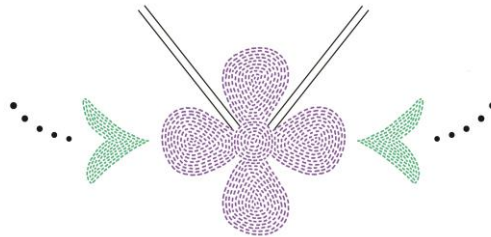


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Radisson Hotel, Ambassador B
Winnipeg, Manitoba**



PUBLIC

Wednesday October 18, 2017

**Public Volume 12:
Earl Morrissette, In relation to Glenda Morrissette**

**Heard by Commissioner Michèle Audette
Commission Counsel: Christa Big Canoe**

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

II

APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations	Stuart Wuttke (Legal counsel)
Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak/Women of the Metis Nation	No Appearance
Government of Canada	Anne Turley (Legal counsel) Amber Elliot (Legal counsel) Christine Ashcroft (Legal counsel)
Government of Manitoba	Heather Leonoff (Legal counsel) Samuel Thomson (Legal counsel)
Manitoba MMIWG2S	Angie Hutchinson (Representative) Leslie Spillett (Representative)
Manitoba Moon Voices	No Appearance
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada & Manitoba Inuit Association	Beth Symes (Legal counsel) Rachel Dutton (Representative / Manitoba Inuit Association)
Winnipeg Police Service	Shannon Hanlin (Legal counsel)

Note: For the purpose of establishing this record of attendance, counsel are considered present whether they attended one or all of the public hearings held over the course of the day at the Radisson Hotel, Ambassador Rooms A & B (i.e. the two main public hearing spaces).

III

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Witness: Earl Morrisseau	X
In Relation to Glenda Morrisseau	
Heard by: Commissioner Michèle Audette	
Commission Counsel: Christa Big Canoe	
Grandmothers, Knowledge-Keepers, Elders: Skundaal Bernie Williams	
Clerk: Tasha-Dawn Doucette	
Registrar: Bryan Zandberg	

IV
LIST OF EXHIBITS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
-----	-------------	------

-- No Exhibits --

Winnipeg, Manitoba

--- Upon commencing on Monday, October 18, 2017 at 15:44

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Good afternoon.

Commissioner Audette, I would ask that we open this hearing and that I take the time to introduce to you, Earl Morrisseau. Earl Morrisseau will be sharing stories in relation to two family members, Glenda Morrisseau and Kelly Morrisseau, and I would just like to start with -- he, he would like to make a statement of promise and I'm going to -- I'm going to administer that to him. And so, Mr. Morrisseau, do you promise to share your truth in a good way today?

MR. EARL MORRISSEAU: Yes.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Excellent. And so, we're going to start, actually, by talking first about Glenda, Glenda Morrisseau. And so, I'll ask you, Earl, if you can first explain to the Commissioner how you're related to Glenda? And, if you can share a little bit about her strengths or contributions, some of those fond memories you might have of her?

MR. EARL MORRISSEAU: Well I don't know if everybody knows what extended family means. She wasn't my sister, we didn't have the same mother, we didn't have the same father, but her mother had raised me for a number of years, so she was my mother as well, so. If you understand

1 then, then she was my sister and -- but she was a lot
2 younger than me, so we were already -- we were already
3 running, like basically running wild in party mode, and she
4 had just turned into an adult I believe and -- she was just
5 becoming herself. She was getting more open, she was
6 having more fun, she was laughing, talking more and then
7 basically boom, she was gone. And it -- it threw, threw
8 everybody, you know, for, I don't know what you call it, a
9 loop.

10 My mother, Dolly, she turned into herself I
11 guess, you know. She just went to -- went to the drink and
12 hasn't left it since. Other than those, the last couple of
13 years that we had spent together was all I got to know of
14 her because she was just becoming who she was going to be,
15 I guess. In the span of a block she disappeared, and the
16 next they heard, they just found her outside the city or
17 some shed or something.

18 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, when you talk
19 about when you lost Glenda, you said she was just coming to
20 her own so was just in her -- she was a late teenager in
21 her early 20s, something like that?

