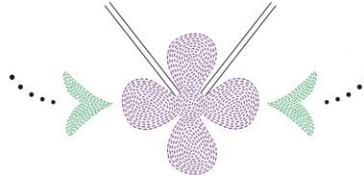


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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***

**Thursday April 5, 2018**

**Public Volume 89:  
Lisa Big John & Lisa Jacqueline Robinson,  
In relation to Mona Wilson**

**Heard by Commissioner Michèle Audette  
Commission Counsel: Fanny Wylde**

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## II

### APPEARANCES

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

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Commission Counsel: Fanny Wylde	
Grandmothers, Elders, Knowledge-keepers: 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 & Registrar: Bryan Zandberg	



1 is Lisa Big John. I was -- I'm the oldest sibling of the --  
2 of my family. I'm very honoured to be here, to be a part  
3 of this Inquiry. It's really overwhelming and it's just  
4 kind of a -- I'm trying to keep myself together here  
5 without falling apart. And -- first of all, I would like  
6 to start off is the journey that I've been through. All  
7 the years of pain and suffering.

8 Death really changed a person a lot. All  
9 through the years, I've gone through to deal with this, and  
10 to work with this and live with it, it hasn't been --  
11 hasn't been very easy for me. And I still have a lot of  
12 issues to deal with in my own way. I'm just trying to  
13 start to find a way to -- to start off my -- my journey and  
14 to share -- to share -- to share my testimony here about my  
15 sister that was brutally murdered by an evil one that --  
16 that took her away from us.

17 I was part of the Inquiry back in 2012,  
18 2011. I guess I can say that from the -- from that -- from  
19 that experience too I've -- there was no -- there -- there  
20 was no anything good that I -- that I seen out of that  
21 (indiscernible). There's -- speaking for myself, and for  
22 my family. But other than that, I'm the -- I'm -- I'm the  
23 main leader of my family. I try my best in all of this to  
24 stay strong to -- for my family and there are some days I  
25 have my days. And some days that -- that -- that I -- that

1 I go on with life any way I can.

2 And the -- way I had to -- the way I had to  
3 live through this is unmanageable how -- how I had to lose  
4 my sister to -- to the society, the system that failed her.  
5 Miserably failed her. I came from a broken home also, and  
6 -- but the worst of it is that she was the one that had to  
7 go through a lot in life and now I'm her voice. And  
8 through her I -- I speak for her, and I speak everything  
9 that -- that -- and she has -- that -- that she wasn't  
10 recognized by the system.

11 And I honoured her memory the day when I  
12 learned that -- when the day that I learned that she was --  
13 she was taken [sic] by this -- this -- this evil monster  
14 and it's been a very hard journey to try sometimes to --  
15 not to think of it, but a person's -- they can't forget. I  
16 know that life goes on, but still.

17 It's been 17 years, I had my sobriety and I  
18 quit drinking to honour her memory. I guess it took -- it  
19 took for her to -- to realize that life was important and  
20 it took for me to realize that -- that I had to do  
21 something to -- to go to a -- to -- to go to a positive  
22 side for my family, and -- and to be there for them any way  
23 I can. People say I'm strong. That -- how do I live with  
24 this? How do I cope with this? And I guess of all the  
25 graces of the Creator that has brought me this far in life,

1           there was always a lot of reasons for me to still be here  
2           today.

3                           And my life changed forever when -- when I  
4           couldn't understand what became of her life and what she  
5           had gone through. I was a straight person myself, but it's  
6           just -- just the -- it's just unimaginable, the way that  
7           her life was because she was failed by the system and  
8           nobody acknowledged to her what she wanted.

9                           I'm very -- I got no respect for the system.  
10          Still, today, I see a lot of injustice that has been done.  
11          And I'm the grandmother as seven grandchildren. We having  
12          a -- my eighth -- my -- my eighth grandchild will be born  
13          in November. And I do have -- one of my granddaughters, I  
14          do have a -- she -- she -- she lives -- her grandma's name.  
15          I named her Mona Lee, after my sister, for her name to  
16          continue on and to live on.

17                          My grandkids are the one that keep me going  
18          in life, and my daughters. My family. Everything is about  
19          them. When I look at them. The system also failed me, my  
20          family, all the things that have -- all the -- all the  
21          stuff that the system has miserably failed. Through my  
22          daughter's lives. They ended up in a foster home here and  
23          there. And I also -- one of the -- I'm -- I'm also a  
24          survivor from a residential school as well.

25                          I just about forgotten who I was that one

1 time, and the only way for me to do -- to deal with this  
2 was to -- not to try and think about it, but it's pretty  
3 hard not to think about stuff like this that -- that has  
4 caused a very huge impact on my family.

5 I remember back in the days when my -- when  
6 all my daughters were small. I used to always come to  
7 Vancouver looking for my sister and -- and I've always felt  
8 that she was hidden from me. The system didn't want me to  
9 -- to find her or to have anything to do with her. But  
10 Mona left me some memories. I shared a lot of  
11 conversations with her over the phone when she used to call  
12 me from the institution of Burnaby, and she told me a lot.  
13 She shared a lot. She shared a lot with me. Why her life  
14 -- why she had to pick that life, and nobody did  
15 acknowledge her when she was trying to reach out for help.  
16 And it always -- it always -- she got turned away.

17 At the age of 11 years old, she turned to  
18 the street, looking for a home or friends. There was a lot  
19 of things that wasn't recognized upon -- upon her -- well,  
20 upon her life. I shared some -- some -- some of my words  
21 last night with -- and said that if only -- if only my  
22 sister had that kind of -- had that kind of well-being in  
23 her life, people did acknowledge her, and over the years --  
24 over the years that -- that I've tried to come over this.  
25 I know that life goes on. I tried to make the best through

1       that my -- with my family to try and do what I have to do  
2       to stay strong. But I would like to see justice done  
3       before I leave this world, so that my grandkids can live in  
4       a safe place, in a safe world for them. To trust the  
5       system and be there for them.

6                It's very unmanageable that -- that when I  
7       do think about things, what -- what could have been done,  
8       and what could have -- what could have been -- what could  
9       have come out of this -- but I always say -- I've always  
10      see -- I've always seen that, of people being failed. And  
11      the only one that was -- the only one that I can turn to  
12      was my family to -- to try to talk to about a lot of  
13      things. And -- and not knowing what lies ahead for the  
14      future, I put all that faith in the Creator's hand.

15               I experienced through a lot of health  
16      issues. I went through -- I went through a lot to try to  
17      over -- to try to come over a lot of things, but a lot of  
18      things I still -- that's still bothered me, that I still  
19      have to live with, and still have to work with. I  
20      experienced a lot of health issues, which took a lot of --  
21      huge impact on my health.

22               When I got sick, I just about lost myself.  
23      It just about took me under. I just about -- I just about  
24      didn't come back to the world. That's how powerful a death  
25      can change a person, losing a loved one. Death changes

1 everything. I tried to reach out to people for a  
2 compacity, and I try to reach out to my community and time  
3 after time I got pushed away from people, from the society  
4 when I was trying to reach out for help. And then when I  
5 do get out of hand or upset, I get judged. Why? It's  
6 because people don't understand. Some people don't  
7 understand what that person has to live with, and what they  
8 have to go through in life.

9 I'm 55 years old today, and I still have a  
10 lot of issues that I -- that I need to -- that I need to  
11 work with. 'Cause when I leave this world, I don't want to  
12 -- I don't want to take all of that to my grave. And  
13 for -- and for a lot of reasons, as I got older, I -- I  
14 realized a lot of things that what -- what I had to do. It  
15 continues on fighting for justice.

16 I've always often wonder -- why some people  
17 have to live like that and why they choose the dark road.  
18 Some people give up and some don't. And some don't come  
19 out of it. Why? It's because a system failed them, and  
20 the only -- the only way that they're acknowledged too  
21 is -- is when they're out of -- when they're out of -- when  
22 they get out of hand. That's the only time the system will  
23 acknowledge them, is when they're -- and when they get out  
24 of hand, or when they do something.

25 I've seen a lot of that back, when I -- when

1 I was a street person, and I've seen a lot of things that  
2 was -- that wasn't right. I've tried to report a lot of  
3 issues back -- back then when I was a street person, but  
4 the law didn't acknowledge anything, any concerns that I  
5 tried to raise. And I'm thankful I came this far in life,  
6 still -- still fighting for -- for what I've been -- for  
7 what I've been searching for all these years. Doing what I  
8 have to do out there, to try to survive -- to survive my  
9 family and many a things. That's not right for -- for a  
10 lot of people that don't get acknowledged, and that  
11 don't -- anything in life...

12 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Lisa, can you tell us more  
13 about Mona Lee's childhood? How she was brought up, her  
14 history?

15 **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** Well, my mom had a lot  
16 of issues through residential school. That's where  
17 everything started from, was residential school. How it  
18 tore families apart, and -- and what became of her life.  
19 And she didn't have no hope at all. And she came from a  
20 broken home. The stories that I had to -- that she shared  
21 with me over the conversations that -- which she had to  
22 live through. Foster homes and foster homes. And she  
23 started -- she started running away, and doing what she had  
24 to do to -- to try to -- to try to take care of herself,  
25 but she ended up in the wrong hands. And that life...



