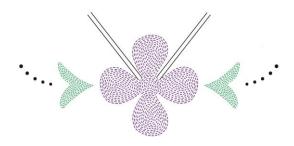
# National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls



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

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Public Hearings
Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel
Minoru Room C
Metro Vancouver, British Columbia



**PUBLIC** 

Saturday April 7, 2018

Public Volume 110

Marge Humchitt, In relation to Cheryl Roberta Humchitt

Heard by Commissioner Michèle Audette Commission Counsel: Shelby Thomas

### INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.

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

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#### **APPEARANCES**

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

## III

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Witness: Marge Humchitt
In relation to Cheryl Roberta Humchitt
Commissioner: Michèle Audette
Commission Counsel: Shelby Thomas
Clerk: Christian Rock
Registrar: Bryan Zandberg PAG
Testimony of Marge Humchitt

Public Volume 110

IV

## LIST OF EXHIBITS

NO. DESCRIPTION PAGE

No exhibits marked.

1	Metro Vancouver, British Columbia
2	Upon commencing on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 2:31 p.m.
3	MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Mr. Registrar, Marge
4	would like to affirm on an eagle feather.
5	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: I'll put those there,
6	the pictures.
7	MARGE HUMCHITT, Affirmed:
8	MR. CHRISTIAN ROCK: Thank you.
9	MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Do you want to hold onto
10	it?
11	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: No. I'm good. Thank
12	you. Thank you.
13	MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Marge, could you just
14	start by introducing yourself to the Commissioner?
15	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Hi. My name is Marge
16	Humchitt. I'm from the Heiltsuk Nation and Ka:'yu:'k't'h'
17	Nation. The Heiltsuk Nation is on my dad's side. Yeah.
18	Ka:'yu:'k't'h' Nation is on my mom's side. My two clans
19	are raven on my mom's side and the bear on my dad's side.
20	MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Marge, could you tell us
21	a little bit about your sister, and who she was?
22	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: My sissy, our sissy
23	I won't say my, our our sissy Cheryl was a beautiful
24	woman. She was, you know, no arguments, you know, no fuss.
25	She was just like all-natural beauty with make-up or

1	without make-up, and this was said by my brother Randy
2	(phonetic). He had us celebrated the the birthday
3	with her weeks before she passed. And he got to say that
4	how beautiful she looked. And he had this really side
5	when she was sitting in the living room of her apartment,
6	and he said she sits there and no make-up, and hair wasn't
7	done, and he just said, he just seen the most beautiful
8	sister he could ever see.

She was very -- she celebrated the -- a lot of things. A lot of birthdays. She was -- Christmas gifts, like, she never forgot a birthday. And if it took some time to share a birthday, and -- and sometimes it just wasn't on your birthday, it was before or after. And she always -- always took that, you know, took that time.

She was born October 15th, 1960, to my mom,
Velva Irene Starr (phonetic) and my father is Thomas Medric
Humchitt (phonetic). They are all on the spirit world with
her right now. She was also on the other side with her -her son, Carl Von Junior (phonetic), and my Great Grannie
Maggie (phonetic), my great-gran -- and my Great
Grandfather Moses (phonetic), my aunties, my uncles, my
brother Jimmy (phonetic). And today marks the day for
my -- my nephew. He was lost at sea on this day. His name
is Ernest (phonetic). He was 7 years-old.

MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Marge, could you tell us

what happened to your sister in whatever details you feel
comfortable?

MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Well, I'd (phonetic) kind of like to go back to that day, that's November 30th. And, you know, we were always expecting my -- my brother Page (phonetic) in from San Francisco. He was coming up for a visit. And so I was expecting him, and I'd known that -- or heard that my sister Cheryl was out shopping for a vehicle. And, you know, that's just something that I'd heard. And we'd normally have a conversation, if not every day, like every second to third day via phone. So I was expecting -- I don't know if I wasn't there, or was expecting her phone call, but I got her phone call that night of November 30th. 

It was about, maybe before ten. So she's phoning, and she's asking for Page. "Is he here?" You know, "Are you guys getting ready to go -- to go out?" We were. We were going to go clubbing that night, and so she tells us -- me to put him on the phone. So they talk and I hear some giggling and, you know. She's -- she's just giggling and -- and stuff. And I hear him asking her and -- she want to come and join us? You know, "Would you come with us?" She was -- she didn't -- she didn't come with us. She was tired or something. She was -- says, "I'll rain-check," right? So that was the last I heard

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from her, her voice. Somehow -- well, she -- we made -
she made a -- a circle call. She called various family

members to say that she got her vehicle.

And so me and my brother head out and about and go clubbing. The next -- the next day, which is December 1st, I'm, you know, waking up. And my brother Page isn't around. Oh my God, and it was -- he's out. And I just kind of, you know, stayed home and I was, you know, going -- going about my, you know, just being home. And it was like about, no it wasn't like about -- it was 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and my sister Donda (phonetic) calls me and asks how our -- mine and Page's night went. And it was -- we were watching, you know, this is something that we do as well, me, and Cheryl, and Donda, and you know, Val (phonetic) and just us -- the whole bunch of us. Sometimes we'd watch these shows and we'd just make a phone call and we just, you know, sharing the show that was on T.V. And we saw Phil Donahue was on T.V. And me and Donda were talking and, you know, chuckling around. And, you know, we talked for quite awhile and then, you know, she's asking about Page. And I'm like, "Oh, he's -- I don't know where he is. He's, you know, out and about." And all that kind of stuff.

And so then, on the show -- on the T.V. show that we're watching, a unusual thing comes onto the T.V.

