National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Public Hearings
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Elmbridge Room
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Wednesday April 4, 2018

Public Volume 85
Roxana Wilson, Jacquita White & Samantha Pelkey,
In relation to Adriane Wadhams

Heard by Commissioner Michèle Audette
Commission Counsel: Shelby Thomas

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Upon commencing on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 4:33 p.m.

**MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Good afternoon,

Commissioner Audette. I am Shelby Thomas and I am Commission counsel with the National Inquiry.

I wanted to take the time to show my gratitude for being welcomed on this territory.

This afternoon we’ll be hearing from Jacquita Wadhams, Roxana Wilson, and Samantha Pelkey.

Mr. Registrar, Jacquita and Samantha would like to promise to tell the truth, and Roxana would like to affirm on the feather.

**MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Good afternoon. We’ll start with -- is it Jacita?

**MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** Jacquita.

**MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Jacquita, okay.

Jacquita, do you promise to tell the truth in a good way this afternoon? Oh.

Just let’s do it again. You needed a microphone.

Do you promise to tell your truth in a good way this afternoon?

**MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** I promise.

**MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Okay, thank you.

And over to Samantha. Hi Samantha.
Ms. Samantha Pelkey: Hi.

Mr. Bryan Zandberg: Do you promise to tell your truth in a good way today?

Ms. Samantha Pelkey: Yes, I promise.

Mr. Bryan Zandberg: Thank you.

And Roxana. Roxana, do you solemnly affirm to tell your truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

Ms. Roxana Wilson: I do, yes.

Mr. Bryan Zandberg: Thank you.

Ms. Roxana Wilson: Thank you.

Ms. Shelby Thomas: To start we’re going to have Robert introduce the family in language.

Mr. Robert Williams: (Speaking in Kwak’wala). Greetings, Chiefs, matriarchs, assembled tribes who have gathered here together. We’re very fortunate and honoured to be on Musqueam land here. (Speaking in Kwak’wala). Our family comes to us from the Wallis (phonetic) tribes and the (speaking in Kwak’wala) and the Ma’amtagila, the (speaking in Kwak’wala).

My sister Wa-Quay Lawde (phonetic) Roxana’s grandparents are Chief (speaking in Kwak’wala) head of the (speaking in Kwak’wala) and the Ma’amtagila.

On her father’s side from Medric Wadhams
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comes (speaking in Kwak’wala), Jimmy Wadhams, and Beatrice Newell (phonetic) from Chief Lageose (phonetic).

(Speaking in Kwak’wala). It is an honour to introduce my family in our traditional way because they are my royal family of the (speaking in Kwak’wala).

And I want my family to know that you have all of us here behind you to support you and that we’re here to speak our truth (speaking in Kwak’wala).

MS. SHELBY THOMAS: If we could just start by having you guys introduce yourself to Commissioner Audette, and where you’re from?

MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY: (Speaking Native language) My name is Samantha, and I’m from Alert Bay.

MS. ROXANA WILSON: (Speaking in Kwak’wala), and also from Alert Bay. My name is Roxana Wilson.

MS. JACQUITA WHITE: (Speaking in Kwak’wala) Jacquita. I am from Alert Bay and (indiscernible)

MS. SHELBY THOMAS: I know it’s important for you guys to celebrate Adriane’s life so if you could just share a few stories and tell us a little bit about who she was.

MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY: I just wanted to share about Adriane, she was full of life. She was really, really happy. She loved to sing and she loved to dance and she was very bubbly, her personality was outgoing. She
wasn’t shy or afraid. People -- she would draw people in.
She would always draw in a crowd. As young as she was, she -- she just did everything from her heart. She was very beautiful.

**MS. ROXANA WILSON:** My daughter, she was such a beautiful little girl. And a real miracle. She was a miracle baby.

We almost lost her at an infant age of two weeks when she was diagnosed with hydrocephalus and she spent most of her infant life until she was almost one year’s old in the hospital because of having numerous surgeries. And they kept getting infected so they kept her in and just monitored her through medication and antibiotics.

But she was a real go-getter. She fought and she was very strong. What the doctors had said about her she proved them wrong. They said that she would never go into a public school. That she would go into a special school.

And at that time she wasn’t walking and she was almost two years old. And when we got back home from doing her follow-up medical trips, we got home and the next day she just got up. She didn’t walk; she ran. And the doctors said that she would be in a wheelchair if she hadn’t walked.
But I just remember, you know, how much of a fighter she was because when they would inject needles into her head because of the infections and the open wound, they doctors would ask me to leave because they didn’t want me to see that. But I would be in the waiting room and I could hear her screaming. And I would be in the waiting area and I’d be crying because all I wanted to do was be there and hold her but they wouldn’t allow me to see that.

But the thing was when they would come back out, the doctor and the nurses would tell me to go back in, they said it was okay to go in and see my daughter, my baby, and she immediately stopped crying, you know. And her little hands would be waving in the air and just motioning me to pick her up, and that’s what I would do. And she just forgot all about the pain, you know, when she saw my face and just wanted me to hold her.

That’s what I remember of her. She was just a real fighter. She -- her eyes were so sparkling they just remind me of a sparkling diamond, you know? They just sparkled and she was happy. Like Samantha had said, just everything Samantha said that’s what she -- who Adriane was.

We called her Agy-Bear and the reason why she got that name, Agy-Bear, was every May sports in Alert Bay they would have a soccer tournament. And remember the
safety bear that they had there? There was like a Smokey the Bear safety bear and when it walked, it waddled. And my Dad pipes up and he says, “Oh, there you go. We got a nickname for Adriane. Because she was so tiny for a six-year-old, you know? And her pamper, it just like (indiscernible) right out, made it look like she had a big butt. And she waddled when she walked, so he said, “We’ll call her Agy-Bear.

So that’s how she got her name was from my late Dad. And she was a miracle baby. She was a blessing to all of us, you know?

Thank you.

**MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** Where to start? She -- my sister, Adriane, was very -- I’ll say it again she was beautiful, inside and out. She -- when she smiled, her eyes smiled. She’d walk into a room and she -- well, yeah, she wouldn’t walk, she’d run, and she’d be smiling and she’d be laughing. And like my sister and my Mum said, she loved to sing, go to church and she would sing.

Her favourite band was Guns N’ Roses. Sweet Child of Mine, as soon as that song would come on she would dance, she’d dress up like them, play the guitar. Put on her bandana.

She wouldn’t take no for an answer. She was so sparkly. Everything about her, her clothes, her -- she
loved -- I remember my Mum telling me she had shoes that were sparkly, like they were just glitter. The only thing I can picture, the one thing -- like, the one thing that I really hold onto is her smile. And her unconditional love. That was -- she’s just beautiful, very beautiful.

**MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** The participants would like to submit to the Commission the Reasons for Sentence of Jason James Kennedy.

In whatever details you feel comfortable, can you share what happened to Adriane?

**MS. ROXANA WILSON:** On June 3rd, 1998, my daughter, Adriane Cecile Wadhams, was brutally murdered. She was six years old.

(SHORT PAUSE)

**MS. ROXANA WILSON:** I won’t go into detail but I remember I was just so tired because my ex-husband had broken his leg and he was three weeks into recovery. And by that time, I was, like, so tired of taking care of everyone, so my ex-father-in-law, or late father-in-law now, he stopped by to visit and he seen how tired I was. So he asked to take the kids for the weekend. And we dropped them off that Friday evening after school was over -- out.

And I was really just second-guessing everything because my kids, I had just gotten them back
because they were apprehended from me. I -- from the Ministry.

I was dealing with -- every time I went back home it was just a reminder of everything I left, why I left, of dealing with my sexual abuse and other things. But this one time that I moved home, I just fell off the deep end and I started drinking lots, and just leaving my kids with this babysitter. And this time it just went too far where I just lost myself. And I was gone, I believe, for like, five, seven days, and my kids ended up getting apprehended. And when I got them back, we moved to Fort Rupert, and I felt I couldn’t live in Alert Bay anymore.

And the -- having the kids go to my father-in-law didn’t matter -- like, I was so tired but I was just, like, second-guessing myself. And we brought them anyways and we all hugged and then my ex-husband and I went home.

But I’ll never forget the hug that Adriane gave me that day. Like, it was different. It was real different. Like, she just ran and leaped on me, like -- and gave me -- put her arms around my neck and kissed me.

And we went -- my ex-husband and I went home and the next day -- I believe it was the next day there was this knock on my door. I’m going ahead a little bit.

I remember waking up that day three times, I
was so tired and my ex-husband kept telling me to go to
sleep, and he said that the kids were fine. But I woke up
crying and I said, “I really miss the kids. It’s too quiet
in here. But I’m really worried about Adriane.” I said,
“I’m really worried about Agy-Bear.” And then he told me
just to go back to sleep.

After the third time of telling me that,
there was a knock on the door and there was this lady at
the door with Jacquita. And Jacquita at the time was only
four years old. And the lady said that she had found
Jacquita on a branch where she couldn’t get down.

And so we phoned my father-in-law and there
was a miscommunication there. He thought that both Adriane
and Jacquita were home with us. And he said, “All the kids
are fine, they want to stay another night.” So by him
saying that, I thought that all three of the kids were
together, Samantha, Jeremy, and Adriane. And I said,
“Well, Jacquita doesn’t want to go home. She wants to stay
with us, and we’ll just come and get the kids tomorrow.”

And then only for me to go to town that next
morning, the third day, after them being gone for three
days -- because it was the second day that she was
murdered. The third day I went to town to get a real nice
meal and a dessert because I was going to cook them a real
nice home-cooked meal because I felt rested.
And then as soon as I got out of my girlfriend’s car, the two older ones ran out of the trailer and they said, “Agy-Bear didn’t come home last night.” And I quickly ran into the trailer and I dropped the food -- put the food on the table and went to phone the police.

And there was a search party that was put together and all different resource teams from Port Hardy, Fort McNeill, and all the surrounding areas. And we were a few, like, blocks away from where they had found her. And when this young teenager came running towards us at the curling rink from where they found her, like it would have been, like, a five-minute walk, maybe 10 minutes. And he said, “They found her, they found her” and it made it sound like she just walked out of the bushes.

So I started running. I run -- I run from the rink and I was half-ways to where this search party was and the police and my Dad pulled up towards me, and he told me to get in the van and he drove me there. And the police sergeant -- I believe that’s who it was, the police sergeant walked towards me and all the other police and they had their heads down and I remember that -- I remember the pale -- he was so pale and he was holding back the tears, and my Dad was holding me.

And they said they found my daughter and it’s not good news. And my Dad asked, “Did an animal do
this, or what happened? Is it homicide?” And Samantha
just reminded me today that the police said, “Yes, it
definitely was an animal. He was an animal who did this.”

They wouldn’t let us see her. They wouldn’t
let us identify her, and it was just as well because after
being in court and watching the re-enactment, I couldn’t
believe that somebody would do such a horrific, horrendous
thing to a six year old.

And he was as tall as Robert. He was pretty
big for a 15-year old. And after watching the re-
enactment, I just couldn’t imagine why -- why.

(SHORT PAUSE)

MS. ROXANA WILSON: She was that trusting.
You know, she was that -- she drew people in and she
trusted him enough to go and play hide and go seek, and
that’s the game that he said that they were playing.

MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY: I just -- I remember
all of us staying with my grandfather and we lived -- we
were -- he had a house right on the oceanfront and so there
was something going on down at Stories Beach and we really
wanted to go. And so we decided to go on the beach and
walk along the beach to this festival that used to happen
in Fort Rupert, and it was like an annual thing that used
to happen. I don’t remember what it was but we ended up
going down there and we were playing and we thought it was
really cool because we had just moved to Fort Rupert from Alert bay, and if you were playing on the beach in Alert Bay it’s -- it drops off really quickly. But in Fort Rupert the beach is so long you can go out so far, and we thought it was, like, really cool so we just continued to go out and continued to go out, and by the time we went back, this guy comes along and he continued to ask us if we wanted to go and hike the bluff. And Jeremy and I were at an age where we were learning about not talking to strangers and Jacquita and Adriane were just babies and they were excited, like, they wanted to go and walk this thing and climb this bluff.

And that’s how he separated us because Jeremy and I were really standing up to him and telling him, “No, we’re not allowed to talk to strangers.”

And we ended up playing hide and seek. And then there’s a certain time while we were playing hide and seek down at Stories Beach that I, like, realized that nobody was coming. And so I got up and I started to walk around, and I started to feel alone because it was getting dark and I started to get scared.

And I started walking around these trails. I ended up down the beach and I found my brother and we were trying to find the other two but we couldn’t find them. And we were afraid; we didn’t know what we should
do. And so we decided to go back to my grandfather’s to
tell him, like, this is what happened and then he called my
Mom right away.

And that’s where the communication --
miscommunication happened. We thought that Adriane was
with Jacquita and my Mom and Jeremy and I were with my
grandfather. And I just remember when we realized that she
wasn’t at my Mom’s or with us, then the search party
started that we ended up back at my grandfather’s because
people were out looking and it seemed like it was a day or
two -- again, I was so young. And I just remember, like,
seeing family from Alert Bay come to my grandfather’s this
late night and my Uncle Marshall walked in and I remember
this because he had -- he had open wounds on his -- outside
of his hand and -- because they had already found out the
news and then the rest of the family comes in, my
grandmother, my grandfather, my Mom.

