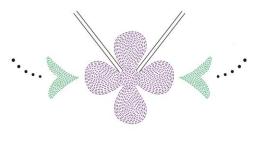
National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls



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 Hotel North Two, Conference Room

Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Newfoundland-and-Labrador



PUBLIC

Thursday March 8, 2018

Public Volume 55: Amena Evans Harlick, In relation to Mary Evans Harlick

Heard by Commissioner Qajaq Robinson

Commission Counsel: Christa Big Canoe

INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.

II

APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations

Eastern Door Indigenous Women's Association

Government of Canada

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach

Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network

Newfoundland Native Women's Association

Nunatsiavut Government

Jeremy Kolodziej (Legal Counsel)

Non-appearance

Tania Tooke (Paralegal)

Brian Harvey (Representative)

Elizabeth Zarpa (Legal Counsel)

Non-appearance

Odelle Pike (Representative)

Non-appearance

Kaila de Boer, Michelle Kinney, Tracey Evans Rice (Representatives)

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada & AnânauKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women's Association (ATRIWA) Beth Symes (Legal Counsel for Pauktuutit & ATRIWA) Anita Pokiak (Representative for Pauktuutit)

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LIST OF EXHIBITS

NO.

DESCRIPTION

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Witness: Amena Evans Harlick Exhibits (code: P01P12P0201)

- 1 Folder of seven digital images displayed during Amena Evans Harlick's public testimony
- 2 CBC News article "Gauthier to serve 17 years without parole" posted August 21, 2006 1:31 PM NT, last updated August 21, 2006 1:30 PM NT (sic)

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Clerk: Maryiam Khoury Registrar: Bryan Zandberg

Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador 1 --- Upon commencing on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 9:53 a.m. 2 3 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Good morning. Good morning, we're about to get started. Good morning, 4 Commissioner Robinson. I was reminded today that I should 5 6 actually introduce myself by one of the Elders here. So 7 good morning, I'm Christa Big Canoe. I'm one of the lawyers with the Commission, and my job is just to assist 8 any of the -- the people sharing their story. To help them 9 through, and ask questions as needed. Commissioner 10 Robinson, this morning I'd like to introduce you to Amena 11 12 Evans Harlick. Amena will be talking about the murder of her mother in September 2002. Her mother, Mary Evan 13 14 Harlick passed in 2000 [sic] -- was murdered in 2002. And 15 Amena was just a young girl when her mother was murdered, but she has a lot to share with us. 16 Before we begin, I would ask that the 17 18 Registrar promise Amena in. 19 MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Okay. Good morning, 20 Amena. 21 AMENA EVANS HARLICK, Affirmed: 22 MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Thank you. 23 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And -- and before we 24 get started, Amena, I understand you'd like to introduce your support and friend that's with you. Could you please 25

1 do that for us? MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Yeah. This is my 2 3 best friend, Samantha (ph). She comes everywhere with me, and she's my side-kick through everything. 4 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thanks for coming, 5 6 Sam. So, Amena, can you just start by telling us a little bit about yourself and your background? 7 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I'm 21 years-old. 8 I was born in St. John's. My mother was Inuit, so I'm half 9 Inuit. I didn't really learn much of the culture since I 10 grew up in St. John's, and, yeah. 11 12 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Is it okay if I ask what your mother liked? 13 14 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Yeah. 15 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Was your mother also from St. John's? 16 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: My mother was from 17 18 North West River. She was adopted when she was very young, and brought into a non-Indigenous family. 19 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So I know the place 20 21 that we want to start talking is about your mom, and what your fond memories were of your mom. I -- I understand you 22 23 were really young when she was murdered, but can you please 24 share with the Commissioner a bit about your mom so we know who she is? 25

1 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Yeah. She was a very kind-hearted person. She was loved by everyone. 2 She 3 loved animals, she was an artist, she was a beautiful, beautiful woman. She always had a really kind heart, and 4 she made sure that me and my brother had the best life that 5 6 we could, and made sure that we were always happy. She 7 would -- she used to bring me to the store and get me caramel squares, and now they're my favourite snacks. We 8 9 used to make Rice Krispies squares, and, oh, I'm sorry. She used to hide toys around her house as a little 10 surprise. So there was dinosaurs under the couch one time, 11 12 and snow pants on top of her lamp, and everything. And 13 she -- she made sure that the time we have with her was 14 special. 15 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: I understand your mother was very young herself when she was murdered. 16 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: She was 24 years 17 18 old. MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And at the time that 19 she was murdered, how old were you? 20 21 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I was six years old, and my brother was five years old. 22 23 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And so -- and take 24 your time with this, but if you could start to share with the Commissioner what you recall when you were six years 25

old. How you learned, or how -- what you were told about
 what happened with your mother.