1 residential school victim too. She went through a lot in  
2 the residential school, and she had issues with alcohol.  
3 The only way that they had to deal with that from her was  
4 taking my siblings away from -- from her, when they could  
5 have worked with her in a positive way. But the system  
6 continuously does that over and over.

7 I've seen the challenges and fights that --  
8 that families have to go through to try to fight for their  
9 loved ones. Through Child Welfare, and a lot of things.  
10 That wasn't right. They could have chose this and that for  
11 her -- for her positive's -- for her positive, for her,  
12 what she wanted and what she was asking for.

13 So they had to do it the easy way -- was to  
14 apprehend my siblings and throw them in any foster home  
15 that like -- like, there was some kind of a little  
16 ornaments or whatever, people, how -- how they looked at --  
17 look at them. I know that my sister chose to live. She  
18 fought to live hard on the street. But what can you do  
19 when the system is not -- is not there?

20 She was invisible to the society, to the  
21 system that -- that -- that -- that should have been there  
22 for her. And should have worked with her in a positive way  
23 from the beginning when she was trying to raise concerns.  
24 The stuff that she shared with me and not realizing what  
25 became of her life, especially and now as -- as -- as her

1 voice and her -- her -- her speaker, and now I'm doing that  
2 to fight that system, so that other families don't have to  
3 go through what that -- we had gone through.

4 It's a very -- very -- a painful journey for  
5 a person to -- to go through. We need to raise a lot of  
6 concerns as society. Still, today the system is trying to  
7 bother the First Nations kids and take things upon their  
8 own hands. I still see that today, and it's not good. And  
9 people need to start realizing this -- this has caused a  
10 lot of damage. It's about destroyed me. It's what took me  
11 under. Because of my -- through my sister, she made me who  
12 I am today. It's not about anybody. It's not -- it's not  
13 -- it's not about -- it's not about other system or  
14 anybody.

15 The system needs to start realizing right in  
16 up that -- that they need to start doing something positive  
17 instead -- instead -- instead of pushing people away. They  
18 need to -- they need to work with them and they need the  
19 heart to deal with them and talk to them. Because jail,  
20 death, is not the answer. And for my own -- speaking for  
21 myself, what I have gone through with my family...

22 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** I'm wondering, Lisa, would  
23 you be willing to share information surrounding the, when  
24 did you find out that Mona Lee was missing?

25 **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** Well, back at the time

1 in -- I believe she was -- she went missing in 2001. And I  
2 was living in Kamloops. And I was still, I was -- I was --  
3 I was an alcoholic. And she was already missing. But they  
4 did that to try to make themselves look good. She was  
5 already missing for four months before -- before that was  
6 even addressed to me. Before that was even acknowledged on  
7 her behalf. But I still made an effort to come to  
8 Vancouver, me and my husband.

9 We lived on a street, looking day -- every  
10 day -- every day we were out there looking for her,  
11 searching for her. And through that journey of looking --  
12 searching for her, I met a lot of people that knew her.  
13 And the information that people gave me about her, saying  
14 that they might have seen her, but the respond that I got  
15 from the -- from the cop was that -- that's -- she decided  
16 to move on and go somewhere else. And to try to start and  
17 -- but back then I didn't really -- I didn't really notice  
18 anything about -- about her at the time, because back then  
19 I didn't -- I didn't know there was a serial killer on the  
20 loose that was predating [sic] on these women.

21 They could have told me that, but they  
22 didn't. Nobody told me nothing about -- about a person  
23 that was out there. And there is a lot of information  
24 that's still hidden from the families as today. A lot.

25 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Did you have any support

1            and help when you were trying to find your sister in  
2            Vancouver?

3                            **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** No. I tried to resort  
4            to organizations and at the time when I was in  
5            (indiscernible), I just -- I just felt I -- I -- the only  
6            thing that I seen, and there was no wonder why my sister  
7            went missing. No wonder why she -- she was murdered  
8            because of -- nobody acknowledged her. And the way I tried  
9            to acknowledge her about looking for her, and it was just  
10           more of a who cares? Who cares who -- who cares what --  
11           what anybody -- anything that happens to those women?

12                           Why, it's because that -- we're not -- she  
13           was a human being and she was treated like she was  
14           invisible. Even the Vancouver cops weren't even helpful.  
15           They always used to try to brush me off about giving me  
16           misinformation about where or what -- what became of her.  
17           Or there was a lot of things that still -- that still that  
18           they hide from the families.

19                           And -- and to my knowledge, you know, some  
20           of those cops you know, they need to be accountable for  
21           what happened to these women. And they need -- they need  
22           to -- they need to start talking. And maybe a lot -- and  
23           maybe a lot of -- in their behalf it will do them good to  
24           in great rewards if they come out with a lot of issues.  
25           How they worked with them. And how they treated them.

1 MS. FANNY WYLDE: So after she went missing  
2 and you went looking for her, how did you find out about  
3 her death? Was it the authorities that advised you?

4 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: You just got to bear  
5 with me for a few minutes. This is -- it's very hard  
6 opening wounds. Yeah.

7 MS. FANNY WYLDE: Commissioner Audette, the  
8 witness is requesting a recess of five minutes. Thank you.  
9 We will take a recess of five minutes. Thank you.

10 (BREAK)

11 MS. FANNY WYLDE: Thank you, Commissioner,  
12 for allowing us to have this recess. Before we did -- took  
13 a break, Lisa, I had asked you a question on how did you  
14 find out about Mona Lee's death?

15 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: I believe I was living  
16 in Kamloops when an RCMP came and told me that it was --  
17 there was a possible chance that my sister -- that my  
18 sister might have been murdered by a serial killer. I just  
19 -- I just stood there like -- the reality didn't kick in.  
20 My body went numb and I didn't even -- I didn't even have a  
21 chance to ask him. And to ask more information about --  
22 about -- about the information that he came and gave me.  
23 Not realizing that -- that when I was going to be facing  
24 through lifetime challenging evilness and to challenge  
25 every way I can to try to come to answers and to why that

1 happened to her and why she -- why she was even -- that  
2 nobody didn't even care that she -- she -- that my sister  
3 was missing.

4 And it was just like something that I didn't  
5 want to hear and something that I thought I -- that I could  
6 never gone through. So what did I do? I just -- I try to  
7 put it aside, and I try to -- not to think about it that --  
8 that -- and the reality kicked in when they came and got  
9 our -- came and asked for DNA. And -- and sure enough she  
10 was one of the victims, last victim of Robert Pickton.

11 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** If you will allow me,  
12 Lisa, I would ask Lisa Jacqueline to -- if she's ready to  
13 share what she want to share with the Commissioner.

14 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** Yes, I am.

15 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** You can (indiscernible).

16 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Did you want the feather?

17 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** Pardon me?

18 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Did you want the feather?

19 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** Yes, please.

20 Thank you. Hello, my name is Lisa Robinson, and I was -- I  
21 was in -- I'm just going to tell you a little bit about  
22 myself. And I -- I don't know. I'm just really grateful  
23 to have my mom. You know, I'm like, really lucky to -- to  
24 be her daughter and really lucky that she taught me a lot  
25 of things before I went into foster care. 'Cause I don't

1            know if I would have -- it's like, really emotional. I  
2            don't know if like, if I would have made -- I can't talk.  
3            I get nervous. I don't know if I would have made it out of  
4            foster care because of how I was getting -- getting treated  
5            -- getting treated in there. I can't do this. I'm really  
6            sorry, it's just when I think about everything, it's nobody  
7            does not want to be in the hands of people like that.

8                            When I was getting bought up in foster care,  
9            let's just say I was like a pet to them. They didn't care  
10           about my feelings. They didn't care about what I wore.  
11           They didn't care about what I ate, and if I talked back  
12           once I would (indiscernible) get thrown inside -- inside a  
13           pool. And I was only seven or eight. And I'm just lucky  
14           that my mom taught me how to swim and everything like that,  
15           because how would they know if I you know, could swim?  
16           They just threw me right in there, and they didn't care.  
17           They walked away. And it was my older sister that had to  
18           come and help me out of the pool. And it was all swampy,  
19           and it was all cold. And you know, it wasn't the summer  
20           time, that's for sure.

21                            And the way I think of it too, that I'm very  
22           lucky too to -- to make it out of there, 'cause my Auntie  
23           Mona, like, when she got brought up in there, she -- she  
24           just -- she lost herself in there. And that's what  
25           happened -- that's what almost happened to me. And at a

1            very young age, I was always getting shipped to foster  
2            home, to foster home because they couldn't -- they didn't  
3            want to deal with me if I talked back or if I missed my  
4            mom, or if I cried. I would literally get thrown inside my  
5            room by my hair, or they would just sign me off to another  
6            foster -- another foster family.

7                            And I was always told by the foster parents  
8            that I would never be -- I -- I would always be living with  
9            them my whole life. That my mom is nothing but a drunk,  
10           and you know, you'll never see her again and this and that.  
11           And I always prayed every day that I would see my mom, you  
12           know? That I would be with her again. And people -- they  
13           took me away from my mom when she wasn't even doing  
14           anything wrong. And they put us in the hands of like,  
15           monsters.

