National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Public Hearings
Hotel North Two, Conference Room
Happy Valley-Goose Bay,
Newfoundland-and-Labrador

PUBLIC

Wednesday March 7, 2018
Public Volume 51
Dionne Ward-Young,
In relation to Ann Maria Lucas

Heard by Commissioner Brian Eyolfson
Commission Counsel: Meredith Porter

INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.
41-5450 Canotek Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K1J 9G2
E-mail: info@irri.net – Phone: 613-748-6043 – Fax: 613-748-8246
II

APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations                Jeremy Kolodziej
                                            (Counsel)

Eastern Door Indigenous Women’s Association  Non-appearance

Government of Canada                     Donna Keats
                                            (Counsel)

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  Brian Harvey
                                            (Representative)

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami                  Elizabeth Zarpa
                                            (Counsel)

Naskapi Nation of Kawawachi-kamach       Non-appearance

Newfoundland Aboriginal Women’s Network  Odelle Pike
                                            (Representative)

Newfoundland Native Women’s Association  Non-appearance

Nunatsiavut Government                   Kaila de Boer
                                            Michelle Kinney
                                            Tracey Evans Rice
                                            (Representatives)

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada & AnânauKatiget
                                            Beth Symes
                                            (Counsel - Pauktuutit & ATRIWA)

Tumingit Regional Inuit Women’s Association (ATRIWA)
                                            Anita Pokiak
                                            (Representative - Pauktuutit)

                                            Kim Campbell-McLean
                                            (Representative - ATRIWA)
### TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Public Volume 51**  
**March 7, 2018**  
**Witness: Dionne Ward-Young**  
**In Relation to Ann Maria Lucas**  
Commissioner: Brian Eyolfson  
Commission Counsel: Meredith Porter  
Clerk: Maryiam Khoury  
Registrar: Bryan Zandberg

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Testimony of <strong>Dionne Ward-Young</strong></th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reporter’s certification</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IV

LIST OF EXHIBITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Folder of three digital images displayed during Dionne Ward-Young’s public testimony</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Witness: Dionne Ward-Young
Exhibits (code: P01P12P0103)
Hearing - Public
Dionne Ward-Young
(Ann Maria Lucas)

Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador

--- Upon commencing on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 3:04 p.m.

MS. MEREDITH PORTER: Okay. Good afternoon, Commissioner Eyolfson. I'm here with Dionne Ward-Young and her husband, Alan (phonetic) Young, and we are going to be hearing today about Dionne's mother, Ann Lucas.

Before we get started, though, I did want to do two things. I wanted to introduce myself. I'm Meredith Porter. I'm Commission counsel with the National Inquiry. And I also wanted to ask the members of the audience to just double-check their cellphones prior to getting started to make sure that they're either on vibrate or silent prior to the witness proceeding with her evidence. So thank you very much, and I'll now pass the mic and ask them to introduce themselves.

MS. DIONNE WARD-YOUNG: Hi. I'm Dionne Ward-Young, here today to testify on behalf of my mother who is no longer with us, cannot speak for herself.

MR. ALAN YOUNG: Hi. I'm Alan Young, husband of Dionne.

MS. MEREDITH PORTER: Thank you. And just before we get started, I will ask from the Registrar to come and promise—in the witness.

MR. REGISTRAR: Okay. Hi, Dionne.
DIONNE WARD-YOUNG, Affirmed:

MS. MEREDITH PORTER: Thank you. And so I will now ask Dionne to proceed with what she's come here to talk about today.

MS. DIONNE WARD-YOUNG: Good afternoon, everyone. In opening, I just want to give you a brief background. I don't really feel a need to go into any major detail. The information is out there on-line, but just want to focus on the main point of the development of the Inquiry.

My mother, Ann Marie Lucas, was murdered by her estranged boyfriend on September 21st, 2003. Eight blows to the head with a metal bar ended the life of a wonderful mother, daughter, grandmother and friend. It ended the esteemed career of a nursing assistant, personal care worker of 37 years, and it took a dedicated worker from a nursing home where she loved her job and was much loved by her patients and her work family.

