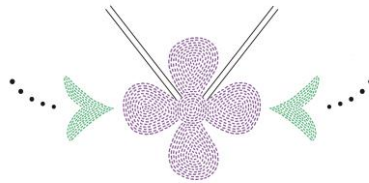


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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 I Public Hearings
Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel
Britannia Ballroom
Metro Vancouver, British Columbia**



Public

Wednesday April 4, 2018

**Public Volume 78:
Jamie Lee Hamilton**

**Heard by Chief Commissioner Marion Buller
Commission Counsel: Breen Ouellette**

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	Julie McGregor (Legal counsel)
Government of British Columbia	Jean Walters (Legal counsel)
Government of Canada	Anne Turley (Legal counsel)
Heiltsuk First Nation	No Appearance
Northwest Indigenous Council Society	No Appearance
Our Place - Ray Cam Co- operative Centre	No Appearance
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada	No Appearance
Vancouver Sex Workers' Rights Collective	No Appearance
Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak / Women of the Métis Nation	No Appearance

III

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Volume 78	1
Witnesses: Jamie Lee Hamilton	
Heard by Chief Commissioner Marion Buller	
Commission Counsel: Breen Ouellette	
Grandmothers, Elders, Knowledge-keepers present: Kathy Louis, Penny Kerrigan, Florence Catcheway, CeeJai Julian, Audrey Siegl, Bernie Poitras Williams, Merle Williams, Deni Paquette, Donna Dickison, Ruth Alfred, Harriet Prince, Gladys Radek, Louise Haulli, Laureen "Blu" Waters-Gaudio, Reta Blind, Elaine Bissonnette, Eunice McMillan, Candace Ruth, Janice Brown, Theresa Russ, Deanna Lewis, Jennifer Thomas, Margerat George & Juanita Desjarlais	
Clerk and Registrar: Bryan Zandberg	

IV

LIST OF EXHIBITS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
Witnesses: Jamie Lee Hamilton		
Exhibits (code: P01P15P0101)		
1	"Forget-Me-Not," text by Jamie Lee Hamilton, dated 04/23/07 (four numbered pages).	43
2	"Missing Person Posters" 23 pages of colour Vancouver Police Department missing persons posters.	43
3	Letter from Jamie Lee Hamilton, Grandma's House to Sandi Cameron, Missing Persons Office of the Vancouver Police Department, dated January 21, 1999 (two pages).	44
4	"Grandma's House Press Releases" (six pages).	44
5	On The Stroll Volume 1, Issue 1, Spring 1999 (four pages).	44
6	Written argument of the Accused in HMTQ v. Jamie Lee Hamilton, Provincial Court of British Columbia, Vancouver Registry Court file No. 114267 (19 pages).	44
7	Rapport final of the National Committee on Transexuality, Prostitution and HIV 2000-2001 (five pages).	44

1 Metro Vancouver, British Columbia

2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 10:19

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you, Chief
4 Commissioner. For the record, my name is Breen Ouellette,
5 and I am a lawyer with the National Inquiry. It is my
6 honour to introduce Jamie Lee Hamilton, who lives in
7 Vancouver. Jamie Lee has brought people in support, who I
8 will ask her to introduce.

9 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Thank you,
10 Commissioner Buller and Breen, and I would like to
11 introduce some great people. A friend of my mother, the
12 late Alice Hamilton: Kathy Louis, who is here to provide
13 support. And two women that were very, very supportive of
14 me personally, when I was going through a difficult time
15 after the scope of the missing and murdered women of the
16 downtown Eastside, Penny and Grace, from the Aboriginal
17 Mothers' Centre, who gave me a job when no one else would.
18 And also, Mark Handley I think that's sitting behind us
19 somewhere; and my friend Josie Eyolchuk (phon) and John
20 Nanno (phon), who are helping me to get around. Thank you.

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Mr. Registrar, Jamie
22 Lee has requested to affirm using an eagle feather.

23 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Okay, good. Good
24 morning, Jamie.

25 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Good morning.

1 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** I'm going to pass you
2 the feather. Now, you can -- we'll do the affirmation, and
3 you said, a promise?

4 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** To affirm.

5 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** To affirm, okay, that's
6 fine. And Jamie, you can hold on to the feather for when
7 you're sharing your story, or we can put it back on the
8 sacred blanket. Okay?

9 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Thank you.

10 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Jamie, do you solemnly
11 affirm that the story you will share today will be the
12 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

13 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** I affirm to tell
14 the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

15 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Wonderful. Thank you.

16 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Thank you. Thank
17 you, Breen, you're so sweet, thank you.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So, Jamie Lee, I
19 understand you wanted to start your testimony by
20 recognizing someone who isn't here with us here today.

21 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Yes, thank you very
22 much. I'd like to recognize my late mother, Alice
23 Hamilton, who was a very instrumental figure in the
24 Aboriginal rights movement here in Vancouver. And it's, I
25 think I do her proud by being here to speak the truth. And

1 it's so wonderful to know that she has friends from those
2 early days and that struggle to advance our rights. So,
3 thank you mother, and stay with me today.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Would you start by
5 telling us about yourself, your occupation and your
6 achievements.

7 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Thank you. My name
8 is Jamie Lee Hamilton, born to an Aboriginal-activist
9 mother and an Irish Protestant father, Ralph Hamilton. And
10 I grew up on the Eastside of Vancouver in Strathcona,
11 mainly. And I attended Britannia High School and Lord
12 Strathcona Elementary.

13 I was, because my family was thrust into
14 poverty at an early age, I grew up in Raymur Project,
15 starting in about grade 7. And it was a difficult time,
16 because at that time I was also confronting my gender
17 identity and the struggles that I was going through. So,
18 as a result of being bullied in school, I dropped out and
19 wound up on Granville Street, and subsequently was involved
20 in the sex trade on and off, for the better part of 48
21 years now.

22 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And I also understand
23 that you've had some organizations that you've been
24 involved in, in the past and present. Could you speak to
25 those?

1 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Oh, yes. I guess I
2 started my work early with the first sex rights
3 organization in Vancouver, called the Alliance for Safety
4 of Prostitutes, ASP; and we were involved in a documentary
5 that was made in 1984, "Hookers on Davie". And I've been
6 involved with the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association
7 for many, many years, a prominent organization. And I've
8 served on boards of Community, which was formerly known as
9 Gay-Lesbian at Community Centre Vancouver. And was
10 involved in the Gay Games in 1990 here, and I've been very
11 involved politically; ran for political office countless
12 times as an Independent.