And it's saying two bodies found, and it -- it is saying the area 1st and Clark -- or 1st and Commercial. And I'm still on the phone with Donda, and I'm just like, "Holy cow, like -- like, holy shit. You know, this -- this --it's -- it's getting close to us." Then we, kind of like, "Yeah, right?" And then, that -- we end up talking a bit more and I remember, kind of, we're hanging up and we're saying our good-bye's. 

And I don't know how -- a few minutes later Donda's phoning me and she's really frantic. She's like, "Marge, Marge, you got to -- you got to go. You got to go see Cheryl." And I'm like, "What?" Like, she goes, "You got to go. Something happened." And I'm like -- I don't -- hung up really quick. Jumped into my black and pink runners, didn't even put a jacket on. I lived at Charles and -- in the area of Charles and Commercial. My sister lived at 1st and Clark. And I just went running there. It was just -- it was a few blocks.

And I went running there and I come down the alley, and I'm seeing a bunch of people standing around. I went up to the building, and everyone's like, you know -- well, you guys are all here or -- and there was a -- a parking lot. I just went right through the parking lot. And it was taped. And then, I'm just like -- I try to run right in -- into the building. And I got stopped.

Just -- some guy just, like, pretty much clotheslined me. And he asked where I was going. And I --looking at him and he was wearing like this, like, jumpsuit type outfit. And I'm just, like, looking at him and -- and just, kind of, sort of, you know, like looking around. And I started pushing. I was trying to push my way past him, telling him I wanted to see my sister. This -- and like, I'm going in -- in there, in that such door. And he was telling me, I could -- I can't. And then, I started, kind of, like -- like looking around and just going, like, "What the -- what the fuck's going on here?" 

And then, they called this other people,

Victim Services, they were in plain clothes and everything.

And they come up and they -- coming and I'm like, you know,
they took me into the building, but not through the door
that I was trying to get through. We went into the front
entrance and we went into a vacant apartment up one floor
or, I can't remember, one floor or two floors in my
sister's building. And it's like, "What the heck's going
on here?" You know, like, this is like really weird. I'm
just -- you know, come on, like it's -- things were really
speedy. It was really, like, really speedy. He -- the
officer detective guy comes -- comes into the -- where I
was, and he asks me where I'm going, where I was trying to
get to. And I tell him -- asked me what apartment I'm

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1	trying to get to. And I tell him, "Apartment 100." And he
2	asks who's there who lives there? And I tell him, "My
3	sister Cheryl, and my brother Trang."
4	And oh, I was it wasn't scared. I
5	needed to get to them. Why can't I go to them? He asks me
6	then, that his what what a brief a description of
7	my sister. And so I tell him, "She's got nice big hair."
8	Tell him her height, something like that. Just I don't
9	know what a brief description would look like, or how you
10	tell the person what a brief description would be. And
11	then he then asked me a a description for Trang. So I
12	tell him that too. "I'd say he's like really stalky, kind
13	of, you know, got a good head of hair. And just they're
14	both healthy. Just they're both very healthy." I don't
15	know what else to to say to him.
16	And then, he tells me, "Sorry to tell you
17	this, but by your description, we have two bodies down in
18	the apartment that you're trying to get to." I'm like,
19	"No, you don't. No. I think you got it wrong. No,
20	they're not in room they're not in apartment 100." I
21	started like, just his I was like did really just
22	wanted to get to them. "What are you talking about, there
23	are two bodies? It's not their bodies." It's just like
24	like fuck off.

Oh, boy. At this time my Auntie Gertie

1	comes to the building, and she was taken up to the same
2	apartment. And and I seen her, and I guess she already
3	knew too. I just crumbled. Okay. I don't know. I just
4	crumbled into the floor. And oh, God. So they started
5	just a brief, kind of, a couple of questions. I've I
6	couldn't really remember. But they're asking if me and my
7	auntie would be able to go down to the police station.
8	It's I'm not sure about this, but no, I don't think
9	it would have been to identify. But it was just to go down
10	to the police station to talk more about what happened.
11	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just want to remind
12	you, you're going (indiscernible).
13	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: (Indiscernible). You
14	know, when you hear something that you just don't want to
15	believe, and just, you know, it just always just went into
16	my mind, just right from the get-go. It's just like, "You
17	got the wrong apartment. It's not them." Just I was
18	just thinking they were hurt. They're hurt. They're hurt.
19	They're they're not they're not they're not dead.
20	That was the scariest moment of my life. Oh, the scariest.
21	Oh, boy. It's just they're dead. I don't know how.
22	MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Marge, can you tell us
23	why you ended up in the Vancouver Downtown Eastside?
24	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Boy. Thirty-seven
25	years I've been here in in Vancouver. I was outed from

1	my community because I was a lesbian. I'd there was no
2	room or there to but it was suggested by various
3	family members for me to take a vacation. So I was working
4	in the cannery at the time. And I was saved up a couple
5	of checks. And I got on the the ferry boat to
6	Vancouver. And it really hurt because at the way I was
7	treated. I had no I lost friends really quick. And
8	there was, of course, rumours and gossip, and stuff like
9	that. And so I left.
10	And I came into I came into the biggest
11	party of my life. Came into the gay the gay and
12	lesbian and all that time seeing right away, just a
13	really big party. And actually, I need to share a story
14	about Cheryl, about this.
15	I knew Cheryl was in town was in the
16	city. And well, I didn't know where she was. I heard
17	something like at a and I was out and about on Davie
18	Street. And I was in this in this club called Numbers.
19	And I was standing at the bar, and to my left is Cheryl.
20	She's not gay. She was with a group of people that were
21	also from Heiltsuk, from Bella Bella, and they were out
22	clubbing. It was so funny, you know, standing at the bar
23	and she's standing there. And she was just just like
24	scream whatever. And just going like, "What the heck?
25	What are you doing here?" Which I found Cheryl. She

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was -- she wasn't out looking for me. She just was
travelling with some people. And vision was not bothered
because I don't like the paper in there.