22 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** She, she was quiet.
23 She was really quiet. She kept to herself, but like I
24 said, she was, she was becoming more open. She was
25 becoming -- I think she was just becoming who she was going

1 to be.

2 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Right.

3 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** You know, the fun
4 person that we were starting to hang out all the time.

5 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** All right.

6 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** But I don't know. Now
7 we'll never know.

8 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** All right. And you
9 mentioned you were in your 20s, and there were a few years
10 between you. And so, she was in her -- she was coming to
11 be -- becoming an adult it sounds like.

12 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah.

13 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And, you were in
14 your 20s, and you said she was coming out, going places.
15 Does that mean she was old enough to go out?

16 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah.

17 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Yeah.

18 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** She was old enough to
19 go out. She was already in the bar scene.

20 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Right. And then you
21 could also -- like, you were both of an age where you could
22 go to a bar?

23 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah.

24 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Okay. And can you
25 -- I know that you don't know the specifics here, but can

1 you tell the Commissioner approximately about how long ago
2 this occurred?

3 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** You know almost --
4 because we lost so many people to this kind of thing that a
5 lot of it has become a blur and I, I can't remember exact
6 dates or exact years. It's been -- like, it's just hard to
7 remember the days, the dates or the years for that matter,
8 or even the decade.

9 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** That's okay.

10 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** But it's, you know,
11 like, the memories of her are fresh, it's just the times
12 are not. The days are not fresh in my mind.

13 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** No, that's okay. I
14 understand you also want to talk about Kelly, and that
15 Kelly Morrisseau, you spent more time in your life knowing
16 Kelly. And so, can we start talking about Kelly and can
17 you share her strengths and her contributions to your
18 family?

19 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Oh, I remember when
20 they first brought her home, she was just -- well, she just
21 looked like a strawberry. Her face was all strawberry
22 looking, I guess you could say. And we, me and my sister,
23 we made -- we found an old, an old crib and we sanded it
24 down and painted it and made it look new for her. I knew
25 her since then, you know, like and then she became an adult

1 and moved to Ottawa. She would always come back and
2 whenever she came back she'd stop in and visit me. But she
3 was an adult now, so we could go out, you know, and have a
4 few drinks.

5 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And so, Kelly was
6 your niece?

7 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yes.

8 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Yeah. And so, you
9 got to know Kelly when she was young. And other than
10 describing how cute she was when she was a baby, can you
11 tell us a little bit more about, like, her childhood or
12 what you recall? Like, what some of her strengths were?

13 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** You know, I don't know
14 how to explain. I guess, you know, like I loved her lots.
15 I loved her, as we say, a whole bunch, that I never saw
16 nothing wrong in what she did or that she could do anything
17 wrong, you know. So, I didn't see where I could add a
18 strength to anything than her whole view. Like I found her
19 good all around.

20 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** What were some of
21 the types of things that she liked to do, like music or
22 dancing or...?

23 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** She was a young girl.
24 I'm sure she enjoyed dancing, because I know we'd sit in
25 the bar sometimes and she'd just get up and go and dance

1 and...

2 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And?

3 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Or she'd be dancing
4 around the house doing dishes. You know it's, it's, it's,
5 it's, it's hard for me to say and remember all the good
6 things about her and all her strengths because of the
7 terrible way she went, and that seems to overpower
8 everything I'm trying to say.

9 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Mm-hmm. Do you
10 think you can say a little bit about the terrible way she
11 went? Just how you're comfortable telling it.

12 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** You know, a friend of
13 mine told me once before that most people choose the way
14 they're going to die. You know, like, people who do drugs,
15 people who drink and drive, people who (indiscernible),
16 people will smoke. So, a lot of people choose the way
17 they're going to die, but nobody chose to get stabbed that
18 many times. None of these girls chose to go that way.
19 That's how I feel about that.

20 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I understand that,
21 that Kelly was found in December 2006, and that -- can you
22 tell us where she was found, or?

23 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** In Gattineau Park, I
24 believe it's called.

25 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Mm-hmm. And that's

1 -- that's not here in Winnipeg is it?