13 And I most recently founded the first-ever
14 sex workers' memorial in Canada, located at the corner of
15 Jervis and Pendrell Street, where the Anglican Church
16 supported our endeavours. So, I'm very proud of that.

17 And obtaining reparations from the City of
18 Vancouver, who in 1981 had levelled fines against sex
19 workers in the West End, of \$2,000, and in the first six
20 months collected \$28,000. And later that by-law that they
21 had implemented was deemed unconstitutional by the higher
22 courts, that they had never done anything to acknowledge
23 that the money that they took was wrongfully taken.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So, in prior
25 conversations that you and I have had, I've come to

1 understand that you're a survivor of violence. Have you
2 experienced both physical and sexual violence?

3 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Yes. You know, my
4 violence began at an early age. I was just turning 17. I
5 was walking home late one night on Granville Street and a
6 police squad car drove up and asked me to get in the car.
7 There was a dog in the back; and it, the officer asked for
8 my ID, which I produced. And he insisted that he wanted to
9 give me a ride home. I didn't want to, because I was only
10 two blocks away from home, living at Hemlock and Seymour.

11 But he insisted, and I didn't know what to
12 do, I'm very young. And the next thing I know, I'm in
13 Stanley Park in this squad car, and of course, was forced
14 to perform oral sex on the officer. It was a very
15 terrifying time for me. I didn't know whether I was going
16 to survive. I thought, you know, he could kill me; like, I
17 knew officers carried guns. And it was very, very
18 difficult for me that night.

19 And I remember, something in his mind
20 snapped and he thought that there was a police car coming
21 up behind. And he said, "I'm going to quickly drive away,
22 you're going to get out of the car. I'm going to pretend
23 that I'm talking to you. And if they stop, you know, that
24 you're just providing me information." And so, he stopped.
25 This was way over in the middle of the Park, deep into the

1 Park; and it's about three in the morning. And I got out
2 and he drove away, along with my ID, which I never had
3 again for a very long time.

4 But it was very terrifying, because not only
5 had I been through a traumatic experience of this, what I
6 consider a sexual assault, I also had to find my way out of
7 the Park, and I was pretty frightened; you know, that late,
8 and young.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And about how far away
10 from home were you when you were left there at three in the
11 morning?

12 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Oh, a couple of
13 miles.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And it was dark,
15 obviously. Did you get a look at this officer, do you
16 remember what he looked like?

17 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Yes, of course. I
18 was able, you know, his eyes stood out the most. He was
19 wearing a police cap and, you know, the uniform; but it was
20 his eyes, very large, piercing eyes. And yeah, so I just
21 remember those eyes. And never forgot them.

22 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Were you aware of
23 other people within the justice system using the services
24 of sex workers at that time in the '70s?

25 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Yes, definitely.

1 They would come down to the stroll, which we called the
2 working area. And they would often obtain free services
3 under the pretext if you didn't provide those services they
4 would charge you with a prostitution-related offence.

5 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And can you tell us
6 what you know about Wendy King from the '70s?

7 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Oh, Wendy, yes.
8 Wendy was an indoor sex worker, she lived on Pendrell
9 Street in the West End, where many of us lived. And she
10 was living with a fellow and the police were doing a sting
11 on the fellow, who was a low-level drug trafficker. And
12 they intercepted a phone call from an individual named
13 Silver Hair John, who was coming up to see Wendy.

14 So, the police did a stakeout outside
15 Wendy's apartment there on Pendrell Street. And Silver
16 Hair John drives up and goes in, and they punch in the
17 licence plate number and find out that it was the Chief
18 Justice, John Farris. And Wendy disappeared shortly after
19 that and has never resurfaced or been seen again. She was
20 charged, but Judge Farris was not.

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Are you still in
22 contact today with people that are in the sex trade?

23 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Oh, yes,
24 absolutely. I go down to the Low Track, we call it, north
25 of Hastings in the industrial area. And I visit my friends

1 down there who are, you know, still working. And, you
2 know, make sure they're okay and just talk about issues.
3 And they give me information that I can use to, you know,
4 raise politically, because they're not political.

5 And you know, instead of the police now
6 harassing them, it's the business improvement organizations
7 that have hired these security firms who are, like, rent-a-
8 cops. And they harass women and push them around and, you
9 know, it's -- the issue is still treated as a nuisance. It
10 seems that the workers' lives have little value, that
11 there's so much focus around this nuisance ideal; that
12 somehow they're creating a nuisance.

13 And then the police say that you're not
14 allowed to be near a community centre, a park, a school, a
15 playground; but of course, in Vancouver, pretty well
16 anywhere you go, you're going to be near one of these
17 spots. But not only that, these areas provide safety.
18 They're well-lit; the women and men and girls in the sex
19 trade, you know, go there, because, for safety reasons.
20 Because the area that they're being pushed to is very dark,
21 deserted and without much -- danger lurks, it's where
22 Pickton preyed. And they've always promised better
23 lighting but that's never come about. And it's still
24 pretty awful.

25 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So, are you hearing

1 from your people that are in the sex trade that police
2 officers are still sexually assaulting them today?

3 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Yes, you know, I
4 think the police have become very good at public relations.
5 And have embarked on a campaign that, they present that
6 they're really helping sex workers, and that they will only
7 as a last resort charge them with a prostitution-related
8 offence. But the reality is that, with Bill C-36, that the
9 -- which the new law was created, that the women and girls
10 are supposed to be left alone, and that they're supposed to
11 go after the male customers. But it's completely the
12 opposite, they still, of course, target the most
13 vulnerable, the women and girls; and Aboriginal women and
14 girls in the sex trade.

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So, I understand that
16 you testified as an expert witness at the Oppal Inquiry.
17 Can you tell me what you learned when you were there?

18 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** You know, I felt
19 that the Oppal Commission of Inquiry was very interesting;
20 that I came face-to-face with my violator, decades later,
21 at the Oppal Commission of Inquiry. And I knew right away
22 who it was. Which, I practically had a meltdown while I'm
23 giving testimony, because I'm confronted with my abuser.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So, this is the police
25 officer that you spoke about earlier?

1 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Yes, yes, it's the
2 police officer.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so, can you tell
4 us exactly how that unfolded?

5 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Well, you know, I
6 saw him in the hallway. I had met most of the Commission
7 staff and Judge Oppal. And I saw that person and, you
8 know, I asked who it was. And the lawyer assigned to me
9 said, "Oh, he's our Executive Director, John Boddie," of
10 the Oppal Commission of Inquiry.

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So, do you know what
12 happened to Boddie?