16                           Like, and every time we tried reaching out,  
17           we were always called liars. They -- they didn't want to  
18           listen to us, because our foster parents would come along  
19           and be like, "Oh, she's just lying. She -- she doesn't  
20           know what she's talking about," you know? And she'd like,  
21           try to hug me and make it look like she was -- she's a good  
22           foster parent.

23                           And me -- me and my mom, I would always be  
24           talking to my mom, you know? Telling her what I'm going  
25           through. And every time my mom would try to talk about it,

1 all of a sudden like, the visit would just get cut off  
2 or -- or the contact with her, it would be all just cut  
3 off. And for months and months, and you know, I'd be  
4 sitting in my room by myself 'cause all -- even all three  
5 of us had to be split up. And I was in foster care by  
6 myself.

7 Finally, my sisters, they're older me and  
8 they started running away. I couldn't do that, because I  
9 was so little. Like, you know, I -- I wouldn't know what  
10 to do if I ran away, so I had no choice but to stay with  
11 them. And I'm just really grateful that my mom didn't give  
12 up fighting for us. She -- she didn't get -- give up at  
13 all, and I got to go back to her when I was 11. So I was  
14 really grateful for that.

15 And around 2001, I was coming to Vancouver  
16 here, and I was only nine. And I started getting really  
17 sick 'cause by -- like, me and my Auntie Mona, we had like,  
18 a connection, and I started getting like, very, very sick  
19 and I didn't know why. I didn't even know that she was  
20 missing. And as soon as I left Vancouver, I was -- I was  
21 just feeling better. Like, you know, like nothing  
22 happened.

23 And I always wondered why you know? Like,  
24 why that was, and then all of a sudden, I hear that she's  
25 missing. And I'm like okay. So I always had faith that

1            you know, okay, well she would turn up some day. You know,  
2            I'll see her some day. And I always waited to see her and  
3            always waited to meet her. And you know, I just wanted to  
4            have a life with her too. And all that just got taken  
5            [sic] away in 2003 when we found out that she's -- you  
6            know, she was gone forever.

7                            Like, you know, I -- I think back and I  
8            don't know how the system failed that. Like, I -- I got  
9            failed too. Like, everywhere I went in the system, I was  
10          just a burden. And you know, nobody care, and that's why  
11          one thing my -- I have kids as my own. And that's one  
12          thing -- that's one thing I would not let them -- I will  
13          not let them go to the system, 'cause of how I was treated.  
14          And I'm just you know, really lucky and happy that I have  
15          my -- my mom here, and she's my mom, you know? And I'm her  
16          daughter. I'm -- I'm grateful for every day for her being  
17          beside me, because if it wasn't for her, I don't -- I don't  
18          know where I would be right now.

19                            You know, people always made it look like  
20          you know, my mom was a problem. She was a problem parent,  
21          you know? She -- she always got treated like that. The  
22          workers always looked at her like that. But really, little  
23          did they know, it was the foster parents, the people that I  
24          was living with, you know? You know, I even had like,  
25          little -- like, big clumps of hair always missing 'cause my

1 hair would always be getting dragged around.

2 And my -- my allowance, I know it doesn't  
3 matter, but my allowance was only \$2 a month, and all of  
4 the other -- like, her -- her blood kids got you know,  
5 whatever they wanted. But I didn't care. You know, I was  
6 just a kid. I thought, I'm like, "Oh, okay. Well, I'm  
7 fine with that," you know? I'll just go outside and play  
8 and you know, do whatever. And -- and yeah, I'm just --  
9 I'm just really, really grateful to -- to just come this  
10 far in life with everything that you know, that had  
11 happened and went on.

12 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Can I ask you, Lisa, if  
13 the foster home you were living with, was it an Aboriginal  
14 foster home?

15 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** No, it was a  
16 white family.

17 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** And when you tried to  
18 report the abuse and the neglect, was it to your -- your  
19 social worker?

20 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** Yeah. It was  
21 the social workers, and every time they tried to go address  
22 it with my foster parents, they would always be saying,  
23 "Oh, no, she's just lying." And you know, they just make  
24 themselves look like real good parents. They'll come give me  
25 a hug, or you know, they'll come pat me on my back. And --

1 and then the social worker is like, "Oh, I don't see  
2 anything wrong with her. Why are you talking about her  
3 like that?" And I just like, look at her, 'cause I'm like,  
4 so amazed. I'm like, wow, like, you know, all this -- all  
5 this stuff that you're just hiding. And you know, like,  
6 and either she doesn't want to see it, or she just doesn't  
7 care. Like -- and no matter what the foster parent always,  
8 always got the better -- the better side. And our words  
9 were always just you know, they didn't matter.

10 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Having to face all these  
11 challenges, Lisa, what keeps you going in your life on a  
12 day to day basis?

13 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** My kids keep  
14 me going. And my family keeps me going. Thank you. So I  
15 -- I'm -- you know, when I look at my kids, like, you know,  
16 I'm -- I'm grateful for you know, being a part of their  
17 life and you know, growing up with them. You know, not -- I  
18 can't give up on them. Not once. Like, it's just, I can't  
19 -- I just can't do it. And when I think back the shit that  
20 I went to, I wouldn't even want them to be around that kind  
21 of stuff, you know? It's all just so traumatizing, and I  
22 just -- just look after my kids like, give them what like,  
23 I never had. And give them the love, and the care and  
24 attention that I never got in foster care.

25 You know, we were ripped out of my mom's

1 hands for no reason, you know? Just because you know, she  
2 -- she drank here and there, but what -- what did the  
3 foster parents do, you know? They abused kids. They used  
4 kids for their money. At least my mom gave me attention  
5 and love and care and every -- help me with -- kiss my boo-  
6 boo's, you know? And always made me feel better when I was  
7 sick. And but like, I got none of that in foster care.  
8 None of it.

9 MS. FANNY WYLDE: I would like to invite  
10 you, Lisa, if you have recommendations to make to  
11 Commissioner Audette, if you want to address them?

12 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: Pardon me?

13 MS. FANNY WYLDE: To both of you.

14 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: Can you say that again,  
15 please?

16 MS. FANNY WYLDE: If you have any  
17 recommendations to make to Commissioner Audette?

18 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: Well, this -- this cycle  
19 -- the cycle of abuse and evilness needs to stop, needs to  
20 come to an end. There needs to be more awareness to -- to  
21 other lives that matter.

22 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: There needs  
23 to be more background checks for foster parents, you know?  
24 Like, what's the point of being a foster parent, if you're  
25 not going to love and care for the child like your own?

1            Like, that's the whole point of getting into foster care,  
2            is to help these kids. You know, my -- my mom wasn't the  
3            monster. They were. And they -- they should have seen  
4            that.

5                            You know, foster care is supposed to be  
6            there to help kids to grow and to you know, to make sure  
7            that they're okay, and to make them understand things. Not  
8            just to take their money and you know, lock them up in  
9            their room. And to think how my Auntie Mona, you know, she  
10           went into foster care. She probably went through --  
11           through the same abuse, maybe even worse. Like, and maybe  
12           that's why she -- she went on the way she did, because she  
13           felt worthless and nobody didn't care, and that's how I  
14           start to feel.

15                           **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** And there needs to be  
16           more organizations that do care from the heart that need to  
17           work with people and be there for them. Over the years I  
18           continually see these women, it's just a project to some  
19           people and some people look at them as projects. It's --  
20           it's what who they were and what -- when they were here on  
21           this Earth that -- that -- that weren't acknowledged to --  
22           to society. And especially I was sharing her earlier that  
23           there's so much secrecy with the system that will prevent  
24           sharing that information with families and what -- what we  
25           want for justice to be done.

1 And because they don't realize how much  
2 damage that does when there's a lot of information that's  
3 hidden from us. And it's gone -- it's come this far and  
4 many years to fighting for justice. And like I said, then  
5 the -- Vancouver cops, they're -- there -- there needs to  
6 be accountability for them that -- that they need to start  
7 realizing that it's not only because they're street people.  
8 They need to understand there's other families out there  
9 that love these people the way they live in the society.  
10 But to them, they're just so -- they're projects to them,  
11 and they'll do anything to -- not to be there for them.

12 They have pulled so much power over street  
13 lives, innocent people. And -- and vulnerable women  
14 that -- that -- that -- that have left, that have been  
15 brutally murdered. There's still a lot of answers out  
16 there that -- that needs to come forward for families.

17 And my biggest problem that I have today is  
18 that -- is with the law. Sometimes I don't trust myself  
19 seeking out to them for help or protection, because I have  
20 to really seriously think if they're only -- if they're  
21 here to try and address the issues and that -- that -- that  
22 they can't work with, or deal with, or understand. And  
23 there -- there needs to be another ways of working through  
24 the system. And -- and changing lives for -- to make a  
25 better lives for people that still live out there in the

1 dark world. And -- and for them to -- to matter, for their  
2 words to matter.