2 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** No, it's in Ottawa,
3 Quebec, in between there somewhere.

4 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Gatineau Park?

5 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah.

6 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Yeah.

7 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** I guess it just
8 depends how you're going to pronounce it.

9 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Absolutely. Do you
10 recall at the time when Kelly -- when Kelly was found, do
11 you recall how long -- how far along she was in her
12 pregnancy?

13 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Not -- I don't really
14 -- I don't really -- I couldn't answer that.

15 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** But that's one of he
16 things that was....

17 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yes, she was and -- I
18 knew she was pregnant but I didn't know how long. It could
19 have been five months, it could have been...

20 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Yeah. I did -- I
21 did understand that that was something that the family
22 really wanted to highlight, was that she was carrying
23 another life ---

24 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah.

25 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** --- when her own

1 life was taken. Did you want to say anything to that?

2 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** I, I had all the
3 answers to these the other day.

4 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** It's okay.

5 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** No, I'm good, I'm
6 good, I'm good. I'm just trying to get my train of thought
7 back here. Come again with that?

8 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, I understand
9 that one of the -- a really important issue for the family
10 was that when Kelly -- when Kelly was murdered, she was
11 actually also carrying another life, like, from the
12 family's perspective because she was seven months pregnant.

13 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah. And the
14 question in that was?

15 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And so, the question
16 is, like, did you have anything that you wanted to, to
17 explain to the Commissioner about how you feel about that
18 fact?

19 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Well, it made it worse
20 than -- I don't even -- I can't even -- there's no word to
21 describe. The worse thing was she was dead, but on top of
22 that, a baby as well, you know? So, I don't know how you -
23 - how you can describe worser than worse, you know? Like,
24 I don't have a word for that.

25 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And so, do you

1 recall how the family first found out? How were you guys
2 informed about the death?

3 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** I was phoned, I was --
4 I lived in Manitoba and the family was living in Ottawa,
5 and we just started preparing for her body to arrive and,
6 you know -- you know, you don't really feel nothing until
7 you actually see her again, you know, even dead, even.

8 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And were you able to
9 have a funeral and memorial here in Manitoba?

10 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yes, we had it in Fort
11 Alexander.

12 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And Fort Alexander,
13 I mean, I'm sure many people from Manitoba know where that
14 is, but where is that near?

15 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Powerview-Pine Falls,
16 northeast of Winnipeg.

17 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, is it also near
18 Sagkeeng First Nation?

19 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** That is Sagkeeng First
20 Nation.

21 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Yeah. So, and thank
22 you, though, because that's helping explain for, for people
23 who might not be from Manitoba understand that the First
24 Nation community you're from originally is Sagkeeng, right?

25 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** It's originally

1 Sagkeeng, (indiscernible) I don't know, Hudson Bay,
2 whatever.

3 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Right. So -- but
4 you were able to, to bring her home ---

5 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah.

6 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** --- and actually do
7 a memorial and funeral here for her?

8 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Mm-hmm. She is buried
9 close to her, her aunt and her father.

10 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, she's actually
11 buried fairly close to Glenda?

12 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah.

13 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Okay. In terms of
14 -- how was the dealings with police or any of the
15 authorities that were dealing with the investigation? How
16 were the communications between the family and them?

17 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Actually, the only
18 contact I had with anybody with regards to any
19 investigation was Roxanne, that would have been her cousin
20 Roxanne, and Roxanne would inform me whether the rumours
21 that were going around were true or not because she said
22 that the police out there would go (indiscernible) with any
23 information that they had, and after she told me that, I
24 never heard anything again. So, like, I guess there was
25 never any information, because she told me if anything

1 comes up, I'll let you know right away, and nothing ever
2 came up, I guess.

3 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Was anyone ever
4 almost caught for this crime?

5 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Roxanne had told me
6 they had -- had somebody under questioning, and I overheard
7 her father talking about, you know, like -- he was, I
8 believe, dying of cancer and he -- it didn't matter to him
9 whether he took the guy the with him or not, you know? So,
10 he was prepared to go to any length to. So, I assume that
11 he thought the person they had was guilty.