Today I really want to focus on the Parole Board. There's a few things, but firstly the Parole Board. Personally I feel there's a major breakdown in the Parole Board decision-making tools and communication. When an inmate has been charged with the heinous crime of murder, the sentencing set by the judge in the Provincial Court should be honoured. Also the parole file should include
pictures, which sometimes it does and, it's my understanding, sometimes it doesn't. These pictures and the summary should be taken more seriously. I feel the Parole Board members are looking solely at the behaviours of the inmate once incarcerated only. Institution behaviour can be extremely deceiving. Anyone can behave for short periods of time and conduct themselves in good manner and can behave appropriately when the audience has the ability to set them free. The psychiatric assessment can also be falsely scored in a closed environment. Words can fool even the most educated people. Tools such as the Hare Psychopathy Checklist, HCR-20 assessing risk for violence, SARA forms, SIR scale, MCMI, they're all cookie-cutter assessment forms that have a broad spectrum that can misinform the user.

After only 12 years of committing premeditated murder, this inmate has hoodwinked the entire parole system into allowing 48 ETAs for a one-year period, also a two-day pass to travel from Nova Scotia to Newfoundland for compassionate leave.

The Board has also sent me a report on December 12th, 2015, outlining the decision process. I wrote a victim statement to the Board, and this is how much acknowledgement it received from my words, and I quote:

Victim impact statements describe the ongoing and
negative effects that your criminal offending has had
upon them.

That's it, no further discussion.

We need broader minds and sharper tools when
assessing these inmates. When a life is maliciously taken
from the world, a few church sessions, AA meetings and
community service does not change a hardened criminal. The
inmate was 64 at the time he committed murder and has
already spent 36 approximately of those years in and out of
incarceration before that. This is a career criminal.
Career criminals are being released and are not capable of
does not change a hardened criminal. The
inmate was 64 at the time he committed murder and has
already spent 36 approximately of those years in and out of
incarceration before that. This is a career criminal.
Career criminals are being released and are not capable of
life changes at this point. Therefore, they recommit and
the crimes escalate each time, and obviously this time it
did. This person will certainly, I feel in my opinion,
re-offend to some degree, and it's on the Parole Board when
that happens.

In regard to her sentencing, my mother's
murderer was initially charged with first-degree murder.
This was reduced to second degree. As it was explained to
me by the RCMP corporal and Crown attorney, it was safer to
go with a guilty plea to second than a non-guilty guilty
plea to first. It also avoided a full-blown trial. There
was a week-long court process which neatly ended with him
walking out with his sunglasses on at a second-degree life
sentence, and I -- I use the life sentence term loosely.
Because -- because of the parole decisions, life sentences are never completed. They never finish a life sentence. And he is eligible for parole in 18 years. It's my understanding that he's going to be out for parole in September, and this is only after 15 years.

There should be no parole, no getting out. You put a human life in the ground. Therefore, you should be incarcerated for life. A life sentence for a life, very simple.

My mother did have a restraining order against him at the time. It's my opinion that restraining orders do not work. There needs to be more stringent rules and regulations regarding these. Written guidelines on paper is not enough. Paper does not save lives. Anyone caught disobeying an order should be incarcerated. This will increase the mindset, in my opinion, that this is not an acceptable behaviour. There are very little repercussions these days to these -- these restraining orders.

Right now regarding education and especially once you're incarcerated, they have benefits of schooling. Where am I? I know he has -- this inmate has had the same schooling that I myself am paying thousands of dollars for. I just don't understand why these programs, these monies are being spent when an inmate is incarcerated like right
now being 70-plus years old. Where are you going with an office degree? It doesn't make any sense to me. Why are these monies being spent and not being better spent on -- like there's tonnes of other places that these monies can be spent. All these programs that are being offered inside -- I know the point is to rehabilitate inmates so they don't come out and re-offend. It's not -- in my opinion that's not happening.

And for our younger generations, schools are not focusing enough on mental health, culture and wellness classes. Full-page arithmetic is not getting anyone any further in life if they are sitting in a classroom all day focused on how difficult it is, getting anxious, building animosity and hate. Life skills need to be taught to our youth so they grow up to be well-rounded well-structured adults. Repercussions for decisions and actions and social skills and healthy minds are topics that need to be discussed and taught in schools.