3 Just because who they are, it doesn't mean  
4 that -- that they don't mean nothing.

5 MS. FANNY WYLDE: M'hm.

6 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: Well, us families, we do  
7 love our loved ones, but unfortunately it had to come to  
8 this tragedy that -- that how we lost our loved ones is so  
9 what the families want -- other families don't have to go  
10 through with this. And to challenge this nightmare that --  
11 that's -- that's been happening to over the years.  
12 Organizations, they need to stop and think. It's not about  
13 them.

14 MS. FANNY WYLDE: M'hm.

15 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: They need to -- they  
16 need to realize that -- that when you work for -- when you  
17 work for a person, especially -- especially how I lost my  
18 sister, she tried to reach out for help. And she told me  
19 that when she -- 'cause she had full blown AIDS. And  
20 people didn't want to -- didn't want to associate with her,  
21 didn't want to deal with her. Didn't want to have anything  
22 to do with her, because of what she had and life that she  
23 had, and how she had to survive.

24 And there needs to be a lot of  
25 accountability done for the boyfriends as well. They need

1            to stop putting those women out there to working for --  
2            working for them too. They need to stop that. My sister,  
3            she did that for her boyfriend. And still to this day,  
4            when I had to brutally find out that my sister was found in  
5            a garbage pail with only her hands and her skull in it, I  
6            still question myself. Well, where's -- where's the rest  
7            of her? What happened to the rest of her? Somebody knows,  
8            but when those people, they hide that kind of information,  
9            they're the ones that are going to take that to their  
10           grave.

11                            But what can -- what can you do when -- when  
12            -- when you have a life like that? You're a nobody to the  
13            society, to the system. A lot of people took a lot of  
14            things for granted over the years into missing murdered  
15            women, specially money. Money is very evil. That's why my  
16            sister lost her life. If there were -- if there was only a  
17            better way, an easier way for her to live, she should have  
18            been offered that. She should have been given that.

19                            **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** And I still see that  
20            system today, that -- that -- that -- that I carry with me  
21            for so many years, that -- how I had to deal with my life  
22            sometimes. And how -- how I had to go about talking to  
23            people. Or when I get out of hand, I get judged here and  
24            there. I'm sick and tired of people, how they judge me.

25                            **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** M'hm.

1                    **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** And it did a lot --  
2            it -- it just about -- it just about took me under. It  
3            shouldn't take -- it shouldn't take people to wake up and  
4            realize what has happened to these people. Some -- some  
5            truly care, and some don't. I've seen that. I paid  
6            attention to people who -- who really cared about these  
7            people and not everybody cares. When I was out there  
8            looking for my sister, searching for her every day, I  
9            either got lied to or I either got -- or stopped to some  
10           other people, or got brushed off with the -- so that they  
11           don't have to deal with -- deal with me looking for her.  
12           It shouldn't take for this kind of way, for people to have  
13           a rude awakening.

14                   **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** Yeah.

15                   **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** Nobody deserves to go  
16            through that. Nobody's got no right to be taking other  
17            people's lives. We live in a very predatorial world.  
18            They're everywhere. And what is -- what is even use -- is  
19            the use of us to be here if they're not going to  
20            acknowledge any issues that -- that they -- that -- that  
21            they need to pay attention to? I've lost other friends too  
22            that -- that -- that had a very hard life losing their  
23            lives.

24                   I was a street person. I'm a -- I always  
25            did truly care about -- about street people, who -- no

1 matter... I came from a broken home. My kids -- my --  
2 my -- my kids are apprehended from me because I was married  
3 to this guy. And this was supposed to be their dad that --  
4 that -- that used to sexually abuse them. The system took  
5 it out on me. They could have worked with me. No, but  
6 they wanted to see me fall down, 'cause they -- 'cause I  
7 wasn't a -- I wasn't -- I wasn't worthy to them. They're  
8 always fighting an easy way to brush people off so they  
9 don't have to pay attention to them, or work with them, or  
10 deal with them, or guide them.

11 We need to stop the cycle of our people are  
12 always being targeted for -- for a lot of things that  
13 predatorial's [sic] that are amongst here every day,  
14 they're looking for victims. In the meantime, how -- how -  
15 - how many -- how many cops just on lower mainland there  
16 is, that can prevent a lot of things from happening like  
17 that? There's enough system out there to look after that,  
18 and take care of that, and -- and work with people.

19 I'm so sick and tired of -- of the system  
20 always addressing it the wrong way. Is that what they have  
21 to do for us -- for us to listen is to -- is to... As a  
22 street person, I've went through a lot of things, and seen  
23 a lot of things in life. What -- how street people get  
24 treated and -- and other people. Even when I was with -- I  
25 was with the Wally Oppal -- I went to that.

1 MS. FANNY WYLDE: M'hm.

2 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: I've seen a lot of --  
3 seen a lot of things there that wasn't right for some  
4 families. We were there just to -- more or less, I was  
5 there just for a project. And the reality is that -- that  
6 -- that what we want for changes, there needs to be a lot  
7 of change that -- made for the future for my grandkids and  
8 for them to have a safe world. To live in a safe world.  
9 And to trust the law.

10 I tried to make a -- move to Vancouver here  
11 back in mid 2014. And the challenges, the obstacles that I  
12 had gone through, finding a home to try to do what I have  
13 to do. It was very frustrating, it was very challenging.  
14 Going to motels -- to motels with my family, with my  
15 grandkids. All those people ever cared about was getting  
16 money for us -- for motels. Getting kicked out. And --  
17 and finally, my resort was -- me and my grandkids, and my  
18 family, we went and got dropped off right in front of  
19 Carnegie (indiscernible) with all of our stuff. Our  
20 luggage, with my grandkids.

21 People are asking me, "What are you doing  
22 here with you?" I said, "What do you?" I said, "Only if  
23 you would know what -- what I'm doing here." But yet, it's  
24 so easy for -- for other people to get that help. They  
25 don't have to struggle for it. They don't have to repeat

1 themselves getting help. I don't know what kind of changes  
2 the -- the other system has made or what became of it.  
3 Nobody ever hardly gets in touch with me about the system.

4 When I want to know something, nobody  
5 doesn't tell me what goes on behind closed doors with  
6 getting justice and finding answers. Sometimes people,  
7 they disrespect me when I'm looking for answers, and try to  
8 work with the system. Why? It's because it doesn't -- it  
9 doesn't -- it doesn't seem like -- well, to my knowledge,  
10 it doesn't seem like it's going there. 'Cause stuff's --  
11 it keeps happening continuously every day. All the damage  
12 that -- that -- that has happened, to try to deal with  
13 this, to try to work with this, and to try to -- to heal  
14 from it.

15 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** M'hm.

16 **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** The only one that kept  
17 my faith, that kept me going was my family and my  
18 grandkids.

19 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** M'hm.

20 **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** There -- that -- where I  
21 live, I don't get that much support from -- from -- from  
22 anybody. I tried to turn to some people. Unfortunately,  
23 they were only there for themselves with money. So I -- I  
24 gave up, and I turned away and I walked away. All the -- I  
25 have to deal with this in any way I can. Walking that

1 path. And still, today, people are being failed. They're  
2 not being listened to. But I -- it -- it doesn't matter to  
3 the system because they got nothing to lose. They don't  
4 have to live with -- they don't have to live with what we  
5 had to live through.

6 And it all starts from my -- it all starts  
7 from my sister's -- when she was alive. Every -- every --  
8 the system that failed her and whatever that she had --  
9 that she had to live with and gone through. It's  
10 unimaginable that -- that -- it shouldn't take -- it  
11 shouldn't take for this kind of life to -- to try to -- to  
12 come together and to try to get what -- what we've been  
13 searching for all these years.

14 Through her life, to hurt -- to -- to people  
15 that had her here, in their foster homes, the foster homes,  
16 she was just a little money bag to them. That's all she  
17 was. And what my daughters had gone through, they wanted  
18 me to give up, but they wouldn't care less what happened to  
19 me if they -- if they had to live how they had to live.

20 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** (Indiscernible) do you  
21 have any final observations to make, Lisa Jacqueline?

22 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** Not at this  
23 moment.

24 **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** Well, I hope this is  
25 where I leave all -- all my -- the issues that I have come

1 and raised here. I hope this is where -- I hope this is  
2 the new beginning, a new journey for me. And --

3 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: And --

4 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: -- if not --

5 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: Oh, sorry.

6 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: -- life goes on. And if  
7 I never see justice, I guess I'll leave it up to the  
8 Creator's faith.

9 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: That's  
10 another reason why I named my baby girl after my Auntie  
11 Mona. Just so I could carry on her -- her name, and she --  
12 she'll always be with us in our hearts and everything. And  
13 it's -- it's kind of freaky, because my baby girl is  
14 starting to look like my Auntie Mona, and you know, I think  
15 that's -- she gave her a really special gift. And --

16 MS. FANNY WYLDE: M'hm.

17 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: -- I'm like,  
18 you know, I'm really happy and glad that I -- I named her  
19 that. 'Cause I can already see it now.