12 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** But there was never
13 any, anybody tried or convicted of ---

14 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** No.

15 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** --- the actual, the
16 actual murder.

17 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** No.

18 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** No. So, in terms of
19 -- Kelly had other kids though, right?

20 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah.

21 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** If I understand
22 correctly?

23 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** She had three.

24 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** She had three
25 children?

1 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Mm-hmm.

2 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Okay. And so, she
3 had three children and she was pregnant with her fourth, do
4 I understand that correctly?

5 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah.

6 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And were there some
7 barriers or obstacles in her life in terms of, you know, as
8 she was going through life, was she having some, some
9 issues, some struggles of her own at points?

10 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah, but, you know,
11 it's -- she had some drug issues, you know? Who doesn't
12 when they take your kids away, you know? I'm sure she was
13 trying to find a, a way to cover them or go through them.

14 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And when you say
15 they take your kids away, do you mean like Child Welfare
16 Services of some sort?

17 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yes.

18 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And so, she was
19 having some obstacles in coping with that, and into some
20 drugs, if I understand correctly?

21 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah.

22 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** But I also
23 understand that she was, at the time that she was actually
24 murdered, she was on a path and journey of getting clean
25 and in a good way?

1 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Roxanne had told me
2 that. Yeah, Roxanne had told me that she was trying to put
3 it back together.

4 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Because she wanted
5 to turn her life around so that she could get her kids
6 back?

7 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah, that was the --
8 that was the plan.

9 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Mm-hmm. And so, in
10 terms of where -- where do you feel the family is left at
11 currently? Because -- is it fair to say with no one being
12 charged or convicted, the family's still left a little open
13 or wide?

14 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah, that is our, our
15 -- they're super upset and their mother is just wasting
16 away because, because of it. You know, she's down to
17 nothing in poundage and she goes through hell everyday.
18 She never got over it and I don't think she will. I mean,
19 not so much get over it, but learn to cope with it, but I
20 don't think she will.

21 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Yeah, and so the
22 impacts, they're far reaching ---

23 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah.

24 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** --- for your family,
25 eh? How -- for you, what have the impacts been for you and

1 how do you feel about it?

2 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Well, you know, I was
3 -- everybody has a favourite niece, everybody has a
4 favourite nephew, you know, and like when we
5 (indiscernible), it was one of the greatest things I did,
6 and it just made me love her all the more.

7 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, did the family
8 ever get a chance or were there ever resources available
9 for you to bereave or to talk to people if you wanted to,
10 to access services for either Glenda's or Kelly's
11 death/murders?

12 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** I don't think there
13 was anything available other than talking to your own
14 family. I'm -- you know, people don't like to, myself, I
15 don't like -- I don't want to see a shrink. People will
16 think I'm not all there, you know? So, I assume a lot of
17 my other family members think the same way, too, you know?
18 So...

19 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And, do you know if
20 that stigma or that concern about people thinking there's
21 something wrong with you, is it pretty rampant in some
22 places or your community? Like, are you afraid to seek
23 help because you're afraid of what people will think?

24 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** I think -- yeah, I
25 think that's a, that's a big problem. Yeah, it's -- I

1 think it's, you know, I don't know, it's -- you don't want
2 to be known as, as being off your rocker, I guess, because
3 you're seeing a shrink.

4 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And, how difficult
5 is that in a small community, too? If you were going to go
6 see a shrink in a small community ---

7 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Well, everybody knows
8 and then they'll, they'll -- you know, I'm sure they'll
9 start either teasing you or bugging you about it, you know?
10 Like, are you crazy or -- well, it's not a good feeling
11 when somebody's calling you crazy, especially if you're
12 trying to help yourself.

13 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** If there were -- if
14 there were services that you could access, where everyone
15 in the community couldn't see you or that you could tap
16 into, would those be resources you may want to actually
17 access?

18 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** I wish that, you know,
19 I wish that would, that would work. I mean, it sounds like
20 it would work. I mean, personally for myself, no, I'm not
21 afraid to go and see anyone for psychiatric help. I don't
22 care about anything; I'm nuts or not now. I'm sure, you
23 know, if people could get access to it without the planet
24 knowing.

