauline. Without talking about their names, just the men, can you tell the Commissioner who told you, and what they told you, and when they told you it happened?

**MS. LAURA MORRIS:** Well, there’s -- both girls are my cousins and they live up towards left and going up the ferry there’s a reserve probably about 14 kilometres up. They live there. And I was partying with them and, you know, when they get drunk they start talking, and that’s what they told me they got raped by these men that lived down at Southbank. There were just two of them. They didn’t want to come forward because these guys we all go to school with them. They were bullies from what I know. I remember them. And after I quit going to school and they were telling me that they got raped by these men. They were bullied into having sexual contact with them.

**MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And you knew these men to see them? You’d interacted with them before?

**MS. LAURA MORRIS:** Yes, because I went to school with them.

**MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And what would they
call you at school?

**MS. LAURA MORRIS:** Well, they used to call me squaw, and you stink, get away from me your bugs might jump on me, and stuff like that. They were always bullying us native girls at school because we all hung out together. Sometimes when they’re walking by they push you and you fall to the ground. It’s been ongoing throughout my school years. That’s the whole reason why I quit going to school. I got tired of getting bullied by these guys.

**MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** I also understand that you spoke with a man, whose name we’re not going to mention today. It was a few years ago. Can you tell me the circumstances and what this man told you?

**MS. LAURA MORRIS:** This was in -- another time there was a dance at Grassy Plain Hall and the after party was supposed to be at this guy and his wife’s place. And then we were told to go down to their place, and then the other couples were following us from behind. And while we’re waiting for them to get to the house that’s when this guy started telling us about -- he said “I’m very sorry Pauline passed away. I’m very sorry she’s gone.” And he was kind of crying -- crying about it when he was talking to my husband and I at the time. And then he said he was just a witness there.

But he was very afraid of us, but we
reassured him that we weren’t going to harm him or do anything with him, because we grew up together in school.

And he ---

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: So you -- sorry.

MS. LAURA MORRIS: He was by himself and his wife was in the next room when he was telling us this.

But after that everything was forgotten when these other two couples showed up.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: So did he tell you that he witnessed Pauline’s murder?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: Yes, he did.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Did he tell you how it happened?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: Well, in -- he said he was getting bullied by these guys. Like how he put it, if he tattle-tailed they were going to beat him up. So he was afraid to come forward all these years. That’s why he never came forward, because I think -- I am not sure, I’m just guessing right now, that there’s a couple that are still living and he’s still afraid of them.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: So did he tell you exactly how Pauline died?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: Well, he said after they finished with her she was trying to get away from them, she only had the red runners on, and around that wharf, or that
barge, whatever, there was ice on the edge, because the lake was freezing, then there’s ice around it and she was trying to go around it slowly but then she fell when they kept trying to harass her.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And so she fell in the water?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: Yeah.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And did they tell you anything else?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: No.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And so, Laura, none of these men have been punished by the justice system as far as you know?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: No, they’re all -- five of them all died a violent death. Nowadays I guess you would call it karma got them back.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And, Ted, do you know if any of these men may still be alive?

MR. TED MORRIS: There’s a couple, but I don’t know, maybe three.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Okay. And can each of you tell me about -- actually, I have another question. Ted, have you learned anything recently about the police investigation?

MR. TED MORRIS: Well, there was no
investigation far as I know, and it was news to me this
morning about the coroner’s report, because even if it were
ture she never did drink alcohol because she was only 14,
so how could she have a blood alcohol level of whatever
they said she had in her.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: So how did you get
access to the coroner’s report?

MR. TED MORRIS: I didn’t. They told us
this morning that they got a text message or something on
their phone, email, whatever, saying exactly that’s how she
supposedly died.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Who are “they”?

MR. TED MORRIS: The RCMP or the coroner.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: So you were speaking
with the RCMP today?

MR. TED MORRIS: Yes. I didn’t know I was
going to.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Did you ask to speak
to the RCMP?

MR. TED MORRIS: No.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Who approached you
about speaking about the RCMP?

MR. TED MORRIS: Nobody told me it was RCMP.
I just heard it was investigators. But my cousin Marlene
Jack told me that there was a meeting at 8:15 and when we
got into town here it was 3:00 a.m., I didn’t even have
more than three hours sleep, and then -- so therefore it
was just news to me.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Do you know who
organized this meeting?