20 MS. FANNY WYLDE: M'hm. Commissioner  
21 Audette, do you have any questions or comments for the  
22 family?

23 COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: *Merci*  
24 *beaucoup Me Wylde*. First, I have to say thank you. *Merci*  
25 *beaucoup* for your courage, and I would say in my own words

1 your powerful message and testimony. And I hope, and it's  
2 always the same hope since we started this journey that  
3 Canada is listening, listening your message. I hope the  
4 Province of British Columbia is listening. And the  
5 citizen, the people who lives here. And I hope also, our  
6 Indigenous leadership is listening with an open mind and an  
7 open heart, because you're right, the system failed your  
8 Auntie, your sister. And too many of us, the women across  
9 Canada are still today affected by how the system respond  
10 or don't respond.

11 So I commend you. Thank you for being here,  
12 and reminding us, reminding this country that things needs  
13 to change. And Vancouver is very special for me. Very  
14 special. But also very hurtful, because when we walk  
15 there, and saw the pain you know, in downtown east side?  
16 And I was 16 years old the first time I saw that. And I  
17 was speechless, and I'm from up north in Quebec, and I  
18 couldn't believe that. I didn't know those words that  
19 time, that the system was failing the women, and most of us  
20 -- us Indigenous women. But today, 46 years old, I'm still  
21 affected when I walk there, but I'm impressed by women who  
22 stand to make sure that it doesn't happen, or there's an  
23 end.

24 I listen carefully your recommendation, and  
25 we -- we're taking good note of what you're proposing or

1 recommending. But my question to you, the two of you; you  
2 mention about the background check for foster parents. Do  
3 you believe that they do also -- or do you think that they  
4 do also a criminal record check for parents?

5 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** No, I don't  
6 think so. They don't.

7 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** They don't?

8 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** 'Cause if  
9 they did, then why would we get put with monsters and  
10 people that like to do that to kids?

11 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

12 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** If you know,  
13 if -- if they get -- got a proper check, you know, we would  
14 be getting put into the hands there that are just like my  
15 mom. Like a parent. Loving, caring parent, but  
16 unfortunately that's -- this just wasn't the case.

17 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** M'hm. Merci,  
18 and I thought your message there was so powerful when you  
19 said, "She was there to kiss me when I was hurt. She was  
20 there when I was sad," and so, and so. For me, as a mom, I  
21 totally understand that. So our children shouldn't be with  
22 monster, but with parent or like you said, you should get  
23 help instead. So I believe that also.

24 The other thing also, I heard you saying  
25 that project, we're project. Women are project. Or can

1 you explain to me what you meant by that?

2 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: Well, there - there  
3 is -- there is people that -- and I do pay attention to and  
4 observe. I pay attention. Why? It's because how I lost  
5 my sister. The system that was never there for her. And  
6 from -- and from there, people took a lot of things for  
7 granted with evil money.

8 COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: M'hm.

9 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: Using these women for a  
10 project. These are not project. This is my sister that  
11 was a human being that -- but other people, they don't look  
12 at it as that way, how we feel. But the society looks at  
13 them as project. And it's really sad, you know, that there  
14 is a lot of people that pay attention how people go on  
15 about -- about working with the families and that.

16 I met -- I met people that are very caring.  
17 That speak from the heart, that care from the heart.  
18 And -- and when I see that kind of stuff, it only -- it  
19 only sends a message that -- that for other people, not to  
20 really come forward with how -- how their life is and how  
21 they feel, and how they affect, how they're affected by --  
22 by a lot of things that became -- became, to try to come  
23 together with awareness against what -- against Indigenous  
24 women.

25 And -- and you know, I -- I didn't come here

1 for that. I came here looking for answers. I came here  
2 looking for justice, and -- and I hope this is where --  
3 that I can -- to walk a better path, a healing road.  
4 Whatever life that I have left, I want to enjoy the rest of  
5 my life. Whatever life that I have left.

6 COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: M'hm.

7 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: Because --

8 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: You just want  
9 to be at peace.

10 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: -- the damage that -- the  
11 damage that I've been through, have gone through, only that  
12 person knows. The stuff that people want to talk about,  
13 their loved ones, and it's always other people speaking. I  
14 pay attention to that, but what about -- what about how --  
15 how -- how some families feel? How it made them feel?  
16 What did they want from this? What should be done?

17 I want -- I want to see changes, you know?  
18 Especially for my future. My grandkids are going to be in  
19 this road too in the next future and I want them to have a  
20 positive life. I want them to live in a safe world. And  
21 they don't deserve to live in fear. 'Cause I -- I lived  
22 through that life and it's not a good life. It's not a  
23 good feeling to live like that.

24 And people, they need to understand, you  
25 know? These -- these women are not project.

1 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: M'hm.

2 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: They were once here on  
3 this Earth. They were loved, and there -- and they're --  
4 and -- and -- and they're still -- and they still are  
5 loved. That's why I continuously do what I have to do for  
6 my family to try to -- to try to keep my family in line.  
7 One of my daughters, she chose a dark path there for a wild  
8 [sic]. Domestic violence is one of the biggest problems.  
9 And that needs to be looked into too; domestic violence in  
10 families, in relationships. And --

11 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: M'hm.

12 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: -- whatever that needs to  
13 be looked into. Right away, the system wants to threaten.  
14 Either they want to come in there and scoop -- scoop the  
15 kids out and -- you know, that needs to stop too. There's  
16 -- there's a lot of families out here that -- that are  
17 alive, that are capable of -- of looking after their -- of  
18 their families. That happened to me because you know, I  
19 wasn't given a chance. I did not deserve a chance. That's  
20 how they looked at me and -- and they didn't care.  
21 Regardless, they didn't care what my life was out there.

22 We live in a very dangerous world with  
23 predatorial's [sic] and foster homes. The law.

24 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: M'hm.

25 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: Family homes. And I

1 came from -- and I -- like I said, I come from a broken  
2 home, where -- where I was repeatedly sexually abused. I  
3 was raped when I was about six years old. And if that  
4 wasn't enough, I get thrown in the residential school. How  
5 much can a person go through -- through in life before they  
6 give up? And you know, like I said, the Creator is very  
7 powerful, and He had something for me in life in stored.  
8 And now I -- and now I see that. And now I see His  
9 messages, why I'm still here; because of my grandkids.  
10 They need me.

11 People have given up a lot. They don't work  
12 with them. They don't want to work with them. They don't  
13 want to work with them. They choose not to work with them.  
14 They choose -- they choose to work with other people  
15 that -- that are not -- don't even have an idea how to be a  
16 family to those -- to those loves ones.

17 Like I said, my sister picked the street  
18 when she was only 11 years old. She ended up on the  
19 street. When I was old enough I want -- I -- I wanted to  
20 be there for her continuously. I went looking for her. I  
21 went soul searching for her, and they hidded [sic] her from  
22 me.

23 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

24 **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** And I even told -- and I  
25 even told the system, "Well, you guys should be happy now.

1 She's gone. She's not here." Every life that gets taken  
2 away from -- from families, it does a lot of damage to that  
3 family. Some come out of it, and some don't. And some --  
4 it -- it causes a lot of family break ups and whatever  
5 issues that families have to deal with. 'Cause some -- a  
6 lot of us, we don't know how to deal with that sometimes.  
7 Sometimes people don't know how to talk to us.

8 I don't -- and I'm sick and tired of talking  
9 to people that have never been there, that never walked in  
10 my shoe, that -- that don't understand and realize what it  
11 does to a person. If they want people to be looked after  
12 and to be help, don't send somebody there that doesn't know  
13 what they're doing. Send somebody there that understands  
14 what they're doing, and how to talk to them and how to deal  
15 with them, and how to have that compacity [sic]. You know,  
16 it just -- I never thought in many years I've -- I -- I  
17 still see a lot of that going on.

18 People are not trying to -- even my  
19 community, they're not -- some of them, they don't do good  
20 for the youth, for the future. And there's a lot of Elders  
21 that have fallen in the wrong path too. Everything in  
22 life, from the moment that we came into this Earth, we  
23 shouldn't -- we shouldn't had gone to that kind of life,  
24 especially for her.

25 You know, we deserve to live in a peaceful

1 life, and -- and I have to -- to move on. To try to --  
2 whatever life that I got, because this has literally,  
3 literally really drained me out. And it just about took my  
4 life. I have very -- health issues, and you know, I just  
5 about -- I just about passed away last year. It's a very  
6 hard cycle to go through. And it's -- it shouldn't be like  
7 that.

8 I have a grandson that's ten years old. I  
9 tell him a lot of things. I only wish I could have been  
10 told that kind of -- that kind of skills in life about  
11 things. I tell him the truth. How to stand up for  
12 himself, 'cause he gets bullied in school. That's a lot --  
13 that's -- that's another issue too, that people are always  
14 getting bullied. I see a lot of that everywhere.

15 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** M'hm.

16 **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** Elders, they get  
17 bullied. Even from the cops, teachers, whatever. My  
18 grandson went through that. I've seen how much -- I seen  
19 how much hurt it caused him. 'Cause he's -- he's chunky,  
20 eh? And he gets called down because of his weight. Why  
21 does he need to be -- feel like -- why does he need to  
22 feel, to live like that in a school, where there's supposed  
23 to be people there educating him? When he tried to speak  
24 out about -- about issues, no he gets judged. Oh yeah,  
25 'cause he has First Nations family. That's right. That's

1 what I had to tell the -- tell this principal.