Yes, the first time I seen her was in the club called Numbers. She already was in the city. And I knew this. Well, you know, she was in the city. She came down about a year or so before, I think. And, yeah. left behind -- in Bella Bella, she left behind -- when she left, her and Andy Pearce Junior (phonetic) had a -- a daughter. And her name is Andrea Monica Pearce (phonetic). So they left to Vancouver, Andy and Cheryl. They came to Vancouver. I don't really know how long they were in Vancouver, but she was at our house, meaning me, and my dad, and my sister, and my brother were living in this, kind of, like this sub-level -- I think it was a twobedroom house. And, she was with us -- she was still a -she was still in the crib. And I'd be going to school and then at lunch time we'd be, like, almost like racing home to check -- who could check on Andrea first. Any who's, she then went to, I think, it was my Aunt Gertie for awhile. And Cheryl was -- and Andy came back and Cheryl didn't come back from Vancouver. We didn't, you know, we didn't think anything of it. We're just like, well, she's on holiday, or something.

That's how she became to -- how she came to

Vancouver. That's how we met, (indiscernible), in the City 1 of Vancouver, of how many thousand, I don't know, but, 2 3 yeah. I always share that story. 4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm going to start -start (Indiscernible) talk about -- yeah. (Indiscernible). 5 6 Are you comfortable with that? MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: I'd like to share a 7 little bit of (indiscernible) her grandchildren. 8 9 always wanted to (indiscernible). I did mention that Andrea and -- I spoke to her -- I speak -- I've been 10 speaking to her off and on for this past -- awhile now. 11 12 It's via Facebook, via messaging -- just via face chat. She lives in Toronto. She has two children, two daughters 13 herself. History is that Andrea just came back this way --14 15 just this past summer. She went home. She came home, Bella Bella. She brought -- she brought her one daughter 16 17 for a -- a vacation. So she came back home. We want her home again. Yeah. 18 You know, I was thinking, well, we kind of 19 talk about -- Andrea and I, we kind of talk about not only 20 21 Andrea and I, but my siblings as well, you know, we have these conversations about Cheryl. You know, wondering what 22 she'd be doing, what she'd look like this -- to this day. 23 24 When I see Andrea's face on Facebook, I'm telling you, I 25 just pause. She looks almost like her mom, really looks

like her mom. Just, wow. Just, wow, you know. And I tell 1 2 her this all the time. We all tell her this, you know. We're pretty -- a closed family unit. All of us, me and my 3 4 siblings. Yeah. Our nephews, our nieces, our grandchildren. You know, we're -- we're really close, 5 6 especially when we -- when we share things, you know, we do it -- it's just really a place to share, you know. Life is 7 life. I talked to Andrea this morning, or this afternoon, 8 9 and she thanks me. She -- I wish -- I wish this didn't 10 happen. And I wish this man didn't do this to my sister. 11 12 I wish this man didn't do this to my brother. I'm going to tell you what he did. It was a drug debt. I guess they 13 were all friends, this man, Sheldon Caleb Williams 14 15 (phonetic) is also Heiltsuk. He's living in -- out in Richmond. He gets to give his version, but it's not the 16 17 truth. And I get to give you my version, which is the truth. 18 So my -- I did mention a drug debt, which 19 means that my brother and my sister were drug dealers. 20 And -- so I don't know if -- how known it was in the 21 22 family, but in the city it was known, you know. And it was -- they had -- we known -- well, we knew as drug users 23 24 and everything, we knew that Cheryl and Trang were use --25 selling drugs. It was Trang's -- it was Trang's set up.

It's was Trang's business. And so Sheldon and his commonlaw wife accumulated a -- an amount. And in there's a -it's called a score sheet, a book that's written. And his
name was on the book. The amount that was owing at the
time with -- 7,400, I think. And most likely he was able
to get this amount because he was -- from our community
there or whatever, and just -- so it went.

And -- and so apparently his -- his going that evening of November 30th, he's phoning them and telling them he's coming to make a payment. He's leaving the next day, which is up to Bella Bella. He's going -- we have the seasonal fishing, which was clam digging at the time. So he phones and tells them he's going to -- he's coming -- he's going to come and make a payment. So it's, you know, that's -- that's -- so they're expecting him. He's -- their hours -- my -- it's -- my sister and Trang's hours of business was shut down at 11 o'clock because they didn't want to disturb the building and the other tenants in the building. So shut down hour was at 11, no if's or but's. You can't phone them, you can't go knocking on the door.

Sheldon's shaying (phonetic) that he's -Sheldon's saying that he's going to go make a payment. So
they're up and they're waiting and waiting. I don't know
how long they waited for, but you know, it's past 11. Kind

1	of seems like they went to bed. He arrived. They're
2	answering the door because he's making his payment. They
3	have to answer the door. I don't know what business
4	concluded at the table, but it looked like there was
5	there was some money that was scattered on the table, under
6	the table or or something. Then the fight broke out. A
7	disagreement, I don't know. Maybe it's not enough of a
8	down payment, I don't know.

Knives were used. I mentioned how healthy and -- my sister and Trang were. They really lived a healthy lifestyle. You've -- Trang went to the gym at least two or three times a day, so he was pretty buff. He -- he terrorized them. My brother-in-law Trang got the worst of it. There was 36 stab wounds. There was a blood trail all over the house, all over their house. Blood splatter all over the house, pools of blood all over their house. Knife marks on the door frame of the bedroom. Trang was trying to get away. And he was god-damn really wounded.