13 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** As far as I know,
14 he was put on administrative leave and, you know, there
15 were stories that would come out that many female staff had
16 levelled allegations of sexual harassment and other issues
17 against him. It was investigated, they brought in an
18 independent too, independent people to investigate. But it
19 just seemed to go away and the executive director, from the
20 best of my knowledge, never reappeared there, and it just
21 seemed to be whitewashed.

22 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Have you ever
23 previously spoken about this?

24 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** I spoke about it
25 without naming the person, because I didn't know who it

1 was. I spoke about it at the Parliamentary Sub-Committee
2 on Solicitation in, I believe, 2007. And Dr. Hedy Fry, who
3 is a member of parliament, was hearing the testimony. And
4 she took me aside and suggested that I should go forward
5 with it. And we did attempt -- I enlisted the services of
6 Katrina Pacey, a lawyer with Pivot Legal. And Katrina
7 tried her best to get records from the Vancouver Police
8 Department of, sorry, of that time, 1972. And of course,
9 was met with resistance and then informed that they didn't
10 have those records. Which seemed unusual, so.

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Can you tell us about
12 the next traumatic event that you encountered when you were
13 still a teenager?

14 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Yes. Again, I was
15 down at Broughton and Davie, which was part of our West End
16 working stroll. And every Saturday I would take off, and
17 just go out; and often we hung out there with our other
18 friends. It was like, we wanted to take licence plate
19 numbers down and, you know, just take care of one another,
20 look out for one another.

21 And I was down there and, you know, spotting
22 for a friend. And then my friend went away with a client
23 and then I was just standing there, and a car drove up and
24 motioned me over. So, I went over, and they asked if I
25 would be willing to do this service, provide oral sex. I

1 said, "Ah, I don't know, I'm not really working tonight,
2 it's my night off, and I really don't feel like doing much
3 tonight." And they offered a price, I guess, for
4 inducement, and I said I would think about it, and that,
5 you know, go down a few blocks away to the Sands Hotel on
6 Davie and Denman, and if I wasn't there in 15 minutes, that
7 meant I wasn't coming down.

8 And I didn't go down. And I, about 20
9 minutes to a half-hour later, a marked car pulls up. I
10 don't know at first that it's a marked police car, and it's
11 three gentlemen in the car. And they told me to get in,
12 and I said, "Oh no, no, no, no, no, I'm not going to get
13 into a car with three men." And then they informed me they
14 were police officers. So, I got in and they started
15 driving away, down by the old Yaletown area. And that's
16 when they told me I was under arrest for prostitution. And
17 I was frightened, and they were taking me off to the jail.
18 And I had heard stories about the jail elevator, so I was
19 very frightened going up that. But nothing prepared me for
20 what happened in the booking area.

21 It was right near Halloween, it was after my
22 birthday of September 20th. And they began throwing off
23 firecrackers, and I was sort of jumping around; I didn't
24 know what was going around. I imagine they were trying to
25 frighten me, and they were making disparaging jokes about

1 me; they did a strip search, including, you know, me taking
2 off my brassiere. And of course, I had falsies on, and
3 they were making horrible jokes about that, and tossing
4 them around. And it was just a very humiliating
5 experience.

6 And then they locked me up. And I had heard
7 that whenever you're put in jail, you can have one call.
8 And I asked for that one call, and of course, I called my
9 mother. And I told her; it was hard, I had to tell her I
10 was arrested for prostitution. And she said, "Let me try
11 to take care of it." And then, later on, the police -- or
12 guard or whoever it is, came back and said, "You're going
13 to be spending the night. You can't -- you won't be
14 released."

15 So, in the morning, I have to appear in the
16 courtroom, and there's my mother. God bless her. And I
17 was there, so my mother was seeing me, probably not in the
18 best light, right? After spending the night in jail. She
19 hadn't ever seen me dressed up before, and so, I think it
20 was a double-whammy for her.

21 But the judge said at that time, "Well, you
22 know, we need to keep these type of people off the
23 streets." And I thought, I wonder what he means by 'these
24 people'. And my mother must have been thinking the same
25 thing, because she went striding down the passageway there

1 and said, "Your Honour, my child is not a bad person. And
2 you know, she might have social issues, like she grew up in
3 poverty, but she's never been in trouble with the law and I
4 don't like you talking that way." And she referred to me
5 at that time as her son. "I don't like you talking that
6 way to my son, who is a very good person."

7 And I'm scared, because I'm scared for her,
8 that she might get charged with contempt or something. But
9 the lawyer said, "No, no, she's gonna get you sprung out of
10 here. She's appealing to his humanity." And sure enough,
11 that's what happened. It was held over till the afternoon.
12 And then, I was given an area restriction, where -- and I
13 said, "Your Honour, I live right there." And he said,
14 "Well, too bad, you're gonna have to move." And I thought,
15 "Oh no, that's my community, that's where I live, that's
16 where my friends are." But my mom said, come stay with us
17 for a while. I did that till I got back on my feet.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Can you tell me what
19 happened with the charges?

20 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Oh, yes, the
21 charges were dropped. They were considered entrapment,
22 that I hadn't offered any service, I hadn't quoted a price
23 and I hadn't agreed to any -- so they were dropped.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And can you describe
25 for the Chief Commissioner why it was more than an

1 inconvenience to have that area restriction placed on you?
2 Specifically, how did it make you vulnerable, to take you
3 out of your community?

4 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Well, it took me
5 into an area that I wasn't familiar with, which was the
6 Mount Pleasant industrial area of Vancouver, which is very
7 dark, deserted. It took me away from my community. My
8 community is so important; for those who have grown up that
9 have community supports, it's everything to us. It's our
10 family; we've developed kinships. And it's about our
11 survival. Because -- so I had that taken away from me, so
12 I was placed in further danger. And it was very, very
13 troubling and terrifying.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Have you encountered
15 violence from your clients as well?

16 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** I had. When, of
17 course I was younger, about age 22 or 23, I had met a
18 potential client. We drove down to -- I was living in a
19 house on Bidwell, Bidwell-Nelson in the West End -- and he
20 pulled into the parking lot. Well, it wasn't a parking
21 lot, it was a driveway that bordered my house.

22 And he had backed his car in, that I
23 couldn't open the door, it was right against the cement
24 wall. And he pulled a knife on me. And I just thought,
25 "Oh no, oh no, I don't want to die here like this," so I

1 just tried to talk to him. I said, "Look, I'm gonna do
2 whatever you want and we're going to be way more
3 comfortable, let's go into my place. We're right here,
4 there's no need for the knife. It's -- you know, I'll do
5 what you want. I'm gonna make sure you have a good time."