MR. TED MORRIS: No.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Do you know who was at
the meeting?

MR. TED MORRIS: I do.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Do you know their
names and can you tell me?

MR. TED MORRIS: There was my sister Laura,
my brother-in-law Pius, Pius Jack, and Ruby Prince, Brenda
Wilson. And two RCMP members, and I forgot their names --
gave me a card but -- S-E-M Ron Paulta (phonetic) is one of
them. Gave me a card.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Okay.

MR. TED MORRIS: But the thing is it wasn’t
about my sister.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: What was it about?

MR. TED MORRIS: The Jack family who went
missing. And then they didn’t even bring up my sister’s
name I don’t think until Laura was saying that they came up
to this meeting to discuss my sister’s case not the Jack
family’s case.
MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Okay. So was there any discussion of Pauline’s case?

MR. TED MORRIS: They had a little bit after a while.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: So they got the information somehow?

MR. TED MORRIS: I’m pretty sure, because one guy is reading off his phone and reading the coroner’s report. And I just found it strange that she’d even have alcohol in her system, because the only way she’d have it if they forced her to. That’s what I figured.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: So you knew your sister well and you never knew her to drink alcohol?

MR. TED MORRIS: No, never. She was my oldest sister’s pet more or less, like her -- the one that hangs around with her all the time and treat her like her own kid.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: So the coroner’s report was on the phone. Did you get to look at it?

MR. TED MORRIS: No, I didn’t.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Was anything else discussed during this meeting?

MR. TED MORRIS: Well, they more or less didn’t really get into it, because I only had the information I had, and like the parts where they following
the body into town without realizing, that I didn’t have no idea about that at all. All I knew is what was told to me when I was in camp.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: How did you feel being taken to this meeting today before your testimony?

MR. TED MORRIS: Well, I thought it was with you, but it wasn’t.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: You thought you were coming to meet me?

MR. TED MORRIS: That’s right.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And so when you found out it wasn’t me and the subject matter of the meeting, how did that make you feel?

MR. TED MORRIS: Well, I just figured that I was done with the Jack family case a long time ago and after they told me more or less that they had to go through the process of elimination but that process of elimination to me was harassment. And then it wasn’t until Laura brought it up that we thought we were going to discuss Pauline Morris, my sister’s case, eh, not the Jack family.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Is there anything else you want to say about that meeting before I move back to my regular questions?

MR. TED MORRIS: Well, I just told them, I said I was done with the Jack file, and it’s done and over
with, no more discussion about it. So they have their own investigation, and I don’t know where that went after I decided not to be part of it.

But this morning it’s like they said they swept it under the rug about my sister Pauline, like it wasn’t -- they say in every death they have to have a thorough investigation, but if that was the case they would have went after more. How can they just stop one investigation and one death? So it’s not right as far as I am concerned.

**MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did they tell you what the finding of the coroner’s report was?

**MR. TED MORRIS:** Well, they said that it was an accidental drowning -- that’s what I remember -- and had a blood alcohol of 0.11 or something.

**MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Laura, did you also know Pauline not to drink?

**MS. LAURA MORRIS:** Far as I know, most of her life she never did drink. She never did smoke cigarettes, or she didn’t at the time. There’s a bunch of kids her age they used to chew snuff but she never did chew snuff. And I don’t believe she had any alcohol. But this morning from what we were told I was kind of shocked myself.

**MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** How old was she when
she died?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: She was 14. It’s supposed to be a week before her 14th birthday.

MR. TED MORRIS: A month.

MS. LAURA MORRIS: Or a month before her birthday.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: So, Laura, can you tell me about the gifts and strengths that Pauline had?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: She was a very outgoing person. She was always happy. She never -- I never did not see her sad or crying. She was always playing and she was always outgoing. Just the other testimonies this morning, she likes to tell jokes and make people laugh all the time. And she’s very friendly with everybody else. I don’t think she ever had enemies.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And so you would say she was just a normal 14-year old girl?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: Yep.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: I want to ask both of you this question. I’ll start with Laura. What do you think could have prevented this tragedy?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: What could have prevented it was if the teachers brought her home and my mom would bring her to the doctor herself instead of them taking her right from school to town and not bringing her home. That
could have prevented her from where she is today.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: You also spoke about bullying. Do you think that something should have been done with the bullying?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: The bullying at Grassy Plains School was always -- they were always picking on us native people. They were always bullying not only the natives but the people they don’t like. They’re always being bullied by these high school boys we call them.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Ted, what do you think could have prevented this tragedy?