My sister -- there's just a whole bunch of commotion going on. My sister end up jumping on, I think, it was Sheldon's back, punching, scratching. And somehow she got a knife wound on the right side of her eye. Trang is -- not sure about, kind of looked like Trang tried to crawl out of the apartment because he got his hair transfer

on the lower part of the door. I don't know if he dragged him back, finished him off. My sister Cheryl was in the bathroom tending to her wound. There was a paper towel -- towels that are in the bathroom. She was tending to her wound.

And there was neighbours that are hearing this up above their apartment. They thought it was just a loud T.V. And then, I don't know, I think Sheldon had a sugar (sic) -- a cigarette break because when my sister Cheryl was heard pleading for her life, "Don't kill me. Please, don't kill me," he killed her. He pulled her up on the wall, he strangled her. He left her right there, just like -- I never seen the pictures, but you have a pretty -- you have a pretty vivid picture as we weren't -- when we went to trial. It sounded like a minute. And the picture that -- she just -- he just let her go and she was -- she was dead.

She fought for her own life because there was two footprints on the wall. She was trying to kick herself out. I think Sheldon's like five nine, five ten, and my sister's like five seven, pretty small. So the timeframe -- frame where his first -- where Sheldon's supposed to have been there before 11, and he wasn't. Like, no sober person could go into somebody's house and do what he did. He told the courts that he wasn't on

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anything. I don't think no sober person could ever go into 1 somebody's house and do what he done. He was using. He 2 3 was off getting his drugs from somewhere -- some --4 somebody else's house. That's how we see it. MS. SHELBY THOMAS: You want to talk about 5 6 (indiscernible)? Marge, can you tell Commissioner Audette a little bit about your experience through the trial and 7 going through the court system? 8 9 MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yeah. Well, I did mention that it was all scary, you know. Just still didn't 10 11 believe it was true. It's not them. At -- in my own -- I 12 was using at the time and really -- I was thinking that they were being protected -- you guys are hiding them. 13 This -- you know, stuff like that. That was -- that was 14 15 before the -- the funeral and stuff, but it wasn't like that. Got to the funeral, it was them. 16 17 So Sheldon's in Bella Bella, fishing. And -- in the same month we had to get back to Bella Bella. 18 Go to Bella Bella because we had another loss in our 19 20 family, same month. So I went home to be with my family 21 member on this loss, and I stayed the extra -- I stayed for the month of January. And --22 23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A grave? Did you 24 bury?

MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: No -- I -- I stab --

got through -- the funeral was on December 31st, the third family member. And I end up going to a house and to -- to go to the New Year's. I didn't want to go. I went to the house to -- to party and then I'd seen -- I was sitting at the window -- sit -- window and I'd -- I'd seen these two figures walking down the street and walking towards the And it was -- it was Sheldon and his common-law wife. 

I'm going to tell you a bit about his common-law wife. She was supposed to be my sister's friend. She had me be in opportunity a window to phone and say, you -- you might have to leave here. There's -- something's going to happen. She didn't do that.

We got back to -- so there -- these two,
they're walking towards the house, and it's -- it's them
two. And I'm telling you my heart just was like -- started
like beating and beating. I don't know, it was just like I
had this big anxiety, you know. It's like, you know,
they're coming to the house. They come walking up the
stairs. Peek over the -- over the -- the little shelf of
the -- of the stairs. And then, he just -- he's a pretty
big man, right? And all of a sudden, he just made
himself -- he's like -- went -- and heard a whisper,
whisper, "Marge is here." And then, they all pop up and -him and her, they -- Sheldon and his common-law wife pop up

and -- just a hello. No eye contact what so ever. And I 1 knew. I just knew. I just said, "You fucking mother-2 3 fucker." Can't even look at me when he sat at the table. 4 He sat like this. And he just -- he couldn't sit any lower. I don't even know why he stayed, but he did. 5 6 And I drank, and I drank really fast. And I 7 was just, "Fuck, I need to get drunk. I need to get drunk." And I was telling my friend, you know, just, 8 9 "Watch out for me, don't let anybody come near me. Don't let anybody talk to me about anything because this is only 10 the first month that -- just weeks of my sister -- and now 11 12 my brother -- and my brother." And then, the next day I wake up and I'm 13 just like, holy shit. Just like, holy shit, it's him. I 14 15 knew it. Couldn't even look me in the eye. I go to my sister Jenny (phonetic), and I'm like, "Jenny. 16 17 Something's -- something's -- something happened." I started telling her when I -- what happened. So she -- we 18 tell each -- "We got to phone the Vancouver police. Got to 19 phone the detectives." And so we do, and goodness sakes 20 21 they tell us we got to keep an eye on them -- him. We're on an island. We're like, "You want us to what?" "Yeah. 22 23 Can you keep posts? Can you keep us posted on his moments?" "Well, okay." And then, so we did. 24 25 I ended up coming back to Vancouver because,

you know, I reside here. The month of January passed, and
Sheldon -- we kept track of him and then he comes back to
Vancouver. So we told the -- we, you know, we phoned the
detectives telling when his departure is, and when he's
going to be coming back to Vancouver. And -- and then, so
they're, "Okay. Thank you." And thanking us for keeping
an eye on him.

And they had a 24-hour surveillance on him, and then they arrested him. Or no, they -- they took him in to questioning. Took him into questioning February -- I think it was February 14th, 72 days. And then, I think it was, like, something like ten hours. I never held a vigil so long, some -- never held a vigil like I did for my sister. I was -- I was home. Home alone I had -- I had cousins and family that lived in Vancouver, but I just wanted to be home alone. And -- and they phone and they tell us that it's him, confessed. We got him.