6 And so, he agreed, and I said, you know,
7 "You have to pull the car out," and as soon as he did, I
8 opened it and ran, and got into my apartment. And I
9 remembered the licence plate, because that was one thing
10 that was imprinted in my mind as I was escaping. And so, I
11 phoned the police, and they came, and they found him in the
12 area. He was still preying for other workers. And he was
13 charged.

14 And then, I had to appear in court and I
15 remember, I was -- it was because -- they had found a
16 butter knife on him. So, there was a lot of ridicule;
17 that, "Oh, it's only a butter knife," and, you know. So, I
18 was really humiliated, that it was a very -- experience;
19 still, a butter knife can really harm you, and you don't
20 know what type of knife is being held at your throat, other
21 than you see the gleam of a knife, and it's still
22 dangerous. But I felt -- I didn't go back. I just
23 thought, this system doesn't help people like me. It's
24 fucked up, really.

25 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so, to be clear,

1 when you say you didn't go back, you mean that you couldn't
2 rely on the police anymore?

3 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Couldn't rely on
4 the police; I didn't think I could rely on the justice
5 system. You know, coupled with what had previously
6 transpired in my life, I just lost faith that the people
7 that are there to protect me, did anything but.

8 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And are you still --
9 are you hearing today from the people that you know in the
10 sex trade that some judges are still downplaying assaults
11 with weapons against sex trade workers?

12 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Oh, definitely.
13 They come down and they will, you know, under the guise of
14 wanting to help, they then -- you know, at first, they were
15 using the condoms found in the purse as a threat. Saying,
16 "We're gonna charge you, because this is why you have the
17 condoms." And then it changed. But still it prevailed,
18 that they would come down and, you know, extort favours,
19 there's no other way of putting it.

20 And it still continues to this day. And
21 it's really tragic that that happens, because women and
22 girls and young men in the sex trade won't turn to the
23 police if they've been sexually assaulted. Because they
24 feel it won't be taken seriously and there's lack of trust.
25 There has been some improvement, I have to acknowledge.

1 But again, it depends on the power dynamic in the higher-
2 ranking levels of the police department, how that, how the
3 responses are to the issue.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So, I know you had a
5 really strong example in your mother of political activism.
6 Did you also take on an activist or advocate role as you
7 got older?

8 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Yes, I wouldn't say
9 "as I got older," but, as I aged; I don't consider myself
10 "older" yet. But, yes, I did.

11 I started, you know, for the Alliance for
12 Safety of Prostitutes in the late '70s and as I mentioned,
13 there was this street activities' by-law, the anti-hooker
14 by-law, that was brought in by the mayor of the day,
15 Michael Harcourt. And we did a protest, did a big march,
16 with banners and we wore black masks, and we marched up to
17 City Hall. And we wore the black masks to hide our
18 identity, because we were fearful that we would be charged
19 with prostitution-related offences.

20 And you know, we carried signs saying
21 "Harcourt is our Pimp". Because, you know, the City was
22 reaping lots of money from licensing of indoor escort
23 services and at the same time, targeting those of us on the
24 street, many who were Aboriginal women and girls and boys.
25 And so, that protest was a good experience.

1 We weren't any match, though, for the
2 citizens' groups that sprung up. They called themselves
3 "Shame the Johns," but it was really about shaming the
4 prostitutes. And they would, you know, come out onto the
5 strolls and be antagonistic and it was a very, very
6 difficult time.

7 And then the attorney general of the day
8 applied for an injunction barring us from the West End, and
9 it was granted by the late Chief Justice McEachern. And in
10 1984, July 1984, which mass-evicted us from the West End,
11 which seems like *Human Rights* violations to me. At that
12 time, there were feminist organizations around, there were
13 legal groups, but no one really came to our aid. There was
14 a few people; John Turvey, the late John Turvey and Rob
15 Joyce, who was a social worker with the Ambassador Project.
16 But very few people would put their necks out to support
17 us, because we were deemed 'bad people'; we were criminals,
18 we were considered disposable, throwaways.

19 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So, I have some
20 missing persons posters that you wanted to share with the
21 Chief Commissioner. And I'm going to pass you a copy here.
22 Would you share why you've been collecting these over the
23 years?

24 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Yes. In 1990, '91
25 I guess, by this time I was doing outreach services with

1 Reverend Barry Morris from First United Church. And we
2 were walking out on the stroll, by this time it's over in
3 the Downtown Eastside, north of Hastings. And we're giving
4 out hot apple cider and coffee to the workers.

5 And then, I was hearing from those on the
6 street how their friends were going missing. And some of
7 them were turning up, of course, found murdered, but others
8 were not. And so, there was a really great officer of the
9 Downtown Eastside, who we're all familiar with, Dave
10 Dickson. And he began collecting these posters for me.

11 And I would say, "Dave, can't we have
12 posters without it being mugshots of the women, because it
13 paints a picture that they're a criminal, and they're not."
14 And he said, "Well, we don't have a lot of contact with
15 family people," but eventually, you know, after some
16 prodding, they were able to turn up photos.

17 But I was collecting these in '91; Cheryl
18 Ann Joe, an Aboriginal woman, was brutally murdered in the
19 Downtown Eastside. And her murder was horrifying to me and
20 I was working with the Downtown Eastside Residents'
21 Association then. And she had a good family, and her
22 family lobbied about her murder. And the organizations in
23 the Downtown Eastside, which can sometimes be at
24 loggerheads with each other, all came together.

25 And that was the genesis, the catalyst for

1 the February 14th Women's Memorial March. And Cheryl's
2 murder, of course, the person, Brian Allender, who murdered
3 her, was an upstanding citizen. He was a -- what would you
4 call it -- a coach of the Hastings Little League Baseball.
5 So, very well-respected; but the way that he had murdered
6 Cheryl was really, really disgusting.

7 And so, I'm collecting these posters, and
8 around this time too I'm wanting to start up -- there was
9 no supports for trans, two-spirited people in the Downtown
10 Eastside working in the sex trade. And so, I started up,
11 out of First United Church, where my mother was a member,
12 and started a food bank and a hot meal program. And then
13 some, then further along, I started up, that spun off into
14 a clothing store. Again, on Hastings Street. And many of
15 the working women would come in and shop, and even
16 shoplift....