25 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Mm-hmm. What are

1 some of the barriers? Like, say, for example, if you want
2 to go see someone that was out of town, how would you get
3 to go see them and who would then learn about you having to
4 travel there?

5 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Back home, we have
6 medical services that provide rides, a van. I guess
7 everybody else that was in the van would know. The driver
8 would know and keeping things on the down low ain't exactly
9 at the top of the list in reserve.

10 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So -- and just so
11 I'm understanding, because I'm not being critical of any of
12 the services that are being provided, but I'm just trying
13 to pull this all together. If a person in your community
14 wants to access help and they have to leave the community,
15 they get to get transportation there, but then the concern
16 would be that anyone who saw you in the vehicle, anyone
17 else needing those services, so does that actually act as a
18 bit of an impediment to you accessing private resources or
19 services?

20 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** I'm sure. I'm sure it
21 wouldn't unless they understood exactly what it was you
22 were going for, you know? If they understood why, you
23 know? You don't have to tell everybody on the bus your
24 story. Every time you jump the bus, every time you jump on
25 the van, you don't want to be repeating your story so

1 people don't think you're, you're not all there.

2 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, if there were
3 ways though, or options, like other options, do you think
4 that would help? Because you had said earlier there was a
5 lot of deaths. There's been so many deaths in your family
6 and in your community that you lose track of dates and
7 times. What if there were other services? If there were
8 services that you think would help your family or
9 community, what type of services would those be?

10 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** I think -- well, a lot
11 of people turn to alcohol and drugs when stuff like this
12 happens and some come out of it, and some don't, and I
13 think a lot of it has to do with -- that's what it is,
14 drugs and alcohol, and we have to offer something to get
15 them off of that. You know, either way, you can say
16 there's a program on the reserve but, like, we were just
17 talking about it. Who wants to go close by, you know,
18 where everybody thinks you're crazy because you went to get
19 help.

20 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, is it fair to
21 say that, you know, if you were talking about
22 recommendations or ways that we could make changes, one of
23 those might be to have more access to programs that....

24 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Drugs and alcohol is,
25 is a big issue, you know, and I took a program myself about

1 a year and a half ago and it was -- I went to the narcotics
2 part of it and they knew nothing about it, but yet they
3 offered the program and knew nothing about it. They knew
4 nothing about it. I had to show them what the stuff looked
5 like. You know, I had to make copies of the stuff so they
6 would know what the hell they were talking about, and these
7 are supposed to be people that are teaching you, to give
8 you the terms to get off it? And, here I am, you know,
9 what the stuff looked like and how to do it, you know? So,
10 I've -- you've got to find people who have a better
11 understanding of those things than just send them a writing
12 from a book or just saw pictures or saw a movie. You've
13 got to talk to them like -- that you know something, you
14 know for sure.

15 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, if it was, like,
16 something more like a healing or treatment centre, would
17 you be recommending that staff have more capacity or
18 training or resources for that type of work?

19 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah, I think they
20 need to -- there's a lot of people that have come through
21 it, became better people and have actually become
22 counsellors, and they know for sure how that shit works,
23 and those are the people that can help you. Not the ones
24 that are just guessing about how it works, or how it feels,
25 or what it feels like to get off the stuff.

1 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And it's fair to say
2 that that -- that was a concern you had in your family and
3 that's a concern with Kelly because she was trying to turn
4 her life around ---

5 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah.

6 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** --- but she had
7 those struggles, too. So, even when she wasn't in your
8 community, she was having a hard time accessing sometimes
9 the resources she needed, right?

10 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Exactly.

11 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And so, it -- it's
12 important -- is it -- the other part I want to ask about
13 that is how important is it for it to be culturally
14 relevant for it to have meaning for -- to be successful?
15 Does it have to be relevant to First Nations or to Métis or
16 to Inuit or to the people, if that's what they want?

17 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** I think, you know,
18 like a, I don't how you would say that other than saying a
19 mixture of, of everything, a little bit of each, you know,
20 because -- it works better with a mixture of people. You
21 know, you bring people in that specialize in certain areas.