MR. TED MORRIS: Well, I have no idea. Normally the parents would be contacted if a child is sick. And they need to have the parent’s consent to have any treatment. So that was the reason she was in town. I have no idea. But that’s not right as far as I’m concerned. If it was a Caucasian person they’d call them or get them to pick up their kid. And how she got to town is beyond me. But that’s how I know just -- and it’s many years ago, you forget a lot of things except for the main points that you need to remember.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Ted, what do you hope the outcome will be as a result of your testimony today?

MR. TED MORRIS: I don’t know. But if there was a real investigation and those people are still around,
as they say, they come back home to roost and if they’re found guilty they should pay the penalty otherwise other people still take native women and girls and continue abusing and killing them. If it was any other race they would have continued investigating that, not stop.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And, Laura, what do you hope the outcome will be as a result of your testimony today?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: If there was further investigation it could have put our family’s mind at ease and our heart at ease. This we don’t have to think that the case was just dropped. I just hope to see justice happen even if these men are gone.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Do you think that more should be done to prevent bullying?

MS. LAURA MORRIS: Yes. Even my great grandson going to school at Grassly Plain he gets bullied. Even with the little boys that are going to school with him they’re starting to bully at a young age. Their parents just got to learn how to raise their kids properly and teach them not to be bullies in school.

I don’t think the bullying has ever stopped at Grassly Plain School. It’s still ongoing.

Even on the bus -- my great grandson takes the bus, and he says their names are on the seat. They
have to sit on that seat. They can’t sit anywhere else.
If they sit anywhere else then they get in trouble.

And they’re kind of like -- I myself I have
never been to a residential school, but for me that’s how
they’re treating my great grandson and the other kids.
They’re putting their names on a seat and they have to stay
on that seat on the school bus.

Then at one point my youngest great grandson
was going to school -- he was staying with us -- and he was
supposed to start preschool but they put him in
kindergarten. And then he was going to school for
kindergarten then he got kicked off the bus just because he
wet himself and then he peed on the seat -- on the bus
seat, and that’s the whole reason why he wasn’t allowed to
going on the bus anymore. For me I think that was being
prejudice.

So I don’t think the bullying will ever
stop. It will be ongoing throughout the years.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Okay. Thank you.

I will now ask the Chief Commissioner if she
has any questions for Laura and Ted.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: No, I
don’t. Thank you.

MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Is there anything else
either of you would like to say to the Chief Commissioner?
MR. TED MORRIS: I would like to thank you for taking your time to come into the Bear territory, and hopefully whenever you go across Canada that you find justice for other murdered and missing women.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Thank you. It’s been my honour to hear your story today. Thank you.

MS. LAURA MORRIS: I’d also like to thank you for being here with us, listening to our case, and you came such a long way just to be with us here. Thank you.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: My pleasure to be here. Thank you.

We have some gifts for you, because we’re very grateful that you shared your story with us about Pauline, and we take that as a sacred gift.

Some of the matriarchs on Haida Gwaii found out about our hearings and wanted to make sure that the families and survivors were well protected and so they asked that there be some eagle feathers harvested, and that’s what happened.

The eagle feathers are from Haida Gwaii at the request of the matriarchs there to lift you up, to honour you and show respect for you and your stories, and Pauline. So please accept our gifts.

And also, Breen, I’m going to fall over
this, so I’m going to ask you to pass the seeds. Again, because you shared with us we want to share with you, and we do that by giving families seeds. And in this territory they’re fireweed seeds. We don’t bring foreign seeds in of course. We know how resilient fireweed plants are and how beautiful they are. So we hope that you plant the seeds and please let us know what happens, what grows.

So I’m truly honoured to have had the opportunity to meet with you and hear your story about Pauline and about the bullying at Grassy Plain School. It’s made a big difference. Thank you very much.

--- Upon adjourning at 5:55 p.m.
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Marie Rainville, 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.

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Marie Rainville

October 3, 2017