3 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I -- I remember this clear as day. There was one day that my father had 4 asked me and my brother to come into the room because he 5 6 wanted to talk to us. And I knew that it was, kind of, going to be a little harsh. I could just, kind of, sense 7 it. So I ran and grabbed a toy from my bedroom that she 8 9 had given me. And we came into the room, and he said that, "Mom will -- we won't be seeing Mom anymore. She had --10 she had passed away and you won't be able to see her." 11

12 As I grew up, I kind of -- and -- well, as I was growing up, my family made sure that I knew that she 13 14 had passed away, and someone had did it. But I wasn't sure 15 of the full story. And I -- when I got older, I was able to do a little bit of research. And my family would tell 16 me that the night that it happened, she was at a friend's 17 18 house and she wanted to go home, or something like that. And she threatened to call the police because this man 19 wouldn't let her leave. And he, kind of, freaked out 20 21 because he had a warrant for his arrest in Ontario. So he -- in a article, and an interview that he did, he said 22 23 that he, "Punched her in the face, and then, it -- it all 24 snow-balled." And he decided, "Well, now, I'm going to have to kill her." 25

1 So he strangled her with her rawhide necklace, and then put her in a sleeping bag and then put 2 3 her underneath a -- a crawlspace under the stairs. MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Now, that -- since 4

you've touched on the article, I'm going to pass the 5 6 article up to the Commissioner. And this is something you learned years later, after he goes through a trial, right? 7 At the time, you had no participation in the trial because 8 you were a child; is that true? 9

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Can you tell us a 11 little bit as I'm getting this article to the Commissioner. 12 You said you researched yourself, like, what -- why did you 13 want to start researching? And how did you approach your 14 15 family about learning more about your mother?

10

MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: That's true.

MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I just wanted to 16 know. I went years and years without knowing what had 17 18 happened to her. And in -- I just wanted a little bit of closure. I wanted to know that she was peaceful and she 19 went -- like, she's in a happier place. So and I just got 20 21 curious one day, and I would, you know, Google her name, and then from Googling her name I found out his name. And 22 23 so I would search up his name, and, yeah.

24 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: (Indiscernible). MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Huh? 25

1 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And do you want -is it okay to say -- isn't it? 2 3 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Yeah. MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Okay. So you now 4 know who that was, between hearing from your family, and 5 6 talking with your family, and doing your own research, you now know his name and it's -- it's in that article. Can 7 you share what you now know about what happened after he 8 9 murdered your mom? MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I don't really 10 know how to say it. 11 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: It's all right. So, 12 maybe, that -- that wasn't a great question. Let me try 13 14 again. He went to trial. Was he convicted? 15 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Yes. MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Okay. And was he 16 sentenced for the murder of your mom? 17 18 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: He was sentenced to 17 years with -- without a chance of parole. 19 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: But again, this is 20 21 all stuff that you only learned after the fact. So you can't really speak to, necessarily, the justice system, or 22 23 how it treated your family, other than what you heard from 24 your family. Did your family ever share with you anything about that process? 25

1 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: No, not really. MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: When you were 2 3 younger, how did your family protect you from the media, or the news, or the information that was happening at the 4 trial? 5 6 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I remember one day 7 my dad had brought me and my brother into the living room and told us that we weren't allowed to watch T.V. for a 8 9 little while because there -- and -- her case was going to be televised and everything. And he just wanted to make 10 sure that we wouldn't be exposed to that. 11 12 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And so I understand, that in addition to talking about your mom, you also, like, 13 as a young Indigenous woman, have some concerns regarding 14

15 the high rate of domestic violence that's experienced by Indigenous women. Do you want to share a little bit about 16 how you feel about that with the Commissioner? 17

MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: It kind of scares 18 me. When I was younger, I -- I remember being scared of 19 myself. I -- I was in class one day, and I heard sirens 20 21 and I -- I just got really scared. And my classmate had noticed. He asked me what was wrong, and I said that I was 22 23 scared that he had got out of jail and he was going to -he was going to mistake me for my mom. And I didn't --24 I -- I thought that he would end up killing me as well. I 25

1 remember being really scared and that has stuck with me since that day. And I wish things were different because 2 3 I -- I don't want to feel that scared. I don't want to feel, like, on high alert all the time. 4

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Is it fair to say, 5 6 that you're still worried that when he is released -- so he 7 was sentenced to life, but he was eligible for parole in 17 years. He was sentenced in 2006. So do you worry in the 8 9 future that you may ever run into him, or come across him?

MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Yeah. I -- I 10 worry about it a lot. In a -- I don't know --11

12 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: It's okay. Take It's okay. We can move on if you want me to. 13 your time. 14 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: You know, that I shouldn't have to feel scared. I -- I shouldn't have to 15 have that worry. And I -- I wish I was able to have a say 16 about his sentencing, and make sure that this man will 17 18 never walk outside of a jail ever again because I -- I don't know, it's -- it's too much. 19

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Amena, we can just 20 21 do the pictures and have you describe the -- the memory around them; is that okay? 22

23 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Okay. The pictures so you 24 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: can describe (indiscernible); is that okay? 25

1 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Yeah. MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: We're -- we're going 2 to ask if the pictures can be pulled up. And if Amena can 3 walk through and describe them because she wants to share 4 some of her fond memories of her mom as well. So if she 5 6 could see them? I do too. 7 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: I -- I see them there too, so --8 9 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Okay. COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: If I look over 10 there, I'm not --11 12 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Okay. COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: -- ignoring 13 14 you. 15 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: That picture right there is my absolute favourite picture of my mom. 16 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Oh, yeah. 17 18 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Yeah. And I find it captures her a lot, her beauty and her -- it -- she just 19 looks very down to Earth and happy. And whenever I think 20 21 of my mom, that's the picture that I see. COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: How old was 22 23 she in that picture? 24 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I'm sure. Probably around the same age I am right now. This picture, 25

1 my grandmother told me that she dressed up as Mother Nature for Halloween, or just for fun, and, yeah. 2 3 And this was -- oh, what beach is that? I think it's Northern Bay Sands, and it was a big family 4 outing. So it was me, my mom, my brother, and my dad, my 5 6 grandparents, I think, my great grandmother was there. 7 That's us eating tarts. They're my favourite tarts. I don't remember the occasion. I think 8 9 our -- my baby cousin was born that day, and we celebrated with eating tarts and looking at the baby. 10 This was my mom and my dad's wedding day. 11 12 And that's the -- that little blob is me. And this is one of our birthdays. It was 13 either my brother's or mine. And you can see the two of us 14 15 devouring the cake. And my grandmother is the one in the middle up there. Yeah. 16 This was the best Christmas ever. We had 17 18 lit candles, we opened up a bunch of gifts, and I remember walking around the house with the stroller and the toy baby 19 that I was given. And it -- it was just a lot of fun. 20 21 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: How old were you? How old were you in this picture? 22 23 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Oh, God, maybe 24 four or five. MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you for 25

sharing those memories with us. I know that as you've, like, decided to come here and share your story -- leading up to this, you had an opportunity to go to the pre-Inquiry. And that was really, kind of, the first time you publicly spoke about your mom --

6

MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Yeah.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: -- and shared about 7 your mom. And your own interest in doing research, other 8 9 than the fact that your mother was murdered, has made you a bit of an advocate and, you know, a role model with young 10 women your age. Can you tell us a little bit about why 11 12 it's important to advocate about these issues? Particularly, given your age, and what kind of voice you 13 14 want to bring to the issues?

MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I think it's 15 really important. I am very young, and when I went to the 16 Toronto meeting, I -- me and Samantha here, were the 17 18 youngest people there, I'm pretty sure. But I think it's important to have a -- a voice so young because there are 19 other girl -- little girls and young women who are growing 20 21 up who may have gone through a similar situation as mine, and they feel alone because for the longest time, I -- I 22 23 felt alone. And just knowing that maybe someone else out 24 there will, you know, see me talking about this, or anything, will -- will help them know that they aren't 25

1 going through this alone. And that they -- they can voice
2 their opinion, and they can have a voice because they -3 their -- their voices shouldn't go unheard.

COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Oui. 4 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: We -- we talked 5 6 about some impacts -- some impacts you experienced. And we 7 see the pictures and how much love was in the family. And we know, because you've shared, that you -- you lost her at 8 such a young age. Can you tell us about the impacts of 9 losing your mother at the age of 6 has had overall? 10 The impact and effect it's been in your life? 11

12 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I've gone through a lot of milestones in my life. And it would have been 13 nice to have my mom there. Like, graduating from 14 15 elementary school, and then going into junior high. And then graduating from junior high and then going to high 16 school, and being at my prom, and everything. It would 17 18 have been nice to have my mom there, you know, getting ready with me for these graduations, and cheering me on in 19 the -- on the sidelines. And it -- it would have been nice 20 21 to have that. And I know growing up that it was difficult for my family because, you know, my -- my dad was also very 22 23 young when this had all happened. And he was able to raise 24 both me and my brother on his own, and be strong through the whole time. And I don't give him enough credit because 25

1 that man is the strongest man that I know. And I -- I
2 can't thank him enough for the childhood and everything
3 that he gave me.

He used to go on fishing trips in the 4 summer, once a year, with his friend for a week. And I 5 6 used to go up to my nan's and a family friend's house 7 during that week. And my nan has said that my -- myself and my brother would cry before we would go to sleep 8 because we were scared that our father wouldn't come home. 9 And knowing that we had lost one parent, and we were scared 10 of losing another one. And I -- I even remember whenever I 11 12 would spend one night away from home, and my dad would be home alone, or something, I was scared that something would 13 happen to him. And it -- it's just -- it -- it's been a 14 15 lot knowing and -- knowing and being scared of losing him as well. 16

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And one of the --17 one of the other things we talked about is how uncannily 18 you look like your mom. Where there's some pictures that 19 you -- you look like you could be the same person. And how 20 21 does that impact you as a young Indigenous -- beautiful Indigenous woman? Knowing what happened to your mom, and 22 23 how does that impact you when you're out in the world? Or, 24 what are your fears? What are your -- how do you feel knowing that you also have risks based on the fact of who 25

1 you are?

MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I get scared. 2 3 I -- I like to go for walks by myself and -- and have metime, of course. But I -- I do really get scared, 4 and -- and sometimes I think that someone is going to be 5 6 right behind me, and so I start running from wherever I am. 7 And just keep running until I feel safe again. I just have a thought, but I can't remember it. Sorry. 8 9 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: It's okay. Take your time. 10 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I don't know where 11 I was going with that. I just -- I don't like feeling 12 scared. I shouldn't have to feel scared. And a lot of the 13 times when I'm out walking by myself, I just think -- and, 14 15 like, when I -- when I get these feelings of being scared, I -- I feel like I'm just going to be another statistic. 16 And that's something that worries me all the time because I 17 18 don't want to be another statistic. MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Can you tell me --19 tell us a little bit about the impact it has -- like, 20 21 you're -- we had this conversation. I understand your mom was adopted out as an infant. So we did talk -- if you 22 23 could talk a little bit about the disconnect, but the 24 reality that you walk in an Inuit appearance and face every day. So what -- what type of discrimination or barriers do 25

1 you face based on your lived experienced as an Inuit woman? MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I -- I haven't 2 3 really faced discrimination, but I know that since I grew up in a non-Indigenous house -- household, and with a non-4 Indigenous family and everything, I never got to learn the 5 6 culture. And that's something that I've wanted to do. And being here, and being able to -- and listen to the drumming 7 and see all this beautiful stuff here, it makes me want to 8 be more involved in the culture. And it makes me wish that 9 I was more involved when I was younger. 10 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Do you want to talk 11 12 a bit about education? (Indiscernible). Yeah? So I know that you've graduated high school, and that you think 13 education's important, can you explain to the Commissioner 14 15 your belief in the need for -- at the high need for greater education to be delivered to non-Indigenous people about 16 the experiences of Indigenous people in Canada? 17 18 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I do have something written down. Sam had written it down for me. 19 It's something that we have talked about a few times. And 20 21 I think it's -- the way you wrote it is absolutely perfect. Okay. Is it okay if I read this? Okay. Okay. So what 22 23 she had written is: 24 "The reality of what happens to these