And people, they were trying to -- all we
were doing was sitting there anxiously waiting for my
sister to come home and we were excited when we saw
everyone, we were like, “Oh”. Like, we were really happy
we were going to get to see my sister -- our sister. And
then they delivered the bad news that she wasn’t coming
back. And I just remember crying because I wanted to know
why. Why isn’t she coming back? And I asked them, and I
pleaded and I begged them to take her to the hospital so they can bring her back home.

And that was how I found out that that was what happened to my baby sister. I didn’t really know until later on that that’s -- that’s my story of what happened to her.

**MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** What happened to my sister was horrible. I remember playing hide and seek and I remember being separated with my sister, Adriane. We were together at one point.

He made us do things. And how he separated us was me and my sister, Adriane -- our sister, Adriane, he told me that he was going to take her to go to see his rabbits. Go take her to see the rabbits and then he was going to take me next. And I remember sitting on this high tree. And I could hear her calling but I also remember being too scared to jump down off this big tree. And I remember being taken down. I remember getting (indiscernible), I mean, they took me down. And I could hear her.

**(SHORT PAUSE)**

**MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** That is one image I’ll never, ever get out of my head. I remember standing there and I seen -- I froze. And I just remember being able to turn around and run, and I seen this lady and she asked me
where my parents was and she drove me home. After that I
don’t remember anything.

MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Roxana, you briefly
mentioned going through the court process and watching the
re-enactment. Can you tell us a little bit more about your
experience with the trial?

MS. ROXANA WILSON: I was -- I was at the
trial three weeks before my kids were to come down. And I
was brought in a room with Crown counsel and they said that
there was going to be a re-enactment that they were
presenting. And they said that -- they said that, “Roxana,
we want -- as hard as it’s going to be, we want the
punishment to fit the crime and we want to show the judge
and jury that. We want you to be strong and we want you to
watch -- stay and watch the whole thing.”

That was one of the hardest times -- one of
the hardest times. I can never get that image out of my
head. It was like -- I don’t even know, even three minutes
was like a lifetime to watch something like that. All I
remember is getting up and running out of -- running out of
the courtroom. And I could hear -- I don’t even know who
all those women were that were sitting in the courtroom,
were running behind me. And I made it to the bathroom and
the whole room was spinning. I couldn’t even hold myself
up. I had to grab the counter, and I just felt like I was
going to die right there. I couldn’t breathe and I was throwing up.

After I got my composure -- after I settled down, they were giving me water and washing my face down, patting me down with wet cloths.

And I finally gathered myself and I went back in the courtroom and continued watching. And all -- like I said, I can’t even go into detail of what he had done to my girl. And I keep -- I kept that inside me. I can’t even, like, begin to talk to anybody about it other than the support that I have, that have supported me all my life since we lost her. And no mother should ever have to go through that. No child should ever have to have gone through what she went through.

And watching him on that video it was just like a cartoon to him. Like, he showed no remorse whatsoever and he was like skipping through the woods, like, he was just acting like la-de-da or whatever and just like it was a joke to him, like, what he had did to Adriane.

And what keeps playing in my head is that she kept crying, “I want my mummy. I want my mummy.” And the things that he did to her and even telling her to “Shut-up, your mummy’s not here.”

My life was never the same again. I
Roxana Wilson, Samantha Pelkey & Jacquita White
(Adriane Wadhams)

1 couldn’t even be a mother anymore. I couldn’t even be a
daughter. I couldn’t be a sister. I couldn’t even be me.
I don’t even know I functioned. I don’t even know how I
got out of bed the next day. And to have — wake up with
the screams because I’d be nightmaring about the re-
enactment, and any little noise I heard, if the house was
shifting or whatever, any little noise I’d make my ex-
husband get up and go and check because I thought he was
coming back and he was going to do us all in.

I became very paranoid. I wouldn’t even let
my kids go out on the — not even on the porch. I think it
was like six months until my late father-in-law finally
talked to me and said, “It’s not healthy, Rox. Let them
out. Let them be kids.”

(SHORT PAUSE)

MS. ROXANA WILSON: Sorry. I thought I shut
it off. Sorry.

It was a huge step. I mean, I told them,
“Just on the porch.” I wouldn’t let them out of my sight.
And I still live like that. I mean, it’s gotten better,
you know, in time but if I don’t hear from my adult
children or my grandchildren, I literally freak out. And
they have to keep reminding me that I need to live my life,
and so do they.

MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Samantha, can you share
MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY: I just remember feeling really, really numb. I had to read a book just to prep me to go on stand. And when I look back on it I feel like that type of shock and that type of pressure; that was really numbing for a child to go through. I had to sit on the stand, and I had to talk about the day, that day, and I had to go and speak about how it happened. And then I also had to point him out, so I had to look at him again. As a young child that was really frightening. I just think it was really numbing. I had to be brave at a really young age to be able to face somebody that did something like that to my sister. I think I nightmared about him afterwards, too.

Like, I -- as a young child I experienced trauma. Like, I was afraid. I didn’t know it at the time but I do look back and see how difficult that was for all of us to go through. And I just remember everything being really confusing. Everything from finding out that she’s gone to now having to testify about why she’s gone. And then going back to trying to go back to our lives after that; it was really difficult and it’s probably something I’ll never forget.

And as old as I am now, I’m a mother now, and I know how difficult it was for me to lose a sister but
I just -- I don’t know how -- like, how you can get through this as a mother because I have four -- I have two daughters and two sons and I just think all of it was just a big blur. I was numb and shocked for a lot of years, and I think most of my life growing up I was just confused.

**MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** During the court process and afterwards, did you guys receive any type of support of support resources?

**MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY:** Living in Fort Rupert, it’s such a small community and I never received any support. I think at that -- like, at that time of my life growing up there I was really alone. There was a lot of feelings and a lot of -- like, I couldn’t even articulate it into words how I felt back then, but I know that it was very dark and I felt so alone. And I didn’t understand why. Why we were under a cloud and why did everyone else look so happy. Why do people look different from us?

As a young girl I was really observant and I never -- I don’t -- I never received any type of support. I just remember feeling lost and none of us knew how to be siblings to each other. We didn’t have any type of -- there was just a lot of brokenness, and that was like our day to day was all brokenness and emptiness. And it was just dark.

I wish that I did have support. After all
of these years of going through life, I ran away. I didn’t
stay in Fort Rupert. I moved to Alert Bay. Moved back to
Port Hardy, met my partner -- ex-partner. We created a
family, we moved to Nanaimo. I stayed there for years, and
then we separated.