2 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: A -- a few  
3 times, I had to go to the school, because there would be a  
4 little incident, and my son would come, he'd be really  
5 upset because there'd be like, three or four kids bullying  
6 him. And it's just him. And I go the school, and even the  
7 principal is trying to stand there and tell me, "Oh, no,  
8 your -- your son started this. Your son did that." And  
9 I'm like, "Well, how come -- how can you let all this carry  
10 on to this situation?

11 Like, how come I wasn't called first or you  
12 know, like, how come -- how come nobody didn't come and get  
13 me?" Or you know, it's my son that -- he comes crying to  
14 me. And I always have to calm him down, and I always talk  
15 to him. You know, I always -- I always let him know like,  
16 you know, that he's very loved and the people that bully  
17 him, he doesn't have to listen to any of that, you know?

18 Like, he -- he's the way he is, because he's  
19 loved and cared for. And I even tell him like, you know,  
20 "I'm -- I'm chubby. Like, I -- I don't care. Like, I'm  
21 fine with it." And he even sees that too. Like, you know,  
22 and I'm loved and cared for. I have three beautiful kids  
23 and I'm going to be having another one pretty soon. And  
24 that's why I -- I just always talk to him and I always  
25 remind him when like, when I was in foster care, I had

1 nobody talking to me. I had no -- no one telling me what  
2 was right and wrong. And you know, the only person I had  
3 was my mom, but I -- I couldn't even see her or contact  
4 her.

5 And I always tell my son how lucky he is  
6 that you know, that I'm sitting there, talking to him, and  
7 you know, talking to him about life and making him realize  
8 what wrong and right is. And -- and I just don't  
9 understand like -- like, 'cause there is a few -- I had to  
10 move him from school to school a few times, because even  
11 the teachers there, it just felt like they're against us.  
12 And I try to go there and give them all my respect, and try  
13 to cope with them. And you know, I even try to get my son  
14 to talk to them, but like, I -- I just don't understand how  
15 -- how people can be like that.

16 And -- and even they're supposed to be  
17 teachers, and you know, they -- they -- they got a job as a  
18 teacher, so they should be acting like, instead of trying  
19 to act like a kid, you know, like, and act like a bully or  
20 something. It's just -- I just don't get it sometimes, and  
21 -- and I don't like to see my son go through that kind of  
22 you know, stressful, torture situation. Like, he has to go  
23 to school. He's going there to learn, not to get bullied.  
24 Like --

25 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** It's not in

1 the First Nation community?

2 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: No.

3 COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: Okay.

4 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: No.

5 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: I guess my final -- my  
6 final thoughts to that talking about bullying is that it  
7 only makes a person grow up to be bitter and not choosing  
8 the right -- the right path. And trying to relate to that  
9 (indiscernible) to what my sister had gone through, and if  
10 she was -- if -- if she only would have completed her  
11 education and not -- not been taught the way that her life  
12 should have never happened, 'cause a lot of kids, they grow  
13 up, they pick up you know, a lot of things. And when they  
14 -- and when they grow up, they -- it changes their lives  
15 like the way my sister's life was changed.

16 She was young, you know? She -- she could  
17 have been prevented from -- from a lot of things. They  
18 could have you know, she could have finished her school,  
19 and she could have been anything that she wanted to be.

20 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: M'hm.

21 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: No, but she was --  
22 she -- she -- she -- the system made her feel that she was  
23 a nobody.

24 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: M'hm.

25 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: And she -- she picked

1 that life because when she tried to reach out to the  
2 system, and the system didn't want to be there for her, and  
3 to -- to acknowledge any of the concerns that she tried to  
4 -- to talk about. And I was very -- I was very surprised  
5 when she told me that she chose the street life when she  
6 was only 11 years old. And -- and she started coming  
7 forward with all this information that she was -- why --  
8 why she did that and all of this stuff.

9 And it's no wonder why that -- that -- why  
10 she picked her life like that. To have a life like that  
11 and to live like that. The system needs to stop using  
12 First Nations kids for money.

13 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** M'hm.

14 **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** They need to stop taking  
15 that for granted just because some kids, they get thrown in  
16 -- in the white society with Native kids. That needs to  
17 stop too. And there needs to be a lot of resources  
18 available. People that can trust the system. Who they can  
19 talk to. And where they need to do -- and where they need  
20 to go for help.

21 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** Jacqueline,  
22 to get that help, I -- I'm not sure where you live?

23 **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** I live in Red Deer,  
24 Alberta.

25 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** Okay.

1 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: And there's a lot of  
2 people there too that are very racist.

3 COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: Okay.

4 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: I live in a very racist  
5 town. I don't really go anywhere because of how people  
6 look at me sometimes, and --

7 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: M'hm.

8 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: -- even there's a couple  
9 organizations there that -- they're just there for  
10 themselves. And they're not there to reach out for -- to  
11 give people the proper -- the proper help that -- that  
12 they're looking for. And there's a lot of street people  
13 too that get used for money and whatever that people need  
14 to benefit off of that. People need -- some organizations,  
15 you need to stop doing that 'cause I -- I -- I see -- I see  
16 a lot of that too, that people you know, they use it for  
17 their own selves, and yet, those services are supposed to  
18 be provided there for -- for people to go there and reach  
19 out for help.

20 But when -- but when you try to work with  
21 that, it doesn't give -- it doesn't give me any hope. I  
22 walk away and I figured well, whatever you know? I can  
23 just see that you're there for yourself and -- and I say --  
24 like I say, I stay home a lot.

25 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: M'hm.

1 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: 'Cause I -- when I do  
2 come out in the world here, I -- I face challenges with  
3 people. Whatever people that -- how they live -- how they  
4 live out here. And -- and bullying is one of the --  
5 becoming one of the biggest problems too. And -- and I  
6 guess when I try to go places, I -- it's unbelievable to  
7 try to -- to try to raise that concern to -- to -- to these  
8 people. They just -- it's just like, it's never ending.

9 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: M'hm.

10 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: And people are -- yes,  
11 some people do get protected because they -- 'cause they  
12 have this, but I from from a -- I -- I -- I come from a  
13 background where I never had nothing. And in order for a  
14 person to know that kind of life, you know, they'll  
15 understand what it means not to have anything.

16 There's a lot of things that it -- it's not  
17 right. Even through my sobriety of years, I still -- I  
18 still -- I still have a -- I still go through a lot in life  
19 with -- with a lot of issues and challenging racist  
20 bullying. Being judged. And families become homeless so  
21 often because of the damage that was left -- the damage  
22 that was left for them to live with and to deal with. And  
23 what is a person supposed to do when, you know, when --  
24 when they got nowhere to turn?

25 COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: M'hm.

1                    **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** I've tried to turn to  
2                    people for -- for help and even my people have literally  
3                    failed me. Failed my family. And it's not good what they  
4                    do. Like, you know, being one of -- being a survivor is --  
5                    is one the challenges that I never thought I'd ever live  
6                    through and see. I've gotten this far in life, and for a  
7                    lot of reasons because like I said, when the Creator is  
8                    done with my life and being here, what I have to do, and to  
9                    move forward -- forward with life. To -- to -- to have  
10                   that safety rule for the future.

11                                But you know, it's -- like I said, I'm not  
12                                really -- I'm not really into that person to -- to try to  
13                                seek any more help and I did try to seek for help, and even  
14                                to my community, they -- they can do a lot, but they choose  
15                                not to. You know, I've been fighting for a home over 20  
16                                years now to have a home in my community, and I'm still  
17                                fighting to have a home.

18                                        **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

19                                **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** I want to get -- I want  
20                                to have a home for my grandkids, for my family where  
21                                they're going to have a home for permanent -- when I leave  
22                                this world.

23                                        **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

24                                **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** I've been living places  
25                                to places, to places. Renting off people that don't even

1            belong from this -- this Nation, and it's just unbelievable  
2            how the Native rights got buried third -- third ground.  
3            That's where my rights are. But I'm not racist of  
4            anything, but I see a lot of things that are not right what  
5            the government does and what the system does. I see -- I  
6            still see people being homeless. I still see people  
7            looking for a home, and whatever that -- that they're  
8            fighting for. And then we're supposed to be the first people  
9            in this land and --

10           **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** M'hm.

11           **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** -- it's from my  
12           experience, I'm -- you know, I'm just -- it's unbelievable  
13           how -- how my life is. Through the grace of the Creator  
14           that led me this far in life. Maybe I wouldn't have got --  
15           come this far, but I knew it was my sister that lived  
16           through me, that made me who I am today. Not to ever give  
17           up.

18           **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** M'hm.

19           **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

20           **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** Even to this  
21           day, my son is -- he's -- as we speak, he's going to school  
22           with other kids that are in foster care. And every day  
23           they always tell my son how lucky he is to be living with  
24           his mom and his dad. And those kids that are living in  
25           foster care, like, they just -- they just tell my son that

1 you don't want to be there. And you know --

2 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** Yeah.