17 But they were wonderful. They would sit at
18 times and just, you know, we would have great
19 conversations. And I got to know so many of the women.
20 And many Aboriginal women. And you know, they were telling
21 me their stories about friends going missing. And so by
22 this time, I'm going, "Oh, gee, I have so much shoplifting
23 in this store, maybe it's time to set something up for the
24 working women."

25 And so, I knew I needed to -- I wasn't sure

1 I would be taken seriously, so I had developed contacts
2 with different people, professional people. And asked them
3 to come and sit on the board, which they agreed to. And we
4 founded Grandma's House Society, which was the only
5 organization in that time opened specifically at night
6 time, from nine at night to five in the morning, to help
7 women. And we located ourselves right on the street.

8 And I noticed at that time that there were
9 people that really did care about this issue. You know,
10 two elite, I would consider, elite women of society here in
11 Vancouver, came forward, Cynnne Woodward from the
12 Woodward's Family Stores and Jacqui Cohen from Army & Navy.
13 And they gave us seed money to start the drop-in. And that
14 was great, and I said, "Now, you ladies aren't too shocked,
15 are you about what we're doing?" And they said, "Oh God,
16 no, we're here to support. Because, you know, many of the
17 women that you're helping also were our customers, too, in
18 the stores." So, we did that, and that's when -- in 1997
19 is when we started up. And we had a storefront at 1127
20 East Hastings. And all the posters went in the big plate-
21 glass windows that we had.

22 And by this time, I'm engaging in some
23 pretty wild antics that I think the mayor got upset about.
24 I had 67 pairs of stiletto shoes on the steps of City Hall,
25 and I had -- each pair represented one of the women who had

1 gone missing or been murdered up until that point. And I
2 contacted some Chiefs of the local Bands, but no one, I
3 said, "Some of the women are members of your Nation," but
4 no one wanted to seem to help.

5 And I met Viola Thomas, a wonderful warrior-
6 woman, who will be testifying here I guess at some point.
7 And I said, "Viola, there's an over-representation of
8 Aboriginal women." And she was the president of United
9 Native Nations, and she came up with me to City Hall. And
10 we hijacked a council meeting, and took a place on the
11 agenda, the murders of these 67 women. We had written
12 letters and been polite, and no one wants to respond.

13 And so, that was the sort of, last sort of
14 front that we could take, is to try to embarrass them,
15 right? And I -- it was interesting, because the Langara
16 journalism students were up there, about 40 of them, and
17 they thought they were gonna witness an old, stodgy council
18 meeting. And they were witnessing high drama.

19 And of course, I wasn't leaving that lectern
20 until the mayor got back in his seat. Because he ordered
21 all the councillors out and -- but I stayed there for four
22 hours. Viola had to go back to work, but I stayed there.
23 And we got the meeting finally, with the mayor.

24 And around that time, Sarah de Vries had
25 gone missing. She was Aboriginal and African-American

1 background, and she used to shop in my store. And the
2 family called me to a meeting at the church, and they
3 wanted to do a memorial for her, because she'd been missing
4 for some time. And so, but they wanted it to be for other
5 women as well. So, we decided that we would do it at First
6 United Church and march down to Crown Park. And I invited
7 the Mayor, Philip Owen at that time, I said, "You know, you
8 need to come." And I think he wanted to appease me,
9 because he was getting tired of all my antics. And he
10 came. And I was able to walk with him. And I knew that I
11 could appeal to his humanity.

12 And we were wanting a reward for the
13 disappearances and the murders of the women, and the police
14 were opposed to it. They were saying things like, "Oh, the
15 women might have just moved away, nothing's happened,
16 there's no evidence of anything going on." And the mayor,
17 I guess in that moment, he decided that a reward was
18 warranted. And as the Police Board Chair, he called for
19 the establishment of a \$100,000 reward and it was granted.

20 And so, I feel that the women were deemed as
21 disposable. And it was very, very tragic; their lives were
22 tragic. You know, they were human beings; they were
23 sisters, mothers, daughters, loved ones, wives; partners,
24 aunties, grandmas. They were human beings worthy of
25 dignity and respect, and that wasn't accorded to them in

1 life. And even in the posters, some references are made
2 to, oh, "was a drug addict", and "sex worker". It's like,
3 it's invalidating someone's life when you just reduce them
4 to that. It's just, there's so much more. Oh yes, there's
5 some women; you know, there was Sarah de Vries, there was
6 Angela Jardine, there was Helen Hallmark, there was Maria
7 Creison, there was Stephanie Lane -- oh, I could go on and
8 on. There's so many and they deserve so much better. So,
9 much better.

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so, these weren't
11 just missing posters to you; these were your friends.

12 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** They were my
13 friends and, you know, I really got to know them. In
14 particular, Sarah de Vries was a great poet, and she would
15 write in her journals -- and Sheila Egan's up there, I see.

16 And you know, so many of them were talented;
17 they were artists, they were creative. And you know, it
18 was so sad to see them going missing and nothing being
19 done.

20 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So, I know that Cheryl
21 Ann Joe, you said, was a catalyst for you.

22 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Absolutely, she
23 was.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And you provided a
25 piece that you wrote. Could you tell me what the title is?

1 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** It's "Forget Me
2 Not, Cheryl's Murder."

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And what would you
4 like to say about what you had to write here?

5 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** I wrote it to
6 honour her. I wanted people to know that she should never
7 been placed in a situation where she was left to fend for
8 herself, she was vulnerable. One of the most vulnerable
9 women in our city, across our country. And she was a
10 young, single mother, two little children; she was just
11 trying to feed them. And she lived there on Vernon Drive
12 and Hastings, and, you know -- it's very hard, it's very
13 hard, because she didn't deserve what happened to her. No
14 one deserves -- and you know, I was happy to be able to
15 write this and to honour her.

16 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Now, against the
17 backdrop of all this, you were the executive director of
18 Grandma's House, is that correct?

19 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Yes, that's
20 correct.

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And can you tell me
22 about what the mandate of Grandma's House was?

23 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** It was to provide
24 support to women, trans-women, two-spirited people involved
25 in life on the street in the Downtown Eastside. And we

1 provided peer counselling; we provided a library; we had
2 vitamins and minerals, we tried to have, you know, snacks
3 available. We had computer classes; we put out a
4 newsletter called "On the Stroll," and some of the women
5 would write for that.

6 And you know, they'd write about maybe
7 makeup and just, you know, things that were useful. And we
8 would take that out -- we were primarily volunteer-run, and
9 so in that -- I don't know if Bernie's still here. I
10 remember Bernie coming down to our Centre, and us going out
11 into the back alleys and you know, Bernie came down with
12 soup, her and her partner. You know, it was just -- yeah,
13 it provided support.