Like, there’s a lot of things that I wasn’t
aware of until just the last few years. Every time one of
my kids would turn six I would be really overprotective,
and I was too overprotective that my partner couldn’t even
understand. There was this one time that I really realized
that I was affected by it. When -- it was when I went to
check on them at the park. There's this little park in our
complex. And it was dinnertime, so I went to check on them
and I heard all of the kids playing and they’re having fun.
And one of the kids asked, “Let’s play hide and seek,” and
immediately I started yelling and I started acting, like,
in a panic. Like, “No, you guys.” I was telling them,
“No, you’re not allowed to play hide and seek at the park.”
And my partner at that time was like, “No, wait. Like, do
you listen to yourself? Can you listen? Like, they’re
kids, they’re in a park. That’s what they do, they play
hide and seek.” But I think that’s when I started to
realize how impacted I was and how, like, impacted I was
through -- like, through all those years. It’s really a --
just heartbreaking.
MS. JACQUITA WHITE: Through my years of growing up, as my sister said, being in such a small community of Fort Rupert and Port Hardy, there wasn’t really any help there. And I remember trying to seek counselling as I got a little bit older, in my childhood, the help then was ridiculous. I was like -- I felt like I was a bothersome to them. They’re constantly looking at their watches; they’re tapping their fingers on the desk. You know, they just weren’t there. And I remember a few times, a couple of times that I’ve gone to different counsellors to seek help, they looked at me and they said, “Wow. I’m surprised you survived that because if I was in your shoes, I’d be dead. I would have killed myself by now.”

So after hearing stuff like that and trying to seek help, it really turned me off. I didn’t want to seek help anymore.

And I really wish there was better help back then because my kids live in my fear. I also am a mother of two beautiful little girls and I can’t go anywhere without them. I’m too scared to leave them. Even my family members, if my family members, like my Mom, has my kids, I’m texting her 10, 20 times every 10 minutes.

Growing up I felt so empty, so lost, so confused, and I still feel that way at times. I feel like
MS. ROXANA WILSON: Through Victim Services, they sought counsel for me and at that time I just wasn’t ready. I had somebody from the Crisis Centre in Port Hardy that would, like, do the home visits with me, and even then everything’s a blur, I don’t remember. Five years was a total blur to me of the shock and the numbness.

And they had somebody come through Mental Health as well, and none of that worked for me. I just wasn’t ready. And I found myself getting more angry and more bitter and angry with God. I have a Dad who was a pastor of the church in Alert Bay and is a residential school survivor. And I believe through his prayers and my Mum’s prayers that I’m sane today. They really stood in the gap for my children and I. They were also a really great support for me.

But I remember Victim Services sending a psychologist to come and see me in Port Hardy once a week, I believe, in Port Hardy and that didn’t work. And he tried coming a couple of times and I just didn’t go and meet with him.

But I remember after moving into our new home, there was just no support, even within our community. It was just really awkward. People didn’t know how to
address us or be -- you know, carry on a conversation. Or
ask us how we were doing, you know? And like the girls, I
just felt really, really alone, alone and empty. And I
remember we moved into our new home that the Band office
had built for us and it was the beginning of the school
year and the numbness and the shock wore off and reality
really set in.

I remember walking from my kitchen and I
just remember I just dropped my cup of coffee and I
couldn’t bear the pain in my body. I just dropped. I just
dropped like a ton of bricks and I couldn’t -- I couldn’t
gasp for air and I could hear myself screaming. My mouth
was open but nothing would come out.

And then when I finally let out a huge
scream, the kids had gotten off the bus and all I could
hear was these footsteps running up the stairs. And they
ran in and I was on the floor and I couldn’t get up because
the pain was so excruciating. And my daughter, Samantha,
and her best friend Samantha Hill, were just hoovered over
me and they were holding me and they were trying to get me
up, and we were just embracing one another and just crying.

(SHORT PAUSE)

MS. ROXANA WILSON: I just remember that
pain so well. It just felt like somebody took a knife and
just shred my heart to pieces. It just ached that much
that I couldn’t breathe. And just visualizing just so much
-- I don’t even remember the day of the funeral. I don’t
remember anything. I don’t even remember how she looked.

Her favourite colour was pink and she really
loved to dress up, so my Auntie Mac Wilson bought her a
really pretty, frilly pink dress. And like Jacquita was
sharing, there were these silver shoes, they were glittery.
And she wore them all the time. It didn’t matter what she
was wearing, like, joggers or whatever, they were really
sparkly and it didn’t matter the colours didn’t match, she
loved those glittery shoes. And somebody else at the
school had the same set of shoes and she came home with two
left feet -- two left-sided and obviously the other little
girl didn’t -- the other little girl, you know, it didn’t
bother her, maybe. She didn’t bring it back to school or
anything because Adriana -- or Adriane kept those shoes and
we tried to throw them out but she would go and dig them
back out of the garbage can because she just loved those
glittery shoes.

And these past few years I’ve -- I may not
remember what has happened to her, remember the years of
what -- how I led my life or remember too much about the
three other beautiful children that I have. But we’re
rebuilding on that. We have rebuilt on that. And we have
made amends.
But I do remember the bright, strong, beautiful girl Agy-Bear was. And that’s who I want to celebrate now, is what I remember. I don’t want to go back. And I’ll have my moments. I’ll always have my moments of the anniversary of her death or the anniversary of her birthday or the trial dates and the sentencing. I’ll always have those moments. But I’ve learned to work through it now and heal. Because, like I said, I want to celebrate who I remember; a beautiful, bright girl who was a fighter and lived her life to the fullest. She was the greatest example.

I remember when they would get into mischief and I would send them to their rooms because nobody would -- nobody would own up to, you know, who did their little mischief. So I’d send them to their room and ground them and they’d be in the room crying but here’s Adriane stomping out of the room, going to the kitchen and getting a bowl of Jell-O. And she said -- she’d look at me and she’d say, “I’m bringing this to my brother and my sisters. I’m going to make them feel better.” You know? And then she would snap her eyes and then just stomp on down to the bedroom. And that’s who she was, you know? And she’d always just wanted to comfort anybody who was hurting and in pain.

And there’s this other time that she had a
birthday party, this is just -- I just want to share these
cute little stories with you because that’s who she was,
right? And it was her birthday and there was a whole bunch
of kids there and we were celebrating her birthday and my
Dad walks in with this four-pack of toilet paper and he
said, “Agy-Bear, this is yours. This is your birthday
present.” And he said, “Other than whatever else I got
you, this is yours. Don’t let anybody touch it.” And you
should have seen her, she was just beaming, like, ear-to-
ear smile, and she goes, “That’s for me, Papa? That’s all
mine?” She was so grateful that she got her own toilet
paper. No, it was toilet paper. It was, yeah, a package
of toilet paper. And then anybody that went into the
bathroom she’d say, “And don’t touch my toilet paper.”
But, yeah.

**MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Jacquita, could you
share a little bit your experiences at school after the
incident?

**MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** School wasn’t fun after
we lost our sister. Kids are really mean. They -- well,
they weren’t only -- like, there was some mean kids and
then there were some of the kids that just didn’t know how
to -- know how to confront us or be around us anymore,
couldn’t, you know -- it was fairly lonely.

We used to go to Fort Rupert Elementary
School and I remember being taken out of that school. We were taken out of school and we were sent to Gwa'sala? Gwa'sala School. I don’t fully remember if it was because it was so close to where it had happened, the school, but being sent to town was -- it was different. As people got to know us in town and they got to hear stuff, it got thrown in my face a few times. And they just -- it’s really hard to explain, it’s just how cruel some kids are.

At some point a few of my classmates told me, because we were not getting along that what happened to my sister, she deserved it. I think after losing my sister I didn’t really know how to communicate with anybody either. Yeah.

**MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Roxana, can you share your experience with the Parole Board process?

**MS. ROXANA WILSON:** I’m registered through Victim Services to get updates on the parole hearings and Parole Board. And they just give me an update of, you know, his process while being incarcerated. And it’s nil. He doesn’t -- he doesn’t follow through with any of the programs and he’s shown -- he stills shows no remorse and he’s in denial. And each time that a parole hearing comes -- parole hearing date comes up, a couple of months before I contact all our surrounding areas for -- to do impact statements so that I could present them when I was
scheduled to go to a parole hearing. And once that was all done, like it was just a month and a half, two months of all the legwork and stuff, it’s nothing like the technology that you have today where you can send emails and stuff like that. It was like phone calls and letters and going, you know, to see people, you know, and having them write impact statements. And I would be so exhausted and only for a week -- only to hear a week before the parole -- scheduled parole hearing that he waived his rights; and to me, I was relieved but I was angry at the same time because it really triggered us again. And it’s like he’s holding the trump card as to when -- you know, whether we have a parole hearing or not.

And I am registered from VOMP, Victim Offenders Mediation Program, and one day I would like to go and meet him and bring my impact statement and let him know what he has done to my family and how -- what he did to Adriane, how it impacted us and how it tore us apart. And we were kind of looking at the dates, me being in the area that I was going to try to work out that I would go while I was down here, but that just didn’t happen yet. I haven’t heard from VOMP yet.

And it was every two years that we’ve had to do impact statements for a parole hearing and it’s been moved now to five years so the next one will be 2020 of
Hearing – Public
Roxana Wilson, Samantha Pelkey & Jacquita White
(Adriane Wadhams)

March, sometime in March. And I feel why should we have to do that? I don’t feel that it’s right. I feel a life for a life.

In order for me to move on, I know I have to forgive. As hard as it may seem to others, they don’t understand, or they won’t understand how I feel but I need to continue moving on now and also allow Adriane to move on in her journey and not hold her like that anymore.

MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Can you guys share about the lateral violence the three of you and your son and brother experienced in the community?

MS. ROXANA WILSON: It’s like Jacquita was saying; we just felt really alone and we all said the same thing, we felt really, really alone. And friends that I thought were closest to me were the ones that chewed me up and spit me out like I was a piece of crap. And when I was down, they kicked me when I was down. And it would be right from the ones that were speaking ill of me, of malice, and just being gossipy and very toxic. They were the ones -- the ones that they spoke to came right to me and they said, “I thought you were close with” so-and-so or so-and-so. And I said, “Yeah, she’s like a sister to me.” Or, “She’s a really good friend,” or, “He’s a really good friend.” And they’d say, “Well, this is what they said about you.” And although we lived with a lot of blame
within ourselves and it was really hard to hear because all
I had for these certain people was the highest respect for
them and I thought they had my back but they didn't. I
thought that they were there to support me. In the public
eye, they made like we were really close, like a front to
everybody and yet behind -- behind my back they were
throwing daggers.

And it was really hard and painful. I
couldn’t believe that some of the things that were being
said. I love -- I still love them and I’ve forgiven them
but I set my boundaries, too, and I know now that it’s not
my stuff because I’m continuing to move forward in my life.
And being a part of MMIWG -- 2015 I went to a provincial
gathering and that was the most amazing thing that has ever
happened to me because of all the support. There was no
judgment and they just showed and just love on you and it’s
real and it’s genuine. And also to have them phone me and
do a check or private message me, and I know and hearing
other people’s stories when I went and hearing where they
came from, you know, leading a hard life like my story, and
given another chance in life and re-educating themselves
and going to a program like addictions program for drugs or
alcohol, and they walked tall. They spoke confident and
they walked with confidence and I said, “That was me
before. That’s who I was and I’m going to be that person
again.” And I’m working -- I’ve worked really hard to get where I’m at today, and I won’t allow people to do that to me anymore. And even till this day people are still doing that. They make my life -- things that happened 20 years ago, they make it like it happened yesterday. And people just feed off of it.

And I feel it. You don’t have to say anything. They don’t have to say anything, you know? It’s their body language, their tone, or how they look at me, you know? And I’m really -- I feel really honoured to have the support that I do have through MMIWG and my support, my friend, Christine Hunt and Tina Henderson, and there's many like that have always stood by me and never pushed me away because of my actions or my addictions.

And I remember just letting that live in my head and live in me of how I was treated with the lateral violence where I would recluse myself. It was really hard. I didn’t know who to say hi to or if they were going to say hi back.

MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY: I just remember being really -- I guess still alone. And, for me, a lot of the lateral violence didn’t happen -- like, I didn’t know of it until I was older and understood about what gossip is about. Being a child I wanted to do things like play and, you know, hang out with friends, and I know that -- I know
that my brother Jeremy, who isn’t here today, is somebody
that really experienced it a lot from people because he was
the only boy. There was four of us, myself, Jacquita,
Adriane, and Jeremy that were at the park, and he carried
guilt because he believed that it was fault because people
had questioned him as a young boy when my late sister,
Adriane, was found, they found out that he was -- he just
carried a lot of guilt. So he was angry for a lot of
years. He believes that it’s his fault. Even today he’s
not in a right place. He’s struggled with anger, alcohol,
addiction, and that’s as much as I know.

He lives in the same town as Jacquita and my
mother. I left. I ran away because I just didn’t want to
stay in a place that reminded me of all of the darkness and
emptiness. So I always ran away and I left, like, family
behind, friends, and I lost my relationship with my mother.
I lost my relationship with my sister. For years and years
we never had a relationship. I left and didn’t turn back.
I didn't communicate with anyone. I left my ties with my
friends.