The court process happened really quick. It was me and Donda that went to -- because it happened in Vancouver. That he was picked up in Richmond -- you send him to Vancouver. He was in jail and then we went down the Monday, or whatever day it was. I -- I can't really remember, but we went to the -- the appearance of -- his appearance. And we were just scared. It was just me and Donda. And -- and we walk into a setting like this. Not

1	like this, but you know what a courtroom looks like. And
2	there was a whole bunch of them sitting on this side, and
3	there was me and Donda on this side. And we were just
4	scared. It was it was mostly his side, and her side.
5	And then, the arraignment happened. He was charged. It
6	happened really quick, and then then we proceeded to
7	to go to trial.
8	The scary part was because we're not
9	talking about scary because we seemed like we were alone.
10	Until we bumped into the Victim Services because they
11	started looking around trying to figure out who's who. And
12	they you know, we had some kind of break or something, I
13	can't remember how it went, but then we all ended up
14	outside of the courtroom. And they came up and they asked
15	who we were. And we told them who we were, and they said,
16	"We're Victim Services." And, oh, my God, we were just
17	like so so relieved. We're just like we just just
18	like air-hugged them. Just like, oh, my God. It I just
19	remember being scared and shaking, and stuff like this.
20	And then, so you're on our side. Come sit on our side, you
21	know. And we went through the court procedures of the
22	trial.
23	Yeah. It was a whole bunch whole bunch
24	of stuff that happened. A whole bunch of, you know, it
25	wasn't hidden. It wasn't hidden of my sister's lifestyle.

1	It wasn't hidden of of my brother-in-law Trang's
2	lifestyle. So it was actually put out more to their
3	lifestyle. That they were the bad ones. That they were
4	well well, they're dead. They were murdered. And you
5	want to go and put them up and put them on the on the
6	papers and and talking about their lifestyle?
7	This man gets ten on ten. He was charged
8	manslaughter on my brother-in-law Trang, and first degree
9	on my sister Cheryl. We're all new to this. We're like,
10	ten on ten, oh, that's twenty. Okay. Okay. That's
11	kind of, like, sounds right. I don't know what sounds
12	right. You know, we're thinking, "Oh, he's going to
13	he's he's going to mess up. He's going to fuck up."
14	When he was sentenced, I got up and he ran or walked out of
15	the courtroom, and I screamed my sister Cheryl's name. And
16	I cried. I cried.
17	So my dad our dad comes walking out of
18	the courtroom, and he grabs my hand and he walks me back
19	towards the door of the courtroom, and he says, "We're
20	going to stand here." And I just, "Okay." And then, the
21	family members on his side were coming out out the court
22	doors, and we stood there, me and my dad, holding the hand.
23	And they're looking straight. Each family member that came
24	out of the court doors, they all put their head down, every
25	one of them. I thought that was pretty powerful.

1	To this day, I've never looked in the eyes
2	or seen Sheldon Caleb Williams. He didn't do 20 years.
3	No. Got out in ten. Good behavior. He's a good boy.
4	There was parole hearings. We went to the parole hearings,
5	but he really painted himself good inside the prison as
6	some kind of good boy role model. He's living here
7	somewhere in Vancouver. From what I hear, he's got a
8	condo. I don't know if he's got a condo or a house. He's
9	got two vehicles, he's got a he's got a a business of
10	some kind. He's living. That's all. He's living.
11	This we feel that the the court system
12	really failed us. I know when you get a manslaughter, and
13	then you get first degree, shouldn't it be life on first
14	degree? I don't know how it got to think it's
15	concurrent, where they run onto or into each others, or
16	something like that. That's how it went. We had to get
17	that that thing down, like, what it was. We tried to
18	figure it out. No, he's doing 20, but he might get out on
19	ten. It was like, you know, this well, he got out on
20	ten. Yeah.
21	I'll mention to you that Cheryl and Trang,
22	because they died together here in the city, they're buried
23	here in the city together. They're buried together here in
24	the city. Trang's from his last name is Lam. He's from
25	Vietnam. He has a sister here that was living here at the

1	time. And it was a quick decision between the two families
2	to keep them together. It was a quick decision for
3	yeah, to to keep them together. And the daughter,
4	Andrea, was the one that picked the burial spot for them.
5	MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Do you want to talk
6	about the experiences (indiscernible)?
7	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yeah. Yeah.
8	MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Yeah?
9	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: I'm going to take a
10	break. (Indiscernible) break.
11	MR. CHRISTIAN ROCK: (Indiscernible).
12	MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Commissioner Audette?
13	Commissioner? Commissioner Audette, can we take a ten-
14	minute break?
15	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: I'll just go to the
16	washroom.
17	MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Okay.
18	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're doing such a
19	good job.
20	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Thank you.
21	(SHORT PAUSE)
22	MS. SHELBY THOMAS: your the time you
23	spent with your sister before she passed?
24	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yes. The summer of
25	'93, right. Before the summer of '93, she was

25

1	traditionally adopted into the Thompson (phonetic) of the
2	Heiltsuk. This was her her residential school sister.
3	And they were very close and they they agreed to
4	traditionally adopt my sister Cheryl.
5	Prior to this, my sister Cheryl did not
6	really want to identify herself as a Aboriginal woman.
7	I I don't know what what I probably do know the
8	reasons why. But when she was going home to the ceremony
9	of to be traditional adoption, there was this great
10	beautiful transformation that I'd seen. She then
11	identified herself as accepted, I don't know what the word
12	is, she's Heiltsuk Aboriginal woman. When I had seen her
13	come out in this ceremony of her adoption, she was wearing
14	a really nice regalia, danced out and, my gosh, she was
15	beautiful.
16	So the next thing that happened was they got
17	to us, which was the canoe gathering in Bella Bella. And
18	we all were home. We all went home. And it was also my
19	dad's birthday that month, and we're his we were all his
20	birthday gift. He was really happy for us all to be home,
21	all his children, and his grandchildren. She was there.
22	Sure wish she was here. I'd wish she was here. My sissy,
23	auntie, mother, grandmother, daughter, niece, she was
24	there. It's it it was really nice. Nice, you know,

other than this all -- like, us all being home, you know,

1 to see her transform.

MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Marge -- Marge -- it's

not on. Marge, can you tell us a little bit about your

work as a grassroot warrior woman, and the outreach -
outreach you -- out -- outreach you do in Downtown Eastside

Vancouver?

MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yes. I had my -- I had my -- I mentioned I came in, and I came in partying. You know, and I basically partied myself out on the streets as an addict. And I was an alcoholic. At the time, more as an addict. And I was -- I was diagnosed with a -- a multiple personality disorder. And it's -- after I'd come out of -- when I started slowing down on my crack cocaine use, and how do they say, I had -- that -- that I started doing my turnaround because I was in some situations of domestic. I was in the situation of addiction.

And I would -- I -- I remember one morning I was walking down Hasting. And it was like 7 o'clock in the morning, and I was just walking home. There was nobody around, there's no johns, there's no, you know, nothing in my pocket. I remember walking down Hasting and all I could see was these chuck (phonetic), chuck, chuck. Just these -- these, like, string of green lights. And I was so tired. And I started shaking my head, and I was just going like, I ain't doing this. I ain't doing this anymore. So

I started making things better. 1 I started -- I left my abusive relationship. 2 3 And I got out living on my own. First time living on my 4 own in about maybe 13, 14 years. And then, that was scary too. Because I was making this, somewhat of a transition. 5 6 And I just -- I -- I started putting challenges for things in front of me. I did -- I did a 13-week life skill 7 course. I was going, what? Thirteen-week life skill 8 9 course. I still got crack cocaine in my head and my brain cells. How do you do a 13-week life skill course? Well, I 10 11 did it. Then, I was trying to figure out what else to do. 12 I then cross paths with the lady that helped us in the -- in our murder trial. Her name is Freda Ens. 13 And I -- it was a very short bus ride. I knew that the 14 15 Pickton trial was happening. I really think all society knew this trial was happening. And I asked -- whispered to 16 17 Freda, "So how are things going out there?" And she kneeled into me and she says, "Well, it's going okay. But, 18 we don't have any support. Maybe you should come out. 19 You're not a -- which -- you're a victim. Not of the 20 21 Pickton trial, but you're a victim. Come out and give --22 give support." This was said to me on a Friday. On the 23 Monday, I went out to that building. 24 I was very nervous. Still crack in my system. Still using crack. I thought I was going to be 25

out at this trial for a week or two. That week or two turned into a month. I was sitting there, it's like, holy shit, I'm doing something. And I was like, "I got to tell somebody." And I picked up the word debriefing. So I went and I started debriefing in the Downtown Eastside. This month I'm talking about, turned into six months. I stayed out there for six months. I was debriefing about the Pickton trial. And I'll never forget how that went down. 

I was talking to -- I went down to the Women's Centre and the Elder was in the -- in the building, and it was -- her name was Reta Blind, who is now my in-law -- out-law. She's the in-law, and I'm the out-law. And I went to go talk to her and went into her office and started telling her with all the stuff I'm doing. "I'm doing this. And oh, yeah, I'm doing this." And all -- it's just like, I'm doing this, and I'm doing this, and I'm doing that, and all that kind of stuff.

And I got up and started walking out. I went, "Oh, God. I forgot." So I -- she was still in her office, and I walked back in and I said, "Oh, yeah, I'm out at the trial." And she just -- she kind of, "Oh." And I said, "I'm out at the Pickton trial." And she was -- her hands were twiddling around, I don't know, we seen her twiddle around with her hands, but she -- her hands were moving like this. And she went, "Oh, okay." And she told

1	me to she goes, "Give me your hand." So I gave her I
2	put my hand on her hand. She put her hand on top of my
3	hand. And she said, "You're the one. You're the strong
4	one." And I just, "Oh, gosh." I was like, "Okay. I'm
5	I'm going to go back out."
6	And I stayed out there. And I was it's
7	pretty pretty hard, but it was one of a a pretty
8	big turn around for me, for what is happening here today. I
9	then did other other work in the Downtown Eastside. And
10	I just did it all from my heart, with no pay. I got
11	guidance from Elders, guidance from the community, and I
12	just started doing all kinds of work. And then, I got
13	pretty good at it. I've given support right in the
14	domestic field, right down to apprehension of children.
15	And and then, just and now, getting
16	paid on a different field, which is the biggest call of the
17	overdose crisis that's happening. I never thought I'd ever
18	fall into a field like this. And I think it was I'm not
19	saying it was right or anything, but I I fell into it.
20	But it was only six months ago now. But comfortable doing
21	the work that I do. And I'm quite comfortable being in the
22	Downtown Eastside for whatever reason. That's about it.
23	MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Do you want to share
24	your story about your grannie now?
25	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: M'hm.