14 But we came under -- after drawing attention
15 to the missing women -- we came under fire by the Vancouver
16 Police. Our location did; and they said that we shouldn't
17 be in that location, it wasn't properly zoned. Of course,
18 if you know landlords, the Downtown Eastside, they are not
19 going to upgrade the buildings. And so, the City was
20 trying to force us to relocate, right into the heart of
21 what I call the Downtown Eastside Killing Fields, where
22 Pickton roamed. And it was in a back alley, it was near
23 the Waldorf Hotel; very deserted industrial area.

24 And we balked at them trying to locate us
25 there. And we had by this time too a wonderful nun from

1 the Franciscan Sisters of Atonement, Sister Elizabeth, who
2 was on our board. And she was a feisty Irish woman in her
3 80s by this point. And she came, and she fought City Hall
4 with us. And so, at the end of the day, we moved into a
5 house on Pandora Street, quite close to the Aboriginal
6 Mothers' Centre.

7 And it was right in the heart, right on the
8 stroll, on what was known as "Franklin kiddie stroll",
9 where underage girls and boys had been placed to -- by the
10 police -- as an area, that if they were there, they would
11 be left alone. And it became this renowned, world-
12 renowned, awful -- known as the kiddie stroll. And so, we
13 were there trying to do our outreach and so forth. And of
14 course, we were supposed to be a safe house.

15 And the night we were moving in, our phone
16 number was not listed, because it's a safe house. And in
17 the morning, first day arriving at the house, I listened to
18 the messages, and there's a threat made by someone. And I
19 phoned the police and the police arrived and said, "Well,
20 of course I wouldn't want a house like this in my area," as
21 well. And I said, "And what type of house is that?" I
22 said, "Everybody's entitled to justice. You know, you
23 might have a different life than many of those who are on
24 the street, but that doesn't make you better than them.
25 They should be entitled to the same rights that you have."

1 And so, anyways, they began releasing our
2 address, our phone number; suddenly we had protests right
3 in front of the house with picket signs. And it disclosed
4 a safe house and made us very vulnerable. You know, I'd
5 walk to the restaurant in the area or something, and it
6 would just -- it was awful, people were treating us very
7 badly. And then I was, this was still prior to Pickton
8 being charged -- and they deemed our house a bawdy house.
9 And I was....

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** I just wanted to get
11 one point of clarification. You said that they let
12 information out. So, was the address of the house and the
13 telephone unlisted?

14 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Yes, totally
15 unlisted. And I had been contacted by a Vancouver Sun
16 reporter, Yvonne Zacharias, and she wanted to do a story.
17 And so, she arrived at the house and, you know, seemed
18 pleasant. And she was showing me documents that our
19 location was being disclosed from the Wall Street Community
20 Policing Office, which was shocking. Because the office
21 assigned to that office, Russ Mitchell, also had a law
22 degree. So, you know, he should have known better. And
23 that Wall Street Community Safety Office was anything but a
24 safety office, because, you know, they're riling up people.
25 And of course, putting us at further risk.

1 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you for that.

2 I'll ask you, what I interrupted you about. So, could you
3 tell us about the charges that were brought in 2000?

4 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Yes, I was about to
5 -- well, first I had known that there was a woman that
6 arrived. And she was with a male. And by this time, we're
7 allowing the rooms to be used by the women and their
8 clients, because, you know, we know there's a serial killer
9 out there -- serial killers.

10 And so, you know, we wouldn't be doing our
11 job if we just said, "Oh yeah, come in and eat and go back
12 out and get into dark cars, locked cars." We would be also
13 putting the women at risk. And we all knew at this point
14 that there's a serial killer.

15 And so, we -- I was about to go on a radio
16 show, CKNW that night. And -- oh, first thought, when the
17 woman arrived, I knew -- I thought, "You know, she's really
18 well-tanned, and her hair is perfect." And I looked down
19 at her shoes. And you know what? All the girls wear
20 hooker shoes. And these weren't hooker shoes. And I
21 thought, "Oh, I think we're -- there's a sting operation
22 going on here." And sure enough, they were doing a sting.
23 They had visited the house two or three times and paid the
24 \$15 and so they charged me that night.

25 On my way getting into the taxi, they came

1 up to me, calling my name, and arrested me and charged me
2 with running a common bawdy house.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So, you found yourself
4 a target now. Did the Crown proceed to court on the
5 charges?

6 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** They did. And of
7 course, we applied for a Constitutional argument, that we
8 felt that the charges were unconstitutional. Because if we
9 were a safe house, a federally registered charity and a
10 non-profit, was going to be charged as a common bawdy
11 house, they should be charging every four and five-star
12 hotel in this country with the same offence.

13 And so, I -- my lawyer suggested, the late
14 Harry Rankin, that I feign an illness to go to the
15 hospital. So, because he thought I needed the media
16 present when -- that this issue was a very hot topic. So,
17 they had to take me to the hospital. And so, they then
18 arrested me at the hospital and said I had to turn up the
19 next morning, if I was released, for re-arrest. And I did,
20 but not before inviting every media outlet I could get a
21 hold of, who showed up.

22 I announced of course that I was there, and
23 I questioned why the mayor wasn't turning himself in,
24 seeing that, you know, they were reaping big bucks off of
25 knowingly licensing prostitution in our city. But anyways,

1 went in to jail; spent about eight hours there. And you
2 know, I had good friends and political support and Harry
3 Rankin, who by this time is in his late 70s, he's getting
4 me through it. Telling me I'm in the system now.

5 Anyways, we got a great judge, Carly Truman
6 (phon), and she was known as an activist judge. And you
7 could tell, with our Constitutional argument, that she's
8 leaning towards striking down the law. And then -- this is
9 a long process, almost two years. And then she was
10 suddenly put on stress or administrative leave, so she was
11 taken off the case, essentially.

12 And what happened then, my lawyer was then
13 invited to go into chambers, secret court. I wasn't
14 allowed in. And then, you know, he said, "You've got to
15 trust me on this, you just have to trust me." And I did.
16 And he came out and said all charges had been dropped.

17 So, on a personal level, you know, I was
18 happy; but the outstanding issue of safety and life,
19 liberty and security for women and girls and Aboriginal
20 women and girls and men on the street, it's still -- it's
21 outstanding.

22 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so, this second
23 time that you find yourself in a jail cell, just to go back
24 a little bit. Did the police once again not show
25 appropriate respect?