There’s maybe a couple of people that came
back into my life because I moved to Vancouver in 2009 and
I was still running because I left a relationship with my
kids’ dad. And so I just -- it was always one thing after
the other. And that’s my story of, I guess, lateral
violence. I didn’t stick around too long to experience it because I just wanted out of that life. I wanted out of that dark cloud, the shadow.

And it was probably in 2015 that I was able to reconnect with my mother. She asked myself and my twins, my twin son, Isia, and my twin daughter, Latisha, to go with her to Prince George and that’s where I actually felt like there was support. Like I was -- there were a lot of people that had the same story, a lot of people that understood me. There's -- you know, understand us. And I think that’s the first time we actually came to a place where we just saw each other for the first time and not the tragedy, because none of us could look at each other. I couldn’t really look at my Mum or my sister or my brother because we were in it together. And this healing journey, it feels like this darkness is coming to an end. There's -- we’re in a place of celebrating her life and not grieving the loss of her. And the gathering in Prince George it really did help because we were able to understand what was going on with us all of those years because of the workshops and all of the crafts that we did together. Like, it really brought understanding.

And even right now, like when we were talking to the lawyer, I looked at my mother and my sister and I’ve heard their stories over the years but I didn’t
really fully understand. But to hear them talk today
really helped me to feel like this hard shell that I was
covering my heart for protection was just opened and it was
like flush, I could feel, and I could look at them and I
could see the love and the healing.

As we sit here and tell our stories, I’m
able to see that there's continuous growth and healing.
This is something that took our lives. We didn’t live.
When she was taken from us, our life was taken.

We weren’t children. We couldn’t grow up as
children; we couldn’t play like we wanted to because my Mum
was so paranoid. And I didn’t understand why I had to just
stay inside all the time, and I didn't understand why I
couldn’t play on the porch anymore or go to school, even.

And just being able to talk about our
journeys, it really brings warmth. Like, it feels like the
sun, the way the sun beams on your skin and it’s just warm.
And that's just how I feel.

**MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** You know, growing up
with my brother and my sister and my Mum, while -- you
know, I left at a young age too. I didn't leave Port Hardy
but I left my Mum’s; I got into a serious relationship at
the age of 16.

But, you know, it still happens today
because, you know, I have my moments and I cry because I’m
so broken about my sister -- our sister. And, you know,
before when I was younger I did it in an unhealthy way. I
drank so I wouldn’t have to feel but not knowing that when,
you know, I would black out or whatever that I did, I
reacted. On anniversary dates nobody could tell me
nothing. I was really angry.

You know, like -- and then to hear from
people, “Oh, get over it,” you know? “It happened in 1989
[sic], why are you still crying over it?” You know, it
hits; it hits hard. And the hardest part is that people
don’t understand. No matter how much I tell my story to
certain people, they’ll never fully grasp the pain that we
truly feel, or felt because it’s -- you know, at times I do
still feel empty but, you know, we are -- I am moving
forward now and I do want to celebrate my sister and let go
of that excruciating pain.

I do want to celebrate her and I do want to
hold on to those beautiful memories that I have -- had with
her, and listen to the awesome stories that my Mum has or
my sister or my brother has because not any one of our
stories are the same.

And it took a lot through -- I had excuses
not to come. It was hard. It was really hard for me to
make this decision to come but I’m here and we’re doing
this together. And, you know, stuff like this, we’ve never
been able to do anything like this. You know, to be
together for more than three days, you know, we all just
wanted to live our own lives. And I think my feeling is
that with us being together for too long it’ll start
bringing things up. And I was one for building walls.

You know, my brother -- sorry; I went off
track. But my brother he is -- he’s trying. He tells us
that, you know, he’s gotten over it but when he, you know,
hits that point of alcoholism, it all comes out. And he
got it pretty bad hearing from neighbours and from cops and
whatnot that, you know, “You’re supposed to be the man of
the house. Why didn’t you protect her?”

We carried that guilt because, you know, I
heard that, even at my age. How was I supposed to save my
sister? Often I did wish that it was me instead of her.

**MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Can you guys share about
the different ways you’ve celebrated Adriane?

**MS. ROXANA WILSON:** I had this best friend,
but she passed away from cancer at a very young age. And
she was elected Chief at the time in Fort Rupert, and her
name is Marion Rhodes. And she approached me, she came to
my home and she said, “Roxy” she goes, “What do you say
that we build a memorial park on our Reserve?” It’s called
the Adriane Wadhams Memorial Park, and that was to honour
her. And because there was no -- like, the park that was
closest was the school, I think it’s like a 10-, 15-minute walk from the Reserve and they wanted to keep the kids within the community to keep them safe.

So she wanted to raise money on top of the grant that she had gotten, and sent letters out to all the businesses to top up the grant. So we walked -- our very first walk was from the Fort Rupert Reserve to Port Hardy and it was an eight miles’ walk. And so we did this annually every June 3rd, because that’s when she was murdered, so -- and Samantha was pregnant with Aramis, her third child, and she was huge and she was determined to do it. We were all worried about her. My Dad was worried about her; my Mum was worried about her. And he drove alongside her and -- in case, you know, she needed to get into the van and got tired or whatever, or deliver the baby on the highway. But she made it. She walked the eight miles pregnant. I believe she was, like, eight months. Was it eight months? Oh, okay.

I’ve had other -- in the past, just recently people asked me if we can do it again annually because the park needs to be upgraded and they want more new equipment in there. So I thought I’d let you know that as well. And we maybe we can get some help with that.

But on the anniversaries of her death or her birthday, now with my Mum -- my Dad passed away in 2013,
It’ll be April 8th that he’s been gone. But they’d always made sure to come over on the anniversaries of her birthday or the anniversary of her death, and we’d be together with all my kids and my grandkids and we’d do a balloon release, you know, and then go and visit her grave, put flowers on her grave and stuff, and sing songs and stuff.

And then we’d go to my place and have a nice big dinner. And we all sit around and just share stories about her and our experiences with her because she was so funny. She had quite the sense of humour. And we’d laugh around and, you know, just reminisce about Agy-Bear.

MS. JACQUITA WHITE: I think you said it all.

But personally, myself if I’m alone and I miss her I will blare Guns N’ Roses and I’ll sing at the top of my lungs or I will -- she loved ketchup. I’ll, like, just have an overdose of ketchup on my food or something. Do we do burnings too? Like, we’ll burn her favourite foods, or write letters. Yeah, that’s -- that’s what we do.

MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY: Well, I live here in Vancouver so I’m always -- I guess I’m not -- I’m disconnected a little bit from my Mom and my sister and my brother. But I do -- whenever I miss her or whenever there’s something -- something will remind me of her, I’ll
sit and talk about her to my children, my twins. My
youngest daughter reminds me of her a lot and Jacquita’s
youngest daughter, their personalities are similar to her
so we -- I just really acknowledge that in them. And then
I’ll share that as well with my kids. So I guess I do a
lot of sharing and talking and sometimes they’ll ask me
questions because, you know, their auntie -- their late
auntie, they were never able to meet. And I think that’s
when I first realized how much, like -- I feel like that
was a lot taken from us because of -- you know, we don’t
have nieces and nephews from her but we do share, you know,
memories. I share with them stories about all of us.

**MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Can one of you share a
little bit about the song that will be played at the end of
the hearing today?

**MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY:** There was a song
composed -- we had a meeting with one of -- a cultural
leader from back home, and we just talked about her
personality. And he took notes and went back to his -- you
know, he went and composed a song and came to sit with my
Mom and my sister and my grandmother, and she speaks
fluently in our language so there’s a song that was
composed called “Remember”. And the first verse talks
about always remember to sing for our hamumu, and hamumu
means butterfly. Butterfly is our family crest, the
And the second verse says “Always remember to sing for our hamumu.” And the third verse is, “Always remember to spread love for our hamumu.” And the fourth verse is, “Always remember to love and spread affection for our hamumu.”

**MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Do you guys have any recommendations for the Commission?

**MS. ROXANA WILSON:** In the near future, we’re going to have a celebration of life. We want to get a headstone and put it -- do a laying of a headstone and have a community dinner and then invite both sides of the family, and the community. And we want to celebrate her now. And it was really hard before. Like I said, even before, like, dealing with the parole -- you know, the parole hearing and the upcoming dates and stuff like that.

At one point, the mother was going around -- his mother, Jason Kennedy’s mother was going around saying that he was out of jail. And this one lady had said it right in front of my Mum. We were out having lunch and we just got up. We couldn’t even eat. We ordered our food but we couldn’t eat. We just got up and we left. And the look -- I can never forget the look on my mother’s face. Like, she just went right inside herself.

So I phoned Victim Services in Port Hardy and I told -- I inquired about it and asked if it was true
because I know, first off, that we would be contacted, you know, if he was released. And she called me back after speaking with the police and Parole Board and they said, no, he was still incarcerated. But the police went to see the mother and warned her, you know, not to spread lies like that around.

So we just want to share our stories so that it would give other people courage and strength to share their story. And to have our small, remote communities begin to understand that we are human and we do make mistakes and when we do grieve, we just want that support and that unconditional love. And I speak, you know, not only for myself but for those that are enduring such a loss and enduring such pain. We just ask that the communities, even family members, would begin to understand that this lateral violence, you know, it needs to stop.

Because it’s one of the hardest things to deal with in small, remote areas is for someone to spread such toxic behaviour. It’s venomous, and it’s poisonous, and it can make you sick, and it made me sick. I’ve been diagnosed -- I’ve been diagnosed with fibromyalgia and other health issues because I just became very, very sick. And I don’t work because of it. It was doctor’s orders.

And when I was diagnosed in 2014, Jacquita was living with me at the time with her eldest daughter.
She was just a baby at the time, Adriana, and I’d be screaming because I didn’t know what was going on with me. I just knew my body was in so much pain where I couldn’t get out of bed. And she’d run in to my room and she would literally have to yank me out of bed because the pain was so great I couldn’t get out of bed.

And when we allow other people to live in our heads like that, it’s -- it does so much damage and I really believe that bringing, you know, resource teams to our remote areas through Victim Services and MMIWG would help others to understand and raise awareness. And this is why I’m here, also, to speak.

We’ve had our third annual walk now that I rallied up in Port Hardy and a few families have come forward and shared their story. I did not even know that they lost a daughter or a sister. And each year it’s growing. And they are very grateful and thankful for that.

But where does it go after that? We need resource teams to come in and help us in that area. And show them that it’s okay. No matter which way you deliver your story, even if we’re still angry, even if we’re still hurt or bitter, it’s okay. And to know that I’m okay and that they’re going to be okay to share their story. And it’ll only make -- it only makes me stronger, and I have gotten stronger since 2015, since going to the provincial
gathering. And I went to the Manitoba Round Table as well, and I went to the Advisory meeting, and the Woman in Power -- Indigenous Women in Toronto. And I felt like I could float, you know. And I came to the Advisory meeting here in Vancouver and it just like (indiscernible) -- is that the name of it, (indiscernible), yeah? And it has given me so much strength.

And that’s where I’m gearing towards. I’m re-educating myself. I’m going back to school and getting my Grade 12 so that I can go -- I want to become a counsellor for women against violence and be an advocate as well.

**MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY:** I know that one thing that I realized going to Prince George with my Mom in 2015, that really helped, like, to take -- like, we had a lot of family that we saw there and there was, like, a whole tableful of us and just even coming out of the community and being together, like, because I’m not living with them but I know that when we were together and doing workshops or, you know, crafts and whatever they offered there, we were able to do it together even though we live in different cities and towns.

Like, that seemed like -- for me, that helped. Like, I feel like that had a lot to do with our healing journey and like it helped us understand each
other. It also brought awareness because it’s something that we all went through together. It was something tragic and it’s something we suffered together. And with us healing together, that was one thing that really helped us to talk about our own stories because it is true we do have -- even though we went through the same thing, we have our own individual stories and for us to be able to understand each other -- because for a lot of years we protected ourselves from each other, even though we didn’t need to protect ourselves from each other, we just -- that’s just something you do when you go through something like that. And, yeah, I think that brought a lot of healing.

I don’t even know if I’m making sense but I’m just making a point of how that brought us -- that was a major step for our healing journey, and this is just the beginning of our healing journey together. So I thought I would share that.

**MS. JACQUITA WHITE:** I found that after going to treatment and trying to seek counselling and stuff like that, where do you go afterwards? Being in a small community the hardest part is having a counsellor that sticks. We’re constantly -- it’s constantly changing. You know, you just get comfortable with somebody and you tell your story only to be found out that they’re leaving and then you have to re -- start all over with somebody else.
That’s kind of a really big turnoff for a lot of -- speaking for myself, that was a huge turnoff for me and a lot of the reason why I haven’t really gone to seek anymore.

We need people there all the time. We -- this is, like -- this is huge for us to be here to do this together and stuff like this is...

I’m kind of lost in my head right now. Like, my words are there but they’re fumbling.

Yeah, I didn’t go with my Mum and my sister to Prince George. I had that opportunity but I didn’t. And I’m really glad that I’m here. Yeah.

MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Commissioner Audette, before we hear the song that they described earlier, do you have any questions or comments?

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci beaucoup, Maitre Thomas.