25

missing and murdered Indigenous women

1		is not taught in schools. We are
2		briefed about basic culture in early
3		grade school of smudging, drum circles
4		and the extinction of the Beothuk
5		people."
6	It is	not it is not what?
7		"It was not until I had met Amena at a
8		age 16, that I had even that I was
9		even aware about the missing and"
10	Sorry	, I'm really bad at reading.
11		"It was not until I met Amena at age
12		16, that I was even aware missing and
13		murdered Indigenous women and girls was
14		a problem in Canada. We cannot have
15		justice for our loved ones if we're not
16		even being given the option to be
17		educated properly about it. We read
18		we need this information in our schools
19		and for our children to be aware, so
20		they do not become ignorant to these
21		issues like I was. If there was no
22		room for this type of education,
23		there then there is no room for
24		change to occur."
25	MS. C	HRISTA BIG CANOE: And having attended

school and -- and growing up in a non-Inuit or Indigenous family, what did you remember learning about Inuit or Indigenous people in class?

MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I don't remember a 4 whole lot. I -- I remember, you know, sitting down and it 5 6 would be one day of class where we just learn about the 7 different types of Indigenous people, so Inuit, and Innu, Mi'kmaq, and then we would talk about the Beothuks. 8 And then we would watch a movie or something like that. 9 But the culture was -- was never really taught, and the history 10 behind everything. It -- it was just never spoken about. 11 12 And I -- I think that's unfair because I -- I find the culture so, so beautiful. 13

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Have you ever felt, like -- have you felt disconnected? I know you said you -you didn't get the culture, but how -- what was that like for your identity growing up as a youth?

MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I mean, people
still ask me now if I know any of the language. If I -- if
I know anything cool, and -- and I -- I don't know what
they would -- yeah, I don't know. But people still ask me
that kind of stuff, and I just don't know how to answer it
besides I wasn't taught it growing up, and, yeah.

24 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: But that's one of
25 the things, I think. Is it fair to say, like, in your

continuing healing journey, one of the things that you 1 really want to do is learn more, and do more with your 2 3 culture?

MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Yeah. 4 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And do you think 5 6 that's going to be something that will help you? I mean, obviously, nothing ever brings back your mother. But what 7 are the types of things that -- that you think you and 8 youth -- because you're still really close to youth, can do 9 to cope and to heal through these types of situations? 10

MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I think the best 11 12 thing anyone could ever do in a situation like mine, is to continue to talk about it. And continue to bring awareness 13 to it because it -- it -- sometimes it feels like it's just 14 being shoved underneath a rug or something like that. And 15 it -- it needs to be talked about. And it -- it helps with 16 the healing to talk about your feelings and the anger, the 17 18 sadness, and the grief. It -- it needs to be something to be worked on. 19

To be able to -- and, like, one thing that I 20 21 found helpful when I went to Toronto for the pre-Inquiry meeting was smudging. And I real -- I really enjoyed that. 22 23 And if -- if we could -- if there was a way to teach more people about different types of healing and the different 24 types of culture, I think it would help a lot of people 25

because in a -- in non-Indigenous cultures, it's just,
like, hey, talk about your feelings, and -- and like, take
a bubble bath or something like that. And it -- and -- and
you don't really get the same effect as when you're doing
something that helps clean your heart, and clean your head,
and make -- make sure that you're feeling okay and in a
better spot until you move on.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Now, in terms of, 8 like, justice. Your thoughts on justice, or -- or justice 9 for murdered and missing Indigenous women? We know that 10 your mother's murderer was convicted, but you didn't have a 11 12 big role in understanding the process because of your age. What kind of role do you think you should be able to have 13 in any processes moving forward in relation to the 14 convicted killer? 15

16 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I didn't know that 17 I would be able to have a say in his parole. That was 18 brought to my attention very recently. And being able to 19 have a say in that and make sure that he never walks out of 20 that jail ever again would -- it would ease my mind a whole 21 lot.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: But has anyone ever
 contacted you from Victim Services, or from a Crown's
 office, or from any service, to inform you what type of
 participation you could have in those processes?