We cannot change the past. We must focus on the present and the future. Let's start with our youth in ways of education, counselling, personal development, social and financial aid.

I know there are a lot of families who had some issues with police response and the judicial system. We were fortunate we did not have that. In my mother's
case, we didn't have any trouble with response time or the handling of the case. The RNC and RCMP were -- were great, but families who do have trouble obtaining information, updates, not being taken seriously and sometimes unfortunately outright ignored, this is something that I feel also needs to be addressed. Please listen to these families closely. Families need more information on these limited case files.

And back to the inmate benefits again, there have been communications outlining education, communications to me 'cause I am on the victim list. These things are all for free. You know, like I said, someone like myself, you know, we have to struggle and make ends meet and pay for these education costs. We have youth. You know, tuition costs are coming up, but these -- these courses are being offered to inmates where those monies could be restructured and reduce education costs for the youth today.

I know in May of 2015, the inmate that murdered my mother was approved 48 full-day passes and each year after. It -- there's 48 full-day passes, like I said earlier, to attend AA and church-related activities up to a duration of eight hours a day including travel to various locations, and an escort is also paid and approved to attend, and I think it's my understanding that lately there
are some unescorted day passes that have been happening. He's also been moved to a new facility. It's still on the Dorchester grounds. It's -- it was called Westmorland facility. It's a residential style of living I think is what the paperwork told me it was called. Since I think there's been some controversy and they've changed the name back to Dorchester min., so minimum security, so he was only ever in a medium, and I feel for crime of that magnitude, it should be maximum security only. There should be no -- don't take it as lightly. And the elderly in our communities do not have accommodations as high a standard and as good a care as this Westmorland facility, in my understanding, has.

My darling mother, who worked her entire life trying to make each day a delight for those under her and most often did, she wished she could but could never come up with the means to travel and see the world, while on December 16th to the 18th of 2015, this inmate was approved a 48-hour ETA for compassionate purposes to travel from Dorchester, Nova Scotia, to Flat Bay, Newfoundland. I seriously cannot believe that our government will actually pay for a convict to travel along with his escort province to province. Haven't we paid enough, not to mention the nonmonetary price of her family and friends losing her, the tax-paying dollars for his
accommodations, education, medical, food, shelter. No one offered to pay for her funeral, but I bet you'll pay for his.

Equal rights. It should not matter what your ethnic background or social status. All Canadians should be treated equal. Minority groups such as ourselves are feeling like they are not being taken seriously when reporting crimes and following up on convictions. In the past, aboriginal citizens were schooled and treated differently. This made the aboriginal natives hard, and crime escalated. This seems like an ongoing issue. Stereotypic behaviours are still rampant in our provinces and that contain reserves. Financing, health care, medical care, mental health and addictions, counselling and aid are not as available on reserves as throughout the remainder of the provinces. Educate and counsel our youth through our communities so we're not raising criminals, substance abusers, etc.

I really feel mental health is a big issue. Mental health is an extremely misunderstood and complex topic. It is on the rise, and education and aid is at an utmost high in terms of need. Lack of resources, counselling and aid is contributing to the uprise. Stress due to the impact on survivors of murder victims, missing family members and victims of abuse can extend beyond
primary survivors. Siblings, parents, grandparents, cousins, step relations and friends can also be greatly affected by the tragedies. It would be greatly beneficial if there were more support groups, healing seminars and meetings.

I think that's pretty much it. Unless you needed to prompt me on anything else, I --

**MS. MEREDITH PORTER:** I do, yeah.

**MS. DIONNE WARD-YOUNG:** You do want to prompt me?

**MS. MEREDITH PORTER:** So thank you very much, and that was very informative, and my understanding is that those issues that you've spoken to all weave throughout the circumstances preceding your mother's murder and afterwards, and so some of the questions that I have I think will probably help make some of those links as to why you are obviously very so passionate about all of those issues.

You mentioned that you were on a victims list. Can you give a little bit more detail about what that entails and some of your concerns around the way that victims are treated who are on that list or who aren't on that list?