I had some question about what do we do about the lateral violence. How can we hear everywhere we go across Canada, families saying, “People don’t come to us after we lost our mum or daughter or something tragic happened to our loved one.” I hear that all the time. And what do we say to the community, as a family member? What do we need and what do we say? Because I hear this everywhere. What would you say for your community?
MS. ROXANA WILSON: Basically what I said earlier is to bring awareness, more awareness. And there’s lack of funding, that’s what I hear from First Nations Health all the time within our areas. And to bring up a facilitator to do the lateral violence workshop and other things; that’s what we need is more facilitators to do workshops.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci. Same thing about the -- we -- in remote places or communities where fly-in/fly-out, the support it’s always to start it all over again. So I understand it’s the same in your region? It’s very important that -- how do we say -- sustainable, that they stay there. So like for you to be a counsellor, you would stay all the time in your community.

And believe me, what I witness here, you would be an amazing counsellor. Whoa. You don’t see people reacting in the back, I do. They agree. It’s beautiful.

Well, I know now from Quebec I’ll be able to send you love by messenger.

And you made us go through the anger, injustice, forgiveness, all kind of emotion, and I don’t know where you get that strength. And to have your daughters with you, we witness something very, very beautiful. I don’t know how many times the three of you
are talking like this but I was able to witness that
forgiveness, learning and stay together. It was beautiful.

MS. ROXANA WILSON: Is this on?

This is the first time that we’ve spoke and
I know just by listening to them that they’ve been doing
the work. And I know I’ve been doing the work on myself
because I want to be a better person and I want to be able
to give that strength and share that strength because those
are gifts that were handed down from our ancestors and
maya’xala in our language it’s the highest honour of
respect and we were taught that and we don’t have that
anymore in today’s day and age, where we were able to sit
down and have our grandparents dlı̨xs’ala. And dlı̨xs’ala us
means to teach us at a young age where we’re raised up with
that to love, honour and respect, and just listen, you
know, without having to answer back or having the last word
or to be an argumentive way. And I miss that.

And I remember we used to have -- when
Adriana was with us we’d have kind of like a circle, just
like a check-in to see how we were doing. And just
realizing that now we stopped and -- but today to be here
with my daughters, it’s just remarkable. I see the
strength in them and the power in them. And that gives me
strength and it gives me hope because we give that to our
-- my grandchildren, you know?
And I just want to share a little bit about this -- this was gifted to me today from a friend of mine in Bella Coola. And she painted it. She messaged me and she said that, “Roxy, I want to do a banner for you.” She calls me Mama Bear. And her name is Patrika McEvoy. And she came right to the hotel to give this to me. She said, “I’ve never painted before. I draw but I’ve never painted before but I went to some of the big artists there and I said, ‘I need help. I’ve never painted before.’ And they said, ‘Oh, you can do it.’ And they just told her how to do it and she did it. Yeah. And that’s her -- like I said, her nickname, Agy-Bear, and maya’xala is respect. And Robert will -- my brother will, you know, elaborate more on what maya’xala is in our language.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Spiritual brother or brother brother?

MS. ROXANA WILSON: Well, yeah.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: I see.

MS. ROXANA WILSON: Culturally we’re not cousins, yeah, we’re brother and sister. Yeah. So that’s their uncle.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Bob’s your uncle.

(LAUGHTER)

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Wow.

MS. ROXANA WILSON: Yeah. But I’m just -- I
just want to let the girls know how proud I am of them, you know. They’ve come a long ways and they’ve made a difference, you know, in their lives for themselves and to be a better parent than what they had. I did the best that I could but I’m still here and I’m still their mother and I love them with all my heart.

And I just want to honour my son. I really am hurting for him but once he sees the strength in all of us, I know he’ll come around, but in his own time and we’ll be there for him always.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Beautiful daughter. I know you said a couple of times we say in French your name, Jacquita -- oh, my words. Something like you were mixed up or losing your thoughts? You were amazing. The two of you, wisdom.

I have twins, girls, I wish they had the same wisdom but they’re tough cookie right now. They’re so cute. Well, because of Facetime I’m able to stay connected with them. You witnessed that. So I’m sure you can have that circle with Skype or whatever, video, once every week. You should. It works. It’s not perfect but it does work. So merci.

I think we have something, a song?

MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Your son?
MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY: My son.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Wow.

MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY: He’s my ---

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Oh, the twin.

MS. SAMANTHA PELKEY: Yeah, my twin son.

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay.

(SHORT PAUSE)

MR. ROBERT WILLIAMS: (Speaking in Kwak’wala)

(DRUMMING)

(SONG)

MR. ROBERT WILLIAMS: (Speaking in Kwak’wala)

I just want to say thank you for listening to our family. It is very important for you to hear their words.

It is such an honour to hear my nephew sing. He is our up and coming singer for our family. He is a strong leader and he takes care of his Mum, his sisters, his brother. He teaches me. And it’s my pride and privilege to let you know that my family here holds the highest respect in our big house, the highest respect from our first ancestor, Numasakoles (phonetic). And when the butterfly came from the sun and it circled the sun, Numas (phonetic) was able to reach up and he felt that
sacredness. He could feel that holiness and that respect and that way of living and that way of being. And my family here today remembers who they are, remembers where they come from. (Speaking in Kwak’wala)

Who do I give the mic to?

(LAUGHTER)

(SHORT PAUSE)

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Roxana, would you accept a gift from us, from the National Inquiry? You too, Samantha and Jacquita; would you accept a gift from us? It’s a small, beautiful gift but very, very symbolic for many of us. And it started here in the Haida Gwaii territory where the women, I’ll say -- sorry; my brain is burned. But my heart is still there. And they harvest eagle feathers and gave it to the families the first hearing we had. And then it became a tradition.

We had some young men who took their feathers from their regalia, or in Montreal from a traditional hat, or in Thompson a few weeks ago a man went to -- near the river because we didn’t have any more. But now we’re having again eagle feathers. So we would like to give you this. Merci. I choose the most beautiful grandmother to do it.

(LAUGHTER)

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: They’re all cute.
MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Commissioner Audette,
can we adjourn the session?

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: No.

(LAUGHTER)

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Of course.

MS. SHELBY THOMAS: We’ll adjourn till
tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.

--- Exhibits (code: P01P15P0108)

Exhibit 1: Folder containing 29 digital images displayed
during the public testimony of Roxana Wilson,
Jacquita White, and Samantha Pelkey.

Exhibit 2: Reasons for Sentence in the matter of HMTQ v.
Jason James Kennedy, released May 29, 1992
Court file No. 61144 Victoria Registry/No. 0324 Campbell River Registry. Citation: 1992
CanLII 1974 (BCSC).

--- Upon adjourning at 16:42
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST’S CERTIFICATE

I, Patricia Cantle, 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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Patricia Cantle

April 17, 2018