3 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** -- 'cause he  
4 -- he can be bad, you know? All kids can have their  
5 moments here and there. And -- that's -- that's what they  
6 always -- those kids remind him of that. Like, you -- that  
7 foster parent -- foster care is not a place to be. Like --  
8 like, you're just -- you're just very lucky to be with your  
9 family, and you know, you're not where -- where we are.  
10 And I always wanted to find out like, more information  
11 about those kids. And like, you know, how they're well-  
12 being is, and 'til to this day it's -- it just seems like  
13 foster care is still continuing on with this you know, with  
14 this abuse. And they're Aboriginal kids too, so --

15 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

16 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** -- it's just,  
17 I don't know. It's just unspeakable. Like, how the -- the  
18 system can just allow people like that to keep carrying on  
19 with a very important job, you know? Like, they're  
20 supposed to be working for kids, and the government, but it  
21 just seems like they're just doing that all for themselves.

22 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** Over  
23 generation and generation.

24 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** And that's  
25 what I also hope. I just hope like my mom said, just to

1 get answers and you know? Just to stop trying to run  
2 around with our heads cut off. To try and find them.

3 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

4 **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** I guess my final  
5 thoughts on changing -- changing for a better way of -- to  
6 have a better safety world, is -- I was talking about here  
7 a few minutes ago. People need to understand to when  
8 the -- to understand how people are.

9 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

10 **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** How -- how to work with  
11 them and how to deal with them. And especially them  
12 getting out of hand, then the -- how to guide them -- how  
13 to guide them in their bettering themselves, instead of  
14 that -- instead of that person standing there addressing it  
15 the wrong way. You know, like, taking matters into their  
16 own hand. And that's -- that -- that's a lot. I see that  
17 too, is that the system has took a lot of things into their  
18 own -- in the -- in their own hands, in the wrong way. Not  
19 property addressing it the right way that they should be.

20 And -- and maybe you know, a person will  
21 just start understanding how to work with that person. And  
22 that person would have a lot of hope and to make them feel  
23 better by giving them hope. And who they are, and -- and  
24 not by addressing the -- in the wrong hands of the law, and  
25 maybe they need to start having other organizations to --

1 to start having more -- more homes for homeless people.

2 And to give them hope, and whatever --

3 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** A chance.

4 **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** -- so that they can have  
5 chance in life. And so that they have something there that  
6 they can feel hope. Feel good about, and for them to give  
7 them hope. You know, the system really fail -- really  
8 failed the First Nations a lot. Did a lot of damage and a  
9 lot of -- a lot of people -- a lot of my people has -- has  
10 chosen a dark road for their -- for their choices. I've  
11 seen a lot of family break-ups. Domestic violence,  
12 suicide.

13 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

14 **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** Why? It's because they  
15 -- nobody is there to make -- make them feel that they are  
16 important, but they choose that kind of life. They go  
17 there because a lot of people has -- they -- those people  
18 knew -- know that they -- they got failed. A life that I  
19 went through, I -- you know, I was very suicidal, and when  
20 I was very overwhelmed with a lot of pain and over the  
21 years, you know?

22 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** I don't want to say  
24 nothing to my family or my -- or anybody. Those thoughts  
25 had come there a few times when -- when I didn't know how

1            to deal with it, or -- or to -- to work with it. When a  
2            person asks me, "Do you feel suicidal sometimes?" And I  
3            sit there, and I'm not going to tell a person everything,  
4            how I feel when that person doesn't even care. I had to  
5            learn that too when I talk to people. A lot -- not  
6            everybody cares. You know, they're just there for -- for  
7            whatever that they need to be there for. And people, they  
8            need to start understanding, realizing that -- that their  
9            life, it matters too.

10                            **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

11                            **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** You know, just because a  
12            lot of people are poor, you know they get treated bad. And  
13            they get left out. Like my community, you know, I'm  
14            outcasted from my community because I'm poor. And that --  
15            that's how they look at me, but me, I look it as -- I was  
16            truly blessed with a lot of things that over the years that  
17            I have challenge in life. My sisters, I said my sister  
18            that left a lot of power to be a survivor and --

19                            **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

20                            **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** -- and to who -- who she  
21            was. But now, a lot of people don't understand, you know,  
22            how a lot of families, they came -- the became very  
23            resilient and strong, even though that nobody's not --  
24            there's not enough people or organizations there for them  
25            to guide them with their, with their painful journey.

1 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: M'hm.

2 MS. LISA BIG JOHN: I had to work that on my  
3 own from here. I've had to ask myself many times that --  
4 that -- that my life needs to move on because this needs to  
5 put to a stop. And I have to try to make the best of my  
6 life, whatever life that I got. To cherish my life with my  
7 grandkids and my family, and -- and to start having a  
8 positive life for my future.

9 You know, my grandkids, they always ask me  
10 that, they ask me -- kids, they ask, kids, they like to ask  
11 a lot of questions, and they're very, they're very curious.  
12 My grandson, he's always -- always asking about, questions  
13 about her. Why -- why that -- why that, he had to kill her  
14 like that. And I told him the truth. You know, the system  
15 out there is not going to care. That's why -- that's  
16 why -- that's why her life was taken [sic] and stolen  
17 because I'm trying to make him aware of these things. And  
18 if I never see that change, he has to know that.

19 In life, for his future. He -- I prepare  
20 him for the -- for what lies ahead in life for him. I'm  
21 not going to sit there and lie to him that you know,  
22 that -- that there is some people that do care, and some  
23 don't. And he -- he's -- my grandson, he's seen a lot of  
24 things already that -- that he shouldn't -- he shouldn't be  
25 experiencing. I've tried to reach out to the community

1 about the bullying that's happening in school. They just  
2 brushed -- they just brushed it off like, oh, it's not  
3 happening to us. We don't have to acknowledge to that.

4 But they seem to forget how it makes that --  
5 how -- how it makes him feel and how he has to deal with  
6 it, and stand up for his rights. And yet, and let alone an  
7 adult standing there to try to challenge him, work against  
8 him in telling him that well, this and that. I want --  
9 well, how do I know that?

10 I have to listen to my grandson, because  
11 he's the one that's standing there being bullied and  
12 experiencing it, and then I -- you know, principal and  
13 teachers talking over about him. But -- and he's trying to  
14 tell me different, and he's -- other people are trying to  
15 tell me different. It's still violence. You know, he's --  
16 he's already -- at the age that he is, he's already going  
17 through that. He gets ganged up. A month ago here, he  
18 came home -- he came home with a bloody nose, and saying  
19 that -- that he got jumped.

20 And he -- you know, that -- that scares me,  
21 that terrifies me. And to try to talk to the system about  
22 that, and right away they -- right away they want to dig  
23 into my history. Why -- why my grandson's acting out like  
24 that, or why it's going on. And right away they want to  
25 look at -- at us. Like, is there anything? No, I'm trying

1 to prevent this from happening. Trying to prevent --  
2 trying to stop it from happening, because it's violence.  
3 And he's -- he's even aware of that. And he's not -- like  
4 I said, he's -- he's a very smart little boy.

5 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** M'hm.

6 **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** I don't take -- I don't  
7 take the system's side, because I wasn't there when things  
8 goes on with them. I talked to him and I listened to him  
9 when he's telling me something like that. A bully too,  
10 with the First Nations kids, and in school too. That --  
11 that needs to be -- I raise a concern right there.

12 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** About the  
13 bullying, do -- does school have like a policy against  
14 bullying? And --

15 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** Yeah. They  
16 do, but it just doesn't seem like -- like they follow  
17 through with you know, what they say. And even like --  
18 like as I said, the teachers would be trying to like, tell  
19 me, "Oh, no, he started it. You know, it's all his fault."  
20 And --

21 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

22 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** -- and then  
23 there's these other kids here. I'm a little how come, why  
24 just blaming one kid? Like, you know, I don't think that's  
25 fair at all. I think you should have one on one and with

1 all of them. And you know, see -- like, get all of their  
2 sides and see what happened. And it's -- it just puzzles  
3 me of -- you know?

4 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** And what  
5 about racism? Do they have something that we do not  
6 tolerate racism at the school?

7 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** Yeah. Yeah,  
8 but -- but I think that's just all a bunch of baloney.  
9 Like, it's -- it's written on the wall, but do they  
10 actually follow it?

11 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** Did you put  
12 in an official complaint about that or?

13 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** Hmmm, yeah.  
14 I went to -- I went to speak with the school board about  
15 that. And every time I say that I'm going to go address it  
16 to them, they start trying to talk to me like, "Oh, no,  
17 we'll make this change, we'll make that change. No, this  
18 will change." And but nothing ever really happens and  
19 that's why sometimes I just say, "Forget this school, I'll  
20 just put you in another school." And --

21 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** Okay.

22 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** -- you know,  
23 it's like, we -- I just try to like, make the situation  
24 better for Layton (ph) and instead of him going through all  
25 that stress, but then it just happens again. And --

1 COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: M'hm.

2 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: I just don't  
3 know when that's ever going to stop. Like, probably never.

4 COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: One thing I  
5 know, it's we have so many warriors in our world, the  
6 Indigenous women and men. And I hope it does stop.

7 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: That's what I  
8 pray for every day.

9 COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: Yeah. And  
10 even at your school, your son's school and every school?

11 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: Why?