22 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Were there other
23 recommendations or ideas, not necessarily about resources
24 but in general, coming out of either Glenda's or Kelly's
25 deaths that you wanted to share with the Commissioner?

1 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** I guess I want to know
2 -- I want to know was there -- like, how do they go about
3 looking for her, looking for her killers? Like, what, did
4 they have to trip over them? Like, like I see -- I see, I
5 see some shit happening in the city here. They find a guy
6 in a dumpster dead, and it wasn't the police that found
7 him, but they rope it off and they take all the credit like
8 they did a hard target search. They didn't even. Some guy
9 that was digging in the garbage finds him and then the
10 police come in like they did a big investigation. They
11 didn't do nothing; somebody else found him.

12 Is that what's going to happen to all
13 our girls? We're going to trip over them somehow? Was
14 anybody actually looking for them? And it's sad to think
15 that most of these people aren't ever going to get any
16 answers. I mean, the only good thing that came out is we,
17 we got to bury ours, and a lot of these people aren't going
18 to be able to bury theirs. They won't be able to have no
19 closure. That's probably going to hurt a lot more and last
20 a lot longer.

21 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I want to make sure
22 I'm not missing anything, and I know we did talk about a
23 couple of things, and one of the other things you did want
24 to talk about, and again, you can talk about it to your
25 comfort, was your brother's daughter in relation to the,

1 the daycare fire.

2 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah.

3 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** The daycare fire.

4 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** That was Katrina,
5 Katrina Guimond-Morrisseau. Some idiot set fire to the
6 building hoping she could play the hero, and she just
7 walked away from it all. I mean, her dad ends up pulling
8 her out of the fire. This, this person just gets to walk
9 away.

10 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** It's okay if you
11 take a step back. So, can we explain to the Commissioner
12 where the daycare is located?

13 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** In Mount -- Powerview,
14 I believe it is. Powerview or Pine Falls. They're so
15 close together they're just -- they touch each other, you
16 know? They're so close. So, it's -- I think it's midway
17 where the daycare was.

18 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And the daycare,
19 who, who were the kids mostly going to the daycare? Were
20 they the, the Sagkeeng First Nation or...?

21 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Probably half, half
22 and half.

23 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And so, at one point
24 -- and there's a number of kids that attend there?

25 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Hmm?

1 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** There's a number of
2 kids that go to that daycare?

3 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah.

4 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** At one point, a
5 woman, an individual, sets a fire in the building and you,
6 you said, "To be the hero". Can you explain that a little?

7 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Well, I think she
8 either said it herself, that had -- was hoping to save
9 everybody and come out looking like -- like she saved
10 everybody, you know, like...

11 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And, other than your
12 brother's daughter, were there other people hurt?

13 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** There were no other
14 casualties, no.

15 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And you explained
16 that it was your brother that actually went into the
17 building.

18 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah, he was a
19 fireman.

20 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, he was actually
21 on duty ---

22 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah.

23 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** --- or responding to
24 the call, and actually had to go in and get your niece?

25 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah, his baby.

1 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And, and how has the
2 impact of that loss been on you or your family?

3 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** It's had a really
4 destructive -- people had so much respect for my brother.
5 Now, it's not a respect, it's, it's kind of a fear of him,
6 because it, it, it just made him totally different.

7 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Is he angry?

8 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** He, he hurts lots
9 about it. I mean, sure he's angry that the person got away
10 with it, I'm sure.

11 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** How about you? Are
12 you angry about it?

13 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah, I'm angry about
14 it and, you know, but if I -- if I, I don't know it's -- if
15 I couldn't keep things under control, I think things would
16 be really bad.

17 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Mm-hmm. You had
18 said earlier, and I know I've asked you this twice, but you
19 said "we've lost so many people". I understand there's
20 been a large number of deaths out of Sagkeeng First Nation,
21 and that -- that means that the community, a lot of people
22 are related or know each other. And so, what's the general
23 impact of the loss of all of these, these women and, and
24 children and men?