**MS. DIONNE WARD-YOUNG:** Yes. Yes. Like she said, I am on a victim list. There are some things I don't
feel that I need to know. I understand that he has some
confidentiality issues as well. Like you know, he has some
confidentiality rights, whether I might like that or not,
but being on the list, I'm informed of everything. I'm
informed if he goes on a day pass, the date, the vicinity
but not the confidential information, but I've also had
letters where there -- it's listed out what education he
has done. I mentioned that earlier. I wish there was a
way that we could filter exactly what information we're
privy to because I did call victim services at one point
and I asked them can you send less letters, spend less
money? I don't need to know all that stuff. You know,
just send me the important details like if he's released,
if he's on an ETA to Newfoundland or if he passes away.
Those are the only three things I want to know. I really
don't care if he has education or if he's going out on ETA,
if he's going to church or AA or any of that stuff. That
only aggravates me to get letters weekly. Like every week
there's letters coming to me, so that's a lot of time and
manpower, and -- and, you know, the cost of a letter, you
know, it's probably not much, but I would -- I wish that it
could be filtered, and when I did call victim services,
they said, No, you're on the list or you're off the list,
there's no way to just filter it. So I would like to see
it filtered for families 'cause, you know, getting multiple
letters is just salt in the wound type thing. Give us the
important pertinent information. That's all.

MS. MEREDITH PORTER: Okay. Thank you. And
just to get -- if it's all right to ask some of the
details, I guess, to -- to give a bit more context to what
exactly the circumstances again prior to your mother's
death and the actual night that she was killed. You had
mentioned that this individual who killed your mother had a
history of violence, that this wasn't the first time that
he had assaulted, well, your mother or -- and I was
wondering if you could just speak a little bit about, you
know, their -- their relationship prior to the time when
she was killed.

MS. DIONNE WARD-YOUNG: Well, to my
knowledge, they were together for seven years, and then
they were separated for about -- roughly a year. I don't
really remember the exact dates or details, but it wasn't
always a healthy relationship. It was a very controlling
relationship. She was always a very happy, outgoing
person, but during those seven years, I saw a decline in
her mental health. She was withdrawn, and she -- she
didn't -- just didn't act herself. She -- she kind of
didn't go places she probably would have liked to have
gone. It was more -- it wasn't -- she didn't directly say
she needed permission or anything, but I -- I could get
that vibe because I knew her more -- I knew her better than
anybody did, so, yeah, there was -- there was certain
things that, you know, I could pick up on.

So during that seven years, I did see a
decline in her -- her well-being, her happiness. When she
was -- when he -- when they were split up and he moved
away, it was after an assault on her where he tried to
strangle her in her apartment, and she did get away, and he
was charged, and there was an assault on another lady at
the same time. I'm not positive of the details of that,
but I know it was a neighbour of mine, and she had been
assaulted and needed some corrective surgery on her face.
In total for those two crimes, he served approximately
seven months.

So they were apart. She -- I saw a major
uprising in her happiness and her well-being, and then I
don't know what surrounded the circumstances of them
becoming -- talking again. I don't know; manipulation, I
can -- I can assume, but they did to my understanding start
seeing each other again, not living together or nothing
open. It was a hidden thing, and -- and then she did try
to end it with him again, and the -- the murder was the
result.

**MS. MEREDITH PORTER:** Okay. Thank you. And
you did mention that there had been a restraining order at
one point put into place, but there -- you didn't feel there was very much protective value to it. Can you give any more details about any efforts either on behalf of -- of yourself as family or your mother or the RCMP to -- to keep her safe or any -- any efforts made prior to the night that she was killed?