1 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: They haven't 2 contacted me personally, no. 3 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Do you think it would be helpful if there was more information, or a way 4 that you could understand how the process works? 5 6 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Yeah. 7 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Do you have any other things that you want to speak about in relation to 8 the -- the justice system, or how it impacts missing and 9 murdered Indigenous women and girls? 10 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: We can totally 11 12 come back to it. MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Just wanted to make 13 14 sure (indiscernible). Did you get a chance to think about 15 some recommendations? (Indiscernible)? MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Okay. Yeah. 16 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Please feel free to 17 18 share. I understand you did make some notes because you wanted to remember the important things you wanted to 19 share. And you're welcome to share these with the 20 21 Commissioner, or read them. Whatever you're more comfortable doing. 22 23 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Okay. I -- I just 24 wrote down a few little suggestions and stuff like that. I -- I was talking on the phone with my nan last night to 25

1 get more of an idea of what can be made available for -for a -- after situations like this. And she said that, in 2 3 general, counselling service made available for the families. After this had happened and -- there was no 4 counselling services for myself and my brother, which I'm 5 6 sure we could have used at that age to help process it and come to terms with it. And then, I guess, counselling as 7 you're growing up because it's -- it -- it doesn't just go 8 9 away.

10 And I already touched the -- the education 11 thing. Educating more people about the culture and about 12 what we're talking about here today. And, yeah, that's 13 what I have written down.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And you had said earlier, your mother was an artist. And one of the -- the things is, you didn't get a chance to, maybe, learn from her some of the art skills that she could have passed to you. Are there other types of programs that you could -think could be made available to youth about culture that would help heal in these circumstances?

21 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I'm not sure. I 22 haven't really thought about that. I find art therapy is 23 really helpful. I mean, you sit down and you paint for 24 hours and you feel better afterwards. You get to express 25 your -- yourself and your emotions while you're painting,

and drawing, and doing all that kind of fun stuff. So I
 think that would be good too.

3 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: In terms of -you're 21, and I know that you're often on your -- I -- I 4 don't even know all of the things, I know like, Snapchat 5 6 and Instagram, but what are ways you can advocate using, like, technology or increase youth and Indigenous voices 7 around this? Do you have some creative ideas on that? Or 8 do you think it's important to keep spreading the word, not 9 just in sessions like this, but through technology? 10

11 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Yeah. I -- I try 12 my best to talk about it as much as I can. When I was in 13 Calgary, there was red dresses, and red shirts, and red 14 everything hung around the University of Calgary. And I 15 made sure to post those pictures and show that, you know, 16 this is a problem and there are people talking about it, 17 and we should continue talking about it.

I've -- since -- since I've known about 18 19 coming here for this trip, I've been posting on Snapchat, and Instagram, and all those social medias, that I was 20 21 coming here. And that we -- we should be speaking about this because it's extremely, extremely important. And 22 23 it -- it would be helpful for more youth to be talking 24 about it, and more people my age and younger even, because we're going to be the next generation. We're going to be 25

trying to change the world and do something good for the world. And if -- if we all just kept talking about it and keep it alive, then, you know, there will be more justice, and awareness, and everything like that. Yeah.

5 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Do you think that 6 there's more people becoming aware, in particular youth, 7 becoming aware of the issues? That we can talk more now 8 than we did in the past?

9 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I sure hope so. 10 I've seen -- I've seen on Facebook more and more that 11 people are sharing the REDress Project, and more people are 12 talking about the Inquiry, and more people are lending 13 their voices. And even just sharing a post, it's bringing 14 awareness.

15 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Am I missing anything? Like, what else do you want to talk about? So 16 you're doing great. I just want to make sure we didn't 17 18 miss anything, that you (indiscernible). All right. Yeah. Okay. I'm going to ask you the strength question. You 19 obviously (indiscernible). So thank you so much for 20 21 sharing. I know it wasn't -- I know it wasn't easy today to actually describe the circumstance, or how you learned 22 23 of your mother's murder. I'm so impressed that at your 24 young age, you've -- you've got so much to share with us. One of the things though, you know, we've been talking 25

about how we can talk about this more, and how it's important. And, you know, I -- I wanted to ask you, you know, how do you find the strength? Like, how did you get the courage to stand up here today and talk? I know you think that talking's important, but what are you tapping into, that inner strength; what is it?

MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Okay. So I've 7 written it all down so my thoughts are in one complete 8 9 place. I found the strength through support of my family. They've been patient with me through rough times. They let 10 me know my self-worth, show me that I can be strong through 11 12 whatever life throws at me, and let me know that it's important to voice my opinion and let my voice be heard. 13 They have gone above and beyond to give me a great 14 15 childhood, even with a big tragedy that potentially turned our world upside down for a little while. And again, I 16 have to say a -- say thank you so much to my father because 17 he -- he's just been great, and he's been strong, and he's 18 19 shown me what strength is because -- and as me and my brother were going through a tough time, I'm sure he was 20 21 going through a tougher time. And I'd -- I admire him for that. And being able to raise me and him on his own, and 22 23 still be an awesome dad.

I found strength through my friends, who have given me a shoulder to cry, and a person to vent to. And being able to laugh until we're crying because we're -because of silly jokes. Through therapeutic late-night
drives, and talks, and then letting me break out of my
shell and feel comfortable in my own skin. And the endless
love they continue to show me on a regular basis,
especially on the bad days. Thank you.

7 I found strength through myself. Learning 8 to love myself, know my self-worth, being brave through 9 though times, even if it's just getting out of bed in the 10 morning. And knowing that I've had an extremely hard life, 11 and I'm still kicking around. And knowing that every hard 12 time in my life will pass by as well.

Lastly, and the most important event that 13 14 helped me build the courage to attend this event today was 15 the pre-Inquiry meeting. That it -- it really opened up my eyes. It was the first place I openly talked about my 16 mother to a bunch of people who I didn't know. I was 17 18 able -- able to share her story and make sure her name would never be forgotten, and feel as if I was making her 19 proud of me. 20

Since that day, my goal was to make sure her story was told all -- along with every other loved one's story. Make sure that these incredible women and girls wouldn't be forgotten. Every mother, sister, daughter, grandmother, aunt, best friend and niece who we've lost

1 over the years deserve to be remembered. We are here to honour our loved ones today. We are here to speak up and 2 3 make sure that we are heard. And we are here to give back the voices that were stolen from our loved ones. And my 4 hope is that you will now hear them loud and clear. 5 6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Wow. 7 (APPLAUSE) MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you. I don't 8 9 have any more questions. I want to make sure we haven't missed anything before the Commissioner has an opportunity 10 to ask questions or make comments. 11 12 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Me already? MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: Oh, can I say one 13 thing before you get started? 14 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Yes, please. 15 MS. AMENA EVANS HARLICK: I just wanted to 16 say, happy International Women's Day to all these women --17 18 beautiful, beautiful women who have had the courage to be here today and to, you know, pull themselves together and 19 be loud, and clear, and strong through this really, really 20 21 hard event. And, you know, to all the women who are watch -- potentially watching, and to these beautiful women 22 23 who have offered help, and it's just incredible. It's just 24 absolutely incredible. So, yeah, happy International Women's Day everyone. 25

1	(APPLAUSE)
2	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Happy
3	International Women's Day to you too, you phenomenal woman.
4	I don't have questions. I I want to acknowledge you,
5	and I want to acknowledge your mom, Mary. And we're not
6	far from where she came from, North West River. Or, I
7	might be pointing in the wrong direction. It's over there.
8	And I'm really honoured to be in her territory, in your
9	territory with you.
10	The you are paving a road for other
11	little girls to become women, and to to take that torch
12	and run with it too. And I just want to (speaking
13	Native Language), I'm so I feel overwhelming pride and
14	admiration. So I'm going to leave it at that. I want your
15	words to be the last words. So (speaking Native Language).
16	MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: There's some gifts
17	too.
18	COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: I have
19	presents for you.
20	Exhibits (code: P01P12P0201)
21	Exhibit 1: Folder of seven digital images displayed
22	during Amena Evans Harlick's public
23	testimony
24	Exhibit 2: CBC News article "Gauthier to serve 17 years
25	without parole" posted August 21, 2006 1:31

1	PM NT, last updated August 21, 2006 1:30 PM
2	NT (sic)
3	Upon adjourning at 10:36 a.m.

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.

ixel Amanda Muscoby

March 24, 2018