13 MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON: Nobody, like,  
14 especially kids, they don't deserve to go through that.  
15 Like, it can really mess up a -- you know, someone's mind.  
16 Even a child's mind. They'll grow up thinking this and  
17 that. And then who knows if they think it's okay to bully  
18 or to hurt people. And well, I -- I was never cared for  
19 when I got bullied. So why not? That's just another  
20 reason to -- I talked to my son about lots. I make him  
21 understand a lot of things and he's very smart and  
22 intelligent, you know? And he's always there. He's really  
23 caring. You know, and he sees me like, upset or if I need  
24 help with something, he'll instantly be right there. "Oh,  
25 you, mom, you need -- you need this to be done?" And he's

1 very gentle and kind with his manners. And --

2 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** You mentioned  
3 also your sister was invisible when you started your  
4 testimony with us. And it is clear for many, many of us,  
5 she is not invisible.

6 **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** Yeah.

7 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** You are not  
8 invisible. We are not invisible, and we will stand until  
9 justice is happening. And some places it does happen  
10 because our women stood and still standing very strong  
11 today. So I have so much respect for that and respect for  
12 you also, to see three generation. I know the third one is  
13 here.

14 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** Yeah.

15 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** And to see  
16 that you have so much support, because when we're sitting  
17 here, it's always scary or we're human being. Even if  
18 we're sitting on this side of the circle. That's sometime  
19 family comes along because they travel far or because  
20 that's their choice. But to see that you have Gladys (ph),  
21 C. J. --

22 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** Yeah.

23 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE::** -- Bonnie  
24 (ph) and Cynthia (ph), and I think your boyfriend?

25 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** Yeah. My

1 husband.

2 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** Oh, excuse,  
3 husband. That's okay. Yeah. I'm at this stage of husband  
4 to be now. Not there yet. Yeah. Basically. I would like  
5 to ask you if you would accept from us and from the  
6 families who support this journey, this Inquiry, a gift --  
7 a gift and if you do, Bernie (ph) will explain the beauty  
8 and the meeting of this gift.

9 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** Yeah. This  
10 is like, one thing like, I never shared any of what I said  
11 to anybody, so that's why I was just -- it's very hard to  
12 talk. So the only people I really talked about it with was  
13 with you know, my mom or my husband.

14 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** How do you  
15 feel?

16 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** I just feel  
17 overwhelmed and but I'm glad that people had to hear my  
18 story. Like, it -- it needed to be heard because the --  
19 what's going on with the system today is -- is just you  
20 know, we -- what's going on with -- I was a kid, it's still  
21 going on now, and I'm 26 years old.

22 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** Well, I'm  
23 blessed to be here with you and receiving your truth.  
24 Very, very honoured. And I hope you will continue. You're  
25 so beautiful and people need to hear that you're breaking

1 that cycle. You are a good example that we are capable to  
2 break it.

3 **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** Exactly.

4 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** Merci. Merci  
5 beaucoup.

6 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So Commissioner Audette,  
7 if I can ask to adjourn this session please? Thank you.

8 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** *Oui, Bernie*  
9 *va présenter le cadeau.*

10 **MS. BERNIE POITRAS WILLIAMS:** So Lisa and  
11 Jacqueline, I want to say hello to you. I know your mom's  
12 been fighting for so long and I'm so glad that she's here.  
13 And that she's never given up. Because many of us -- this  
14 was almost felt like our last you know, kick at the can  
15 basically. Our last chance here. And I'm so grateful that  
16 you're here, Lisa. And thank you for your honesty, and  
17 your resilience. And I'm so proud of your journey here  
18 with us. I'm so glad you're here. On behalf of the  
19 Commissioners and their -- and the grandmothers, the staff,  
20 we'd like to offer you the eagle feathers.

21 I want to explain that these eagle feathers,  
22 they started their journey from Haida Gwaii. The  
23 matriarchs picked along at the beach over 400 eagle  
24 feathers, and then the call went out nationally. So these  
25 eagle feathers have come from Thompson, Manitoba. Have

1            made their way before the -- this Inquiry, this hearing.  
2            The other ones came in from Sechelt. So (Indiscernible)  
3            people nationally. The Elders, grandmothers, family  
4            members have donated these eagle feathers all across Canada  
5            for the families that are giving their statement and the  
6            hearings. So we'd like to offer this to you, and to you  
7            too. And your husband here.

8                            **MS. LISA JACQUILINE ROBINSON:** M'hm.

9                            **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** *Merci,*  
10            *Bernie. Oui, excusez-moi, j'accepte, nous terminons la*  
11            *session.*

12                            **(PAUSE)**

13                            **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** We just got a song  
14            for the families, so if you have drums or you want to come  
15            and sing, that'd be great.

16                            **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** And there's also two  
17            drums here if anybody would like to join us.

18                            **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** There's two drums  
19            here. Somebody wants to pick those up and help us drum.

20                            **(PAUSE)**

21                            **MS. LISA BIG JOHN:** I'm very honoured to  
22            been a part of this Inquiry. It means a lot to me, and I'm  
23            very blessed today. I felt a lot of my sister's present  
24            [sic] here, guiding me with my words and my knowledge. And  
25            I'm very blessed to come far in this life. Especially

1            seeing other sisters that are here, that are very you know,  
2            very special part of my life. And I hold them close to my  
3            heart, and I see that we never lose touch. Even though  
4            those moments, I -- I carry with me and treasure, cherish.  
5            The strong sisters are some of them are here today with me,  
6            guiding me with my strength and -- and to be strong.

7                            And once again I want to thank the  
8            Commissioners for -- for being a part of this Inquiry, and  
9            I hope that in life, what lies ahead I hope there's going  
10           to be changes made for the future. Like I said, I seen a  
11           lot of my friends here that I don't see very often, but I  
12           keep them close to my heart. My friend Gladys, C.J,  
13           Cynthia and Bonnie, and because of their strength too,  
14           giving me power and courage to speak about everything that  
15           I have to. I'm very blessed. Thank you. Creator  
16           blessing.

17                           **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** Merci  
18           beaucoup. So the next hearing will start as soon the  
19           lawyer and the family to the other room will finish, so we  
20           have to respect as you know, our beautiful rules it's to  
21           respect the time that they need to share their truth with  
22           us. So we never know when it's finishing. So what I would  
23           like to propose is that we have lunch -- a quick lunch. As  
24           soon the lawyer Wendy, comes here and she's ready with the  
25           other family to start we could start.

1                    But I would like to say also that this  
2 morning we had an opportunity to have a few words from a  
3 wonderful woman, so I have to say thank you. When we start  
4 this journey in your territory and you're here today, but  
5 also I met a man this morning. He's the uncle of the  
6 mother of my granddaughter. And -- tears, come here.  
7 Small world. So he's a Chief too. So you're accountable.  
8 Come tell us that you will do something for the women,  
9 please, or say what you -- you want to say.

10                   **MR. ROBERT PHILLIPS:** (Indiscernible). My  
11 name is Robert Phillips. I'm with the First Nations  
12 Summit, and the First Nations Leadership Council. And I  
13 too want to give acknowledgements to Tsleil-Waututh,  
14 Musqueam, and Squamish and just to the south of Tsawwassen.  
15 And give acknowledgements as well to everybody. I can  
16 certainly understand the bravery that you have for coming  
17 here to speak on the issues that are so -- hits everybody's  
18 heart. And to actually -- to have experienced it, I cannot  
19 even speak of it, because I have never had such a loss in  
20 that way.

21                   And your bravery to come here, to share your  
22 thoughts, and to also give ideas to help I think, are very  
23 important. And we as a First Nations organization are here  
24 to bear witness and to observe and to listen. And then try  
25 to help, so with the commissioners and the chief

1 commissioner and the missing indigenous women and girls, I  
2 think it's something that I know it's not perfect, but  
3 we've called for for many, many years. And I know families  
4 such as yours have called for it. And we have it.

5 And you're so brave enough. And I keep  
6 coming back to the word brave. Because we talk about  
7 warriors, and we talk about people that stand up, but  
8 you've been through it, and you survived and you're here  
9 now. And we as political leaders sometimes go out and  
10 speak on issues, but we also need to listen. And we tried  
11 it to the best of our abilities to listen.

12 And there's a lot of families that are in  
13 grief, that have been through so much. And when we get up  
14 and speak on it, I think you in a way give us that  
15 strength. 'Cause I know as I was listening, I felt a  
16 tremendous amount of emotion, but then also kind of looking  
17 ahead and saying we can do something about it to do our  
18 little part.

19 'Cause I do believe it starts with the self,  
20 in your heart. And what you've shared, and then to your  
21 family as you've expressed through your children and  
22 grandchildren. Then through your community, and then our  
23 nation. I think with that, we will try to the best of our  
24 ability to make it not only a better world for us, but a  
25 better world around us. And I think this is just the

1 beginning. And I think we need to continue and with you  
2 being there, I think means a lot. And like I said, we'll  
3 try our best as well. So I know people are hungry and I --  
4 I'm ready to eat too. Thank you. (Indiscernible)

5 **COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE:** Merci  
6 beaucoup. Merci. Thank you so much.

7 --- Upon adjourning at 12:37 p.m.

8

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Anja Curuvija, 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.



Anja Curuvija

April 12, 2018