- 1 MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Yeah? Just go on to that story. 2 3 MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yeah. 4 MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Okay. 5 MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yeah. Going to end on 6 a good note. MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Yes. Tell them about 7 8 your gran. 9 MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: I'm going to end on a 10 good note. 11 MS. SHELBY THOMAS: M'hm. Okay. 12 MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: I wish I -- look at how relaxed I'm getting here. 13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Huh? 14 15 MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: I said, "Look at how relaxed I'm getting here." On a good note, and I always 16 17 like to leave on a good note, my grannie -- when I was home, I was running around in my Grannie's house and I was 18 going to watch -- or going to -- yeah, well, to me, watch 19 our witness it's called, my first potlatch. And I was 20 21 bombing around the house, and bombing there in the house and then she just stopped me and said, "Marge, what are you 22 doing?" And I just stopped and I said, "Oh." I said, 23
- community hall. I'm going to watch -- "Because I was just 25

"I'm -- I'm going up to the hall. I'm going up to the

24

1	excited, "I'm going to the the potlatch." And then she
2	goes, "Oh, well, (indiscernible) sit down." I was like,
3	"Okay." So I sat down.
4	My grannie was bedridden. She had two
5	strokes. And I sat down and then she says, "Okay. I'm
6	going to tell you, when you're there, just don't fool
7	around. And listen." You know, she's like nodding away.
8	"Yes. Okay. Okay. Yes, Grannie." And and then she
9	says, "Don't leave until the business is done." Well, I
10	thought it was going to be one day, you know. It turned
11	out to be three days, so I was going back. But I listened
12	to my grannie. To this day, I hold that.
13	MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Now, I'm ask if
14	Commissioner Audette has any questions or anything, okay?
15	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yes.
16	MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Okay. Commissioner
17	Audette, do you have any comments or questions?
18	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci
19	beaucoup, Maître Thomas. First of all, I have to say,
20	thank you. Thank you for for your for you to be here
21	and share your truth. And to show the love and respect for
22	your sister. Thank you. Merci.
23	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yes.
24	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: You said
25	you you had to leave your community because of a

- because you're lesbian. 1 2 MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yes. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: They said you 3 4 have to go because of that? MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Well --5 6 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: They made you 7 understand that. MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yeah. It wasn't --8 9 they didn't tell me to leave, it was suggested. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: How -- how 10 11 did you react about that? MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Well, of course, I was 12 upset. I was -- I was drinking quite a bit at the time. I 13 was drinking a lot. And so, like I said, I'd -- I'd lost 14 15 and, you know, we'd been outed and, you know, not having the -- the backbone or was -- the backbone of my family is, 16 17 you know, it hurt. And I -- and I just left. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Yeah. 18 does hurt. Yeah. And too many of our brothers and sister 19 across Canada had to go through, and still today, just 20 21 because they love a man, or they love a woman. And I don't think it's a -- a -- fair or acceptable. Today, you go to 22 your community if you can? 23 24 MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yes.
- 25 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: And walk very

1 proud? 2 MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yes. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: 3 That's good. 4 That's good. And what would you say to our brothers or our sister who doesn't want to say that they love the same sex, 5 6 or they say let's have a woman? What would you say to those youth, or those women who doesn't want to --7 MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Well, it's -- it's 8 9 changed a lot. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Depends. 10 Depends. 11 MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yeah, only 37 years 12 ago, and it's definitely changed a lot. I see it in -- see 13 the change of acception. I see the change of -- of love. 14 15 And, you know, I had a really good heart-to-heart talk with my dad one time about this. 16 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay. 17 MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: He was living -- I -- I 18 was looking after him. And some years later I was living 19 on 3rd and -- 3rd and Commercial. I was in a basement 20 21 suite of a really nice house. While having breakfast, bacon and eggs, and -- and toast and all that kind of 22 stuff, and I was cooking away there, and -- and he asked me 23 24 this question. Asks me why -- asked me why I'm like this. And I tell him, I said -- I just tell him I was -- I was 25

1	born this way. And then he just sitting on the
2	breakfast table, he was sitting there, and he's kind of
3	like, "Okay then." That was that was good enough for
4	him. I think he just wanted to ask me that question. And
5	me give that answer. And and it was the truth.
6	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Is that your
7	dad?
8	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yes.
9	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Yes. Okay.
10	Can you tell me who who is who? All your sisters?
11	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yes.
12	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay.
13	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: There's me, my sister
14	Cheryl, my sister Donda, my sister Val, and there's one
15	sister that's missing in the picture, and her and her
16	name was Jennifer. And she's here.
17	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: It's you?
18	Okay. That was my next question. Who are the beautiful
19	women with you?
20	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: That's my sisters
21	Jennifer's she my she's my she's my rock. As far
22	as oh, my. Oh, my. Oh, God. You know, in my in my
23	drugging and drinking and Jenny used to come down and
24	see me, and just to see me, you know. And she'd just come
25	down and and she used to come down and at come behind

1	me and they just like they liked me hug me from
2	behind. And I know this hug. And that really meant a lot
3	to me. Sitting beside my sister Jenny, is my niece Kristy
4	(phonetic). And sitting beside Kristy is her partner Chris
5	(sic)
6	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Kayla (phonetic).
7	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Kayla (phonetic).
8	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Who who is
9	Kayla? Okay.
10	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: And we're all lesbians.
11	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Pardon me?
12	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: We're all lesbians.
13	(LAUGHTER)
14	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm not.
15	(LAUGHTER)
16	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Oh.
17	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: You know, and and
18	that's just you know, when I talk about about the
19	change and acception
20	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Yes.
21	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: this this is it.
22	Yeah. And and the love. Our love our love goes a
23	really long way as far as sisterhood and brotherhood and
24	all that kind of stuff.
25	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Yeah.

MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yeah. 1 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Yes. It's --2 3 I like that. I like that. It's true. 4 MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: (Indiscernible). COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: I always told 5 6 my son, or my girls, but most with my son, you're allowed to love this -- a man if you want. And it was hard to see 7 the father of my youngest child, like, hey. And it's like, 8 9 we don't control that. But we have the -- the obligation 10 to support our children. MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: 11 Yes. 12 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: If they chose this -- to love a man or a woman, it's -- we have to 13 support. 14 15 MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yes. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: So it's true. 16 17 Young women are more in our communities, but I'm always concerned at how, also, racism or discrimination is still 18 there. 19 MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yes. 20 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: And we don't 21 22 deserve that. The second question I have, I saw you giving these piece of -- this -- you gave this. Can you explain 23 24 to me what is it? Yes. 25 MS. SHELBY THOMAS: I was going to say

25

1 goodbye. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Opps. 2 3 Excusez. 4 MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yeah. I like the colour. 5 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: I know that. 6 MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: And the (indiscernible) 7 have one. I -- I've given -- I've coloured this a few days 8 9 ago. And I -- I call it -- it's my therapy, part of my therapy. And I started this little exercise in the 10 Downtown Eastside. I'd go and I -- and I -- I started just 11 colouring -- I couldn't stop. And I'd basically -- I'd --12 I do like two versions. I do like two -- two different 13 designs or something. And I got this -- this message 14 15 from -- from a friend of mine from the Downtown Eastside. She gave this to me, this colouring. And it was in my --16 17 in my backpack. And I then like pulled it out of -- of few -- a few days ago. I'm looking at this message, and I 18 was like, it's a pretty good message. Today, I just 19 really, really, really need to colour this. And -- and 20 21 share because I think it's a -- I think it's a pretty 22 powerful, colourful message. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Why I ask 23 24 you, this is our bundle, everywhere we go we bring it. And

I hope we will continue to listen to truths of families and

1	survivors across Canada. And if if it's possible for
2	you that we put it in a bundle, that it travels with me, or
3	the other Commissioners. And if you can sign it?
4	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Okay. Yes.
5	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Yay. Merci.
6	I had the privilege to to walk beside a few women.
7	Actually, there's some here if you could stand up.
8	Beautiful women. Yeah. And stand up.
9	(APPLAUSE)
10	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Oh, me?
11	(LAUGHTER)
12	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: No. Yay. I
13	walk with you also.
14	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yes.
15	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: And what I
16	liked, right away, I saw a very, very lively, or lots of
17	life, or your energy. We didn't know each other, but you
18	welcomed me like we knew each other. You make me laugh,
19	you make jokes, and make me feel comfortable and welcome in
20	this new circle of strong women during that walk.
21	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: M'hm.
22	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: And there
23	were a moment everybody was busy, but you and I, we didn't
24	speak, but we connected. I did. We were drawing on the
25	shirts. Yeah. Yeah.

1	MS	S. MARGE	HUMCHITT:	Yes.	
2	co	MMISSION	NER MICHÈLE	AUDETTE:	Yeah. So I
3	remember those mo	oments.			
4	MS	S. MARGE	HUMCHITT:	Yeah.	
5	CC	MMISSION	NER MICHÈLE	AUDETTE:	And thank
6	you.				
7	MS	S. MARGE	HUMCHITT:	Gosh, I r	eally tried to
8	save that shirt,	but the	the ink	really	I didn't want
9	to wash it and ev	verything	g because it	t has your	design on
10	there. Had my de	esign on	there too.	And like	I said,
11	our our art is	s art	art, or	something	is something
12	that I do. And -	and I	just rememb	per just b	anging out
13	this t-shirt. Ar	nd I thir	nk we were	in, I can'	t remember
14	what town we were	e in, but	your se	eeing your	eyes, like I
15	was looking and l	ooking,	and so I di	id a drum-	type thing,
16	like what's on he	ere now.	And you ca	an ask Kim	(phonetic) to
17	sit beside me, ar	nd you as	sk to put so	omething of	n the t-shirt
18	as well. It was	your	it was this	s mark	
19	CC	MMISSION	NER MICHÈLE	AUDETTE:	Yeah.
20	MS	S. MARGE	HUMCHITT:	that's	on here.
21	CC	MMISSION	NER MICHÈLE	AUDETTE:	Yeah. Yeah.
22	MS	S. MARGE	HUMCHITT:	And I	I was like, I
23	felt really re	eally hor	noured. And	d I I j	ust want to
24	say thank you for	the wor	ck that you	do. And	I really mean
25	this. And I than	nk you al	ll for comin	ng and lis	tening and

1	witnessing.
2	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: M'hm.
3	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: And I thank my auntie
4	for being on my side. I thank my family here for being on
5	my side.
6	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci. Merci
7	beaucoupe. And we do it with love. With love. And we
8	have an amazing I call it my new family. It's been a
9	year and a half and they're wonderful. Would you accept a
10	gift from us?
11	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yes.
12	(LAUGHTER)
13	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Hand it over here right
14	now.
15	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: It's like
16	the big question. I popped the question.
17	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Hurry up. Hurry up.
18	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay.
19	(LAUGHTER)
20	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: You want a
21	cigarette? No. Okay. Merci beaucoupe. So I'll ask my
22	friend and sister here
23	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).
24	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: to give
25	you this.

1	MS. MARGE HUMCHITT: Yeah.
2	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Merci.
3	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Shh.
4	COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: A beautiful
5	eagle feathers feather from Thompson. And some seeds
6	Wild trasberries (phonetic)
7	(SHORT PAUSE)
7 8	(SHORT PAUSE)  MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Commissioner Audette,
•	
8	MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Commissioner Audette,
8	MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Commissioner Audette, can we adjourn this hearing for 15 minutes?

--- Upon adjourning at 4:45 p.m.

13

### LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Amanda Muscoby, 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.

Amanda Muscoby

April 13, 2018