MS. DIONNE WARD-YOUNG: While that restraining order was in place, I know there were a couple of incidences where she was in a certain area. I know the restriction was for him not to be anywhere that -- where she was present, that he should be the one to leave or -- yeah, that he would be, but there was a few incidences that she did report to the RCMP where he didn't leave, and I know she did keep a couple of notes on those things that we found after she was gone, found an envelope with a few write-ups about those things, and we did submit it. It didn't make any -- any impact then, of course, but like there was a couple of incidences where she went for a walk and he drove his car back and forth, and she was in a restaurant, and he didn't leave so she felt she had to leave, but -- so she reported it, but she was pretty much told, well, we can't stop him from driving up and down a road. You know, we can write it down. I don't know if they even spoke to him about it or mentioned it to parole, but -- 'cause she did -- it was the RCMP she contacted, and
they said, You know, we can't stop him from going places, living life or whatever, but, yeah, I don't feel that they're effective.

I wish I had a solution to make them more effective. I know they've been looking at them lately, looking more stringent at restraining orders, but I don't know what the details -- you know, what that would entail, but I know that for her, the few times she did report it, there was -- they just told her there was nothing really they could do.

**MS. MEREDITH PORTER:** Okay. Thank you. And you had also mentioned that it's your belief that his -- his release from custody is -- is forthcoming, is imminent. How does that for you -- in your day-to-day how does it make you feel? You've spoken a little bit about that, and have you -- if he's released back into a community, your community or nearby, does that -- how does that impact you? Have you taken any measures?

**MS. DIONNE WARD-YOUNG:** Well, we do have an enhanced security system installed in our home. I didn't receive any direct threats at this point, but I do feel that it could -- it could potentially be something that could happen. I don't feel that inmates of crime of that magnitude should be allowed back in the same community with the family members and, you know, in the same place that
they -- you know, that they murdered someone. Like how can you go back there? I feel he -- he would be brazen enough to -- to want to come back to that area 'cause he does have some family there as well. I don't know what the family connections are, the dynamic is, but I just really strongly feel that he should not be released into the same community.

MR. ALAN YOUNG: Be released at all.

MS. DIONNE WARD-YOUNG: There's -- he shouldn't be released at all, correct, not at all because, you know, a life for a life type thing and I mean a life sentence. I mean I'm -- I don't know how I feel on capital punishment and it's not even an issue here, but a life sentence at least for a life, and if they do get released on this -- on parole, on the faint hope clause, I feel they should be -- they should be away from the family, and it's my understanding that if I want to have a restraining order in place, it's on me to get it. It's not a blanket statement when he's released that he has to stay away from all the family. It's my understanding that each family member has to apply.

MS. MEREDITH PORTER: Okay. Thank you very much. Commissioner Eyolfson, do you have any comments or questions for the witness?

COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON: I don't have
any specific questions. I just wonder if you have any
recommendations in addition to the ones you've made that
you'd like to bring forward for the Inquiry as we're
carrying out our mandate of looking at, you know, ways
to -- what are the underlying factors that make women and
girls vulnerable to violence and what are things that can
increase safety and if you have anything related to that or
other things you would like to recommend that you want to
share.

MS. DIONNE WARD-YOUNG: I don't think I have
anything additional beyond what I did say. Maybe mental
health programs will create stronger women and even
stronger men that are grown up and could potentially do
these crimes. The Parole Board needs to be stronger, the
sentences need to be adhered to and just protection against
the families when these inmates are released.

COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON: Thank you.

MS. DIONNE WARD-YOUNG: Okay.

COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON: So if
there -- if there aren't any other questions or anything
else, we can adjourn, but before we do, I just want to
thank you very much for coming and sharing your -- your
story with us and your -- your thoughts and
recommendations, and we have a few small gifts for you on
behalf of the Inquiry for coming and sharing. In addition,
we have a couple of gifts as well from Newfoundland
Aboriginal Women's Network and from Pauktuutit that they've
provided to -- for us to share with people that are coming
and sharing with us, so I just want to give those to you
before you leave, okay? Thank you very much.

**MS. MEREDITH PORTER:** And with that, we're
adjourned, and I believe we're going to reconvene at 5:00
back in the hearing room. Thank you.

--- Exhibits (code: P01P120103)

**Exhibit 1:** Folder of three digital images displayed
during Dionne Ward-Young’s public testimony
--- Upon adjourning at 3:32 p.m.
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST’S CERTIFICATE

I, Shawn Hurd, 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.

___________________
Shawn Hurd

Shawn Hurd
March 25, 2018