25 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** (Indiscernible) know

1 each other better. A lot of people got to know each better
2 because of it and, you know, like, we got closer because of
3 it, and we're hoping things do get done. I mean -- but a
4 lot of people don't understand either, too, because it's
5 not a personal thing with them and, you know, like, a lot
6 of the people that have passed do not live in the reserve.
7 Like, Kelly spent very little time in the reserve. Glenda,
8 next to nothing on the reserve. My niece, she was just a
9 baby, so -- and some of the other girls I knew as well
10 were, were rarely on the reserve.

11 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** In terms of
12 proximity to places like Winnipeg, and I know Kelly was in
13 Ottawa, but how common is it for young women or people to
14 leave the community and come to the big city?

15 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Well, our reserve is
16 so close to, to Winnipeg. You know, it's 45 minutes if you
17 speed, you know? Like, you get here in no time. We come
18 here every weekend, do whatever it is you want to do and go
19 home on Sunday night.

20 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Mm-hmm. But the --
21 in relation to your family, they were actually living away
22 from the community, and you, you've seemed to find the
23 silver lining in terms of the families being able to come
24 together to do some good work or healing. What are some of
25 the other good things or things of hope that the community

1 wants to change or works together to change?

2 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** (Indiscernible), I'll
3 be the first to tell you, like I, I got my own drug issues.
4 I've got my own drug problems, you know, but we got to get
5 that under control back home. And we've got to -- the RCMP
6 got to learn to get along with us, you know, instead of
7 just jumping to conclusions. We're -- I've asked them on a
8 number of occasions, you know, let's try and build some
9 bridges here. Two days I went up to the room, shake hands
10 and said, let's try to work some stuff out, let's do some
11 -- basically I, I, I never seen them again.

12 We opened up a club (indiscernible) and I
13 had asked them, you know, just to, to keep things up on the
14 up and up, you know, come and do a walk through
15 occasionally, you know, just to -- they wouldn't even do
16 that. They'd only come around to arrest. You know, that's
17 not even trying to, to build any bridges. And that hasn't
18 changed since I was a kid. And, you know, so if they don't
19 care for us in general, what is to say they even care about
20 our girls dying?

21 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And again, I just
22 want to make sure I'm not missing anything. Is there
23 anything else, Earl, that you wanted to share with
24 Commissioner Audette about, sort of, the impacts or
25 recommendations that you've experienced as a result of

1 these losses?

2 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** I just find it sad
3 that I look on social media and everyday there's another
4 new -- it's every damn day it's -- it's horrible, really.
5 Some are just kids, babies. I mean, what's happening, you
6 know? Like, are we the only ones being picked on here or
7 is there something going on we don't know about? You know,
8 what has to happen in your life? You see in the major
9 cities the black people they stick together; they start
10 burning places down in order to get things going. Is that
11 what has to happen here? I mean, does bullshit like that
12 have to go that far before you start seeing us as people?
13 Maybe it's what they want.

14 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Commissioner
15 Audette, did you have questions or comments you'd like to
16 make?

17 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** *Merci*, Maître
18 Big Canoe. Thank you (speaks in French). When you said is
19 that what they want, well, what you're doing today, you're
20 helping us to make sure that the story, the truth of your
21 Glenda and Kelly, but also all the kids and children from
22 your territory, people here, hear about it and you're
23 helping us to collect. We will be travelling across Canada
24 listening to men like you, women, who have the courage to
25 share what happened to their loved one. And, people are

1 listening more than I thought, and with the help of our
2 team, we will be able to present to the governments,
3 including First Nation government, how we could change the
4 present and the future of our communities.

5 I have a question. I have a question. I
6 just want to make sure I understand. When you and your
7 family lost Glenda, Kelly, if I understood in your
8 testimony, you didn't have the proper help spiritually, or
9 mental, or support to go through that grief? Nothing was
10 there for you in the city or in the community?

11 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** It's kind of a hard
12 question to ask because of the way we were -- we were
13 raised, you know? From my grandmother to myself, it was
14 boarding schools.

15 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** It was what?

16 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Residential schools.

17 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay.

18 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** So, you know, like, it
19 was hard to share stuff. Even if the help was out there,
20 it probably would have still been hard to try and reach out
21 because we were taught to keep things inside, basically
22 suffer in silence.