1 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Yes, they were
2 leading me off to the male section of the jail. And I
3 said, "Oh, no, no, no, you can't do that, that's just not
4 right." And so, someone intervened, I can't remember who
5 it was, and cited some regulation. So, I had to be put on
6 the female side; but there for a few moments, it was very,
7 very frightening for me. And so, I went off. You know,
8 they cleared out the cell and put me in the cell by myself.
9 But, you know. And it was sad for me, a few years ago,
10 that they still treat trans and two-spirit people in that
11 manner.

12 There was a woman, roller-derby girl. And
13 she was charged with -- because she gets out in the traffic
14 and directs traffic on roller skates. It's kind of benign
15 and entertaining, right? And she's charged. And they
16 humiliated her, they wouldn't allow her her female
17 hormones, she had just had just had gender-conformation
18 surgery and she has to use certain medical stents, they
19 wouldn't allow her access to that. They would call her by
20 her male pronoun and the male dead name. And it was just
21 very humiliating.

22 The Vancouver Police were taken to *Human*
23 *Rights* and they lost, *Human Rights* ruled in favour of
24 roller-derby girl. And so, the police subsequently have to
25 write policies, and they've been dragging their feet all

1 along in regard to the policy and it's still not in place.
2 But they want to have the last decision about where to
3 place trans people, two-spirit people, in the prison
4 system. And they say it's for our all protection, but it's
5 really abusive still.

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so, I understand,
7 you said that it took two years to get through this court
8 process. And I understand from our previous conversations
9 that it was a bail requirement that Grandma's House be shut
10 down permanently?

11 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Yes, Grandma's
12 House had to be closed, which we complied with the
13 condition. And of course, had to vacate the house, and I'm
14 left with no resources myself. And, you know, I try to
15 rent places that, you know, basically because of those
16 charges, I'm deemed the worst-term possible, I'm deemed a
17 pimp. And it was awful for me, and people would spit at me
18 when I was walking by. I went into my favourite Chinese
19 restaurant, the On Wok, they had a petition there against
20 us. It was just very, very tragic.

21 And so, I had to rent commercial spaces to
22 be able to live myself, and hope that the commercial
23 landlord hadn't heard of me. And at this time, some
24 wonderful angels by the name of Penny Kerrigan, Grace Hay
25 and Mark Handley, wherever Mark is, embraced me. They gave

1 me a job at the Aboriginal Mothers' Centre. They didn't
2 judge me, they -- they were so good to me. And they were
3 one of the few organizations that allowed sex workers; into
4 the Aboriginal Mothers' Centre to get meals and get support
5 -- I love you guys forever. Thank you.

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so, a vacuum was
7 created when Grandma's House was closed. Did you ever try
8 to revive that?

9 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** I did. I opened a
10 space up on Kingsway. Because again, there's another
11 stroll that goes along Kingsway, and the women up there
12 have no support; and I knew the Olympics were coming. And
13 you know, there could be lots of assaults against sex
14 workers. So, we opened, I worked with the City this time,
15 and got a licence as a social club and operated up on
16 Kingsway for about seven years.

17 And then I got sick, but yes, we were
18 providing support, as much as -- you know, just through
19 admissions into the club and private support. It was
20 really what I would consider a social enterprise as well.
21 Like, it helped the most marginalized people have some
22 employment.

23 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** You spoke earlier
24 about some of your activist and advocate undertakings. You
25 spoke about presenting at the Parliamentary Sub-Committee

1 on Solicitation and about the West End Sex Workers'
2 Memorial, one of the few in the world. You also said you
3 wanted to share some of your thoughts on what was good and
4 what fell short with the Oppal Inquiry. Would you tell us
5 about that?

6 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Yeah, I felt that
7 the Oppal Commission didn't hear from a diversity of
8 voices. It really needed to. I think it was clouded as
9 well by this executive director, who obscenely made -- was
10 the highest paid person in B.C. government and he made
11 something like over \$600,000 in a couple of years, billing
12 the Oppal Commission.

13 You know, Judge Oppal was very kind and he
14 was nice. And the staff were good people. But it was
15 hard, because there were things that just -- things that
16 were happening that clouded the Inquiry. Families weren't
17 given standing that should have been; there should have
18 been proper funding for organizations and groups to be able
19 to present.

20 It seemed to be really -- and I'm glad to
21 say that this is not the case with this Commission; it was
22 really a top-heavy place. And all their lawyers. It just
23 seemed to be that they were on the defensive and it was
24 about them. And by the way, I have since learned that this
25 Commission can't hold, and you might have to help me with

1 the language here -- can't hold anyone accountable....

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Are you referring to
3 findings of misconduct?

4 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Yes, findings of
5 misconduct; that this Commission cannot. That B.C., as far
6 as I know, is the only province that has made an agreement
7 that said, unless this Commission agreed to that, then the
8 Commission could not meet in B.C.

9 And just for all of you out there, you need
10 to write your MPs and your MLAs and scream up a storm about
11 that. Because there needs to be findings, I think, for
12 accountability purposes, of misconduct. And so please,
13 please.... It's the one request I have of all of you.
14 Sorry, that was my moment of being political.

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay, thank you. What
16 do you hope will happen as a result of your testimony
17 today?

18 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Of course I want
19 change. I don't want a report just to gather dust on a
20 shelf somewhere. I want structural change; I want
21 fundamental change.

22 I'd like to see, first of all I'd like to
23 see this Commission get the extension that it needs to be
24 able to properly complete its work. And that's a two-year
25 extension, so again, write to your elected representatives,

1 telling them that this Commission's mandate needs to
2 continue for another two years. So, it can properly
3 fulfill its mandate.

4 And I'd like the Chief Commissioner to make
5 some strong, bold recommendations. One of the areas I'd
6 like to see addressed is that, in the Oppal Commission,
7 there was someone hired as a champion for the
8 recommendations, Stephen Point. But at some point, he was
9 no longer in the position and then they never refilled it.
10 And so, so many of the recommendations never went forward.

11 We're still, we've been promised a 1-800
12 number -- that's a toll-free number for reporting; and you
13 know, the Highway of Tears bus service has been withdrawn,
14 that's unacceptable, just totally unacceptable. I'd, you
15 know one of the issues that we got from the Oppal
16 Commission was that the City had to hire two social
17 planners with a background in the sex trade area, or former
18 sex workers, and one of those positions had to be someone
19 who is Indigenous, Aboriginal. And that's very important,
20 I'd like to see that across Canada.

