National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Parts 2 & 3 Institutional & Expert/Knowledge-Keeper
“Sexual Exploitation, Human Trafficking & Sexual Assault”
Sheraton Hotel, Salon B
St. John’s, Newfoundland-and-Labrador

PUBLIC

Mixed Part 2 & 3 Volume 18
Thursday October 18, 2018

Panel 4:
Chief Danny Smyth & Staff Sergeant Darryl Ramkissoon, Winnipeg Police Service
Diane Redsky, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre
Rachel Willan

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Eastern Door Indigenous Women's Association Natalie D. Clifford (Legal Counsel)

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Families for Justice Suzan E. Fraser (Legal Counsel)

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TUMINGIT REGIONAL INUIT WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION,
SATURVIIT INUIT WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION OF NUNAVIK,
OTTAWA INUIT CHILDREN’S CENTRE AND MANITOBA INUIT ASSOCIATION
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Katrina Swan (Legal Counsel)

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Kellie R. Wuttunee (Legal Counsel)
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Krystyn Ordyniec (Legal Counsel)

Vancouver Sex Workers' Rights Collective
Carly Teillet (Legal Counsel)

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Fourth Witness: Rachel Willan
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(OPENING REMARKS/PRAYER)

MS. TERRELLYN FEARN: Good morning. Bon matin. Welcome to Day 4 of our final hearing. It's very nice to see you today.

What I'd like to do is invite Odelle Pike up this morning to get us started and share in opening words and prayer with us.

And just before that, we have Paul, who will be -- who has graciously lit the smudge for us this morning. So if anybody wants to get smudged off, he'll be wandering around the room.

MS. ODELLE PIKE: Good morning. Yesterday was a really tough day, and I'm hoping today that, being the last day, that we all take care of ourselves. We have supports here all around the room, so if you feel that things are a little bit too tough please avail of the services.

Creator, we thank you for this beautiful day. We thank you for all the gifts that you bestowed on us. Help us to get through this day. Let us respect one another. Let us show love and let us give love. Let us be patient, let us be kind, let us protect one another,
let us rise with one another.

We ask that you bestow blessings on all the people who are going to be testifying today. Keep them in your hearts. Keep everyone safe. We pray that we have -- we will have safe communities when we go back. And like I said yesterday, we need to get back to our cultural teachings, keep them sacred in our hearts, always have them in front, and help one another. Insinogima (ph) all my relations.

**MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** Wela’lin, Odelle.

Sarah, I'd like to hand it over to you to open us in a good way as well in lighting the Qulliq.

**MS. SARAH PONNIUK:** God, I come to you this morning. I need help for you to give me words, words that are not mine.

But God, I also pray for the people in here, every one of us, and people that will testify today. I pray for boundaries, that each a one -- each one of us will have boundaries before we start hearing the stories that are very real. And that you will give us, like an holy shield, that will protect us a boundary that no one else can give us. If people didn't put boundaries on this morning, I pray right now put the boundaries for everyone here.

Yesterday was powerful, and yesterday is
gone. But the memories are still in our minds, so I pray that you will help our mind physically, emotionally, and spiritually help us to heal because we have to live for today and not yesterday.

(Speaking Indigenous language.)

(LIGHTING OF THE QULLIQ)

COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: As the flame of the Qulliq spreads across the wick, I'd like to take this moment for my friend and my colleague, and her family and community, who had a heavy day today as well, who lost a tremendously important person in their lives, France Robertson, a long-time friend and colleague to Commission Odette and Grandmother Penelope, and the Québec Native Women's Association community.

Her passing has impacted them greatly, and Commissioner Audette has asked for a moment of silence. And I think as the flame works its way across the wick and brings us light and warmth and connects us as a sacred fire to the spirit world and makes that path, I'd like if we could all pay homage to France at the request of Commissioner Audette. Thank you.

(SHORT PAUSE)

MS. TERRELLYN FEARN: Nakurmiik, Sarah, for your beautiful words and your prayers for us this morning, and we want to extend our sincere condolences and love to
those that are affected, for all of those that have lost a loved one. And, I want to be mindful of that spirit chair and the significance of that space, that that is a space that is a reminder to us of those that have gone on.

And, when Commissioner Robinson was speaking, I remembered the words of Chief Seattle of Suquamish Nation that there is no death, only a change of worlds. And so, that spirit chair is a reminder of those that have gone on to guide us, to surround us and to support us every day, but in a different way. So, be gentle with your hearts today. You can all be seated.

Before we get started, there’s another item that I want to just draw your attention to, and that is this red willow basket at the centre of the sacred items and bundle here. And, that basket was created at the start of this Inquiry by several women in the Manitoba Winnipeg area, and it was created to be able to receive gifts that those that we have journeyed with or encountered throughout this process as we travelled across Turtle Island wanted to donate.

And so, we’ve received many of these sacred items through that process through that basket. And also, for family members and survivors through Part I of the community hearings who wanted to share their truth in a different way, that was the vessel for them to submit that
through what we would call an artistic expression.

So, many have created beautiful visual
drawings, and paintings, and beautiful poems, and
different items through that means, and it was really our
way to acknowledge that there are many different ways that
we can share our truth, not only through our words. And,
we’re very grateful for those that have been generous to
share in that way, and I want to acknowledge them as well.

And, one of the things that we’ve
incorporated into our -- the last hearing in Winnipeg, and
of course, here in Newfoundland is the beading. And, for
those of you that have had the opportunity to participate
in the beading circle in the elders’ room, it’s a very
powerful space. And, we’re honoured to have Gerry Pangman
and her daughter, Coralee McPherson, to facilitate and
teach, and they are very good teachers.

I call Gerry, Grandma Gerry now, because
I’m a singer, not a beader, but I’m trying. I don’t know
how many times -- you know, it’s like fishing. I got tied
up on my button, then caught on my name tag, and then,
“Grandma, help! I don’t know what to do.” Or, I have a
knot. But, they’re very kind and gentle and that beading
medicine has helped many throughout this week, and the
last session as well. And, I’m so impressed with all the
red dresses that I’ve come across over the past few days.
But, this red dress in particular was started in Winnipeg by Kim McPherson, who is Gerry’s sister, and Gerry had just completed this, I think, yesterday. Beautiful bead work. Self-taught beadwork. And, they have asked if they could donate this to the legacy archives, and to the Inquiry in remembrance of all of those stolen sisters. And, we are very honoured.

The red dress is very significant. For those of you that may not know, Jaime Black, who does some work with us as well, had created the REDress Project, and the red dress to signify those that have been taken, those that are lost and haven’t returned yet. And so, this is a very powerful symbol.

So, at this time, I would like to ask Gerry and her daughter Coralee to come up, and to submit this beautiful red dress.

(PRESENTATION OF RED DRESS)

MS. TERRELLYN FEARN: Beautiful. So, it’s a reminder if anyone else, at some point, let me know because we’re happy to receive those special gifts.

Keep care of yourself today. I think the words of our elders that have shared as a reminder to be gentle