23 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** *Merci.*

24 *Merci.* And with Kelly, it's the police of Québec, Sûreté
25 du Québec?

1 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah.

2 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Or Gatineau
3 police was Sûreté du Québec?

4 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** I'm not entirely sure
5 it was.

6 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Thank you.

7 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** I mean, they're inches
8 apart, those two, those two...

9 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** But where I
10 want to go, it's -- I want to understand for your family
11 over here, a francophone province, another, how do we say
12 in English, police force, were you able to follow the file
13 from the police ---

14 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** No, no.

15 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** --- or
16 investigation?

17 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** No, no, no.

18 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** No? Did they
19 explain why?

20 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** They said they would
21 allow Roxanne, basically first -- the first information
22 they get on anything.

23 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Who was,
24 again, Roxanne?

25 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Roxanne was my other

1 niece.

2 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay.

3 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** It would be Kelly's
4 first cousin.

5 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay.

6 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** And we can't -- her
7 and I keep in touch all the time and there's never anything
8 new. It's not -- even when rumours started flying, she
9 would tell me that none of them were true, and that was it.
10 The cops never come up with anything new.

11 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay. And...

12 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Or old, for that
13 matter.

14 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Pardon me?

15 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** I said or old, for
16 that matter.

17 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** So, I hope
18 you get the information. That's something we all hope.
19 And, I just want to go back to the daycare. The daycare
20 it's outside of the First Nation community?

21 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Yeah.

22 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** But the kids
23 who goes there, is it just First Nation kids?

24 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** No, it's not just
25 First Nations, it's...

1 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: A mix?

2 MR. EARL MORRISSEAU: Yeah.

3 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay, okay.

4 And we know who did it?

5 MR. EARL MORRISSEAU: Yeah.

6 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay. No
7 charge?

8 MR. EARL MORRISSEAU: I don't know exactly
9 if there was, you know, charges, but there was no time.

10 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Okay.

11 MR. EARL MORRISSEAU: No, no jail time, no
12 incarceration, you know, and -- and that's really unfair.

13 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: *Merci*
14 *beaucoup. Merci beaucoup.* I understand it was in-camera
15 at the beginning, and you chose to do it public, if I
16 understand?

17 MR. EARL MORRISSEAU: Yeah.

18 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Well, if I
19 can say this, Earl, thank you for your courage. Thank you
20 for sharing your truth and I am humble to be -- I'm pleased
21 to be the one sitting here with you, very honoured. *Merci*
22 *beaucoup.*

23 MR. EARL MORRISSEAU: Back at you.

24 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: My beautiful

1 kookoo here, we have something for you, and if you can
2 explain where the eagle feathers are from? *Merci. Merci*
3 *beaucoup.*

4 There's many, many, many wires, women across
5 Canada, who do amazing things to bring awareness to honour
6 the loved one that they lost, or support other families,
7 and so on, and a few weeks ago, we were in northern B.C.
8 and me, I was in Terrace, because some women, and Bernie is
9 one of them, left from Prince Rupert to walk on the Highway
10 of Tears and met us in Smithers for the hearing, and it was
11 beautiful.

12 So, we went there, a couple of us, and
13 walked with the women, and Bernie from Haida Gwaii came
14 back with eagle feathers. She said, "My grandmothers over
15 there wants to give eagle feathers for families who share
16 their truth." And, we have now over a hundred eagle
17 feathers because people across Canada heard that during the
18 Smithers hearings and they said from other territories,
19 other places, I want to give this to families. So, here,
20 we have this for you.

21 **MR. EARL MORRISSEAU:** Thank you.

22 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Commissioner
23 Audette, with that, I would ask that we adjourn this
24 hearing space for the day, and I just would like to say
25 thank you, Earl, for your honesty and candour and strength.

1 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** *Merci.*

2 --- Upon adjourning at 16:32

3

4 LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

5

6 I, Shirley Chang, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I
7 have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and
8 accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this
9 matter.

10

11

12



13

Shirley Chang

14

January 18, 2018

15

16