21 Also, you know, we want to reduce harm. And
22 I remember Judge Oppal saying to me that we can never stop
23 serial killing, but what we can do is reduce their freedom
24 to roam into area and prey on the vulnerable. So, we need
25 to address all these vulnerabilities that we place people

1 in. Until all Canadians, if you're listening -- this is a
2 shared issue. We all have to join together and work to
3 reduce the harm, reduce the violence, remember that each
4 person in society, regardless of social status, is
5 deserving of respect and dignity and life security and
6 liberty.

7 And so of course, I'd like to see Bill C-36,
8 which I think still continues to place women, Aboriginal
9 women, in danger, in harm's way. That needs to be
10 addressed by the politicians. And you know, I would hope a
11 recommendation would come out that -- you know, I don't
12 want to get into any sort of arguments about abolition
13 versus decriminalization. I'd like to reframe the
14 argument, that this is about safety and what all of us want
15 on all sides of the fence, is that we want safety and our
16 people to be free of violence, and not to have predators
17 come down and roam freely, targeting them for violence.
18 So, I think we can get there. I really do.

19 And I'd like to see just -- I don't want to
20 hear about any more Aboriginal women and boys, two-
21 spirited, trans people, going missing or being murdered.
22 And their life being taken, their life force being taken
23 when they have so much to give yet. And surely we don't
24 live in a society that just abandons its most needy, its
25 most vulnerable. We have to continue to fight those

1 battles and I think -- I hold out hope. You know, my
2 mother always used to say to me, never give up hope. And I
3 know the struggles that many of you Aboriginal Elders went
4 through in the day, to advance the Aboriginal issue. And I
5 learned that first-hand from my mother. And so, I know
6 change happens; it happens slowly. But we have to, as you
7 say, Chief Commissioner Buller, we have to never let anyone
8 behind, and we must never forget. We must never forget
9 that every life is worth -- is of value.

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you.

11 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Thank you.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** I will now ask the
13 Chief Commissioner if she has any questions for Jamie Lee.

14 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Please
15 correct me if I'm wrong. But it sounds from what you have
16 said, that some, not all, police officers use the threat of
17 criminal charges. Then the process happens, a person is
18 taken to jail, the charges are dropped. You've described
19 that type of pattern. Why do you think that is?

20 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** I think it's
21 because of this nuisance, that they deem prostitution a
22 nuisance and that they're appeasing certain people that see
23 this as a nuisance. But you know, they shouldn't be using
24 the strong arm of the law, in my opinion, to address social
25 issues. They should be using resources that will help

1 people, as opposed to criminalizing them. And I think it
2 reduces someone's humanity when you deem them to be just a
3 drug addict; just a sex worker. It just strips them away
4 of any agency.

5 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** I have
6 several questions. Actually, what I'd like to do is think
7 about them. I know you're coming back to participate in
8 one of our panels later on this week, which is great. And
9 thank you so much for doing that.

10 What I'd like to do is save -- I'd like to
11 think a little bit more and I'd like to reserve the right
12 to ask those questions later on. Because I've, as I've
13 said earlier, I've followed your activism; I've followed
14 your campaigns for city council; and so you have much, much
15 to offer in the way of expertise and understanding and
16 knowledge. So, bear with me, I want to put my thoughts
17 together.

18 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Thank you,
19 Commissioner Buller. And -- I love your earrings.

20 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Thank
21 you. Thank you very much.

22 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Jamie Lee, is there
23 anything else you would like to say to the Chief
24 Commissioner?

25 **MS. JAMIE LEE HAMILTON:** Thank you for

1 allowing me to share my story. Thank you for being a kind
2 face and thank you for all the work that you've done and
3 your achievements, and thank you for heading up this
4 Commission. And I know it got off to a bit of a rocky
5 start, but so be it.

6 I think, I have complete confidence in you,
7 Madam Chief Commissioner, and all the people here, that
8 we're going to get results. We have to get results. And
9 let's keep the flame alive for all those missing and
10 murdered women, because we have to honour them, and this
11 Commission will honour them.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Chief Commissioner,
13 those are all the questions I have for Jamie Lee. I
14 request to adjourn this examination at your pleasure.

15 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Yes, for
16 our record, we are adjourned for a short break, thank you.
17 But before we actually stop, Jamie Lee, we are very
18 grateful of course that you're here today. And you've
19 shared your knowledge, your stories, your experience with
20 us. We've learned a lot. In recognition of that, we have
21 some gifts for you.

22 Where to start, my goodness. When we
23 started this process, the matriarchs on Haida Gwaii wanted
24 us to be able to honour witnesses who come forward; to help
25 lift them up, to honour them, to support them in any way we

1 could.

2 And so, we were directed to gift eagle
3 feathers to hold you up, to lift you up. And I find that
4 all across Canada, there are similar stories and beliefs
5 about eagle feathers. That the feathers will lift you up
6 and hold you up at the times you need them. And they'll
7 help you keep your truth.

8 So, we have an eagle feather for you. And
9 also, we have some seeds. Because this Inquiry is about
10 new growth. And so, we hope in the course of healing that
11 happens in these Hearings, that we have new growth. So,
12 they're little, little ones, and we hope you plant them;
13 they're wild strawberries. And we hope that they grow and
14 that you take photographs of them and send them to us for
15 our archives.

16 So, we want to thank you by lifting you up
17 and holding you up, and we want to thank you by new life.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** We will take a short
19 break.

20 --- Exhibits (code: P01P15P0101)

21 **Exhibit 1:** "Forget-Me-Not," text by Jamie Lee Hamilton,
22 dated 04/23/07 (four numbered pages).

23 **Exhibit 2:** "Missing Person Posters" 23 pages of colour
24 Vancouver Police Department missing persons
25 posters.

1 **Exhibit 3:** Letter from Jamie Lee Hamilton, Grandma's House
2 to Sandi Cameron, Missing Persons Office of the
3 Vancouver Police Department, dated January 21,
4 1999 (two pages).

5 **Exhibit 4:** "Grandma's House Press Releases" (six pages).

6 **Exhibit 5:** On The Stroll Volume 1, Issue 1, Spring 1999
7 (four pages).

8 **Exhibit 6:** Written argument of the Accused in HMTQ v.
9 Jamie Lee Hamilton, Provincial Court of British
10 Columbia, Vancouver Registry Court file No.
11 114267 (19 pages).

12 **Exhibit 7:** Rapport final of the National Committee on
13 Transexuality, Prostitution and HIV 2000-2001
14 (five pages).

15 --- Upon adjourning at 11:43

16 LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

17 I, Shirley Chang, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I
18 have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and
19 accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this
20 matter.

21

22

23



24

Shirley Chang

25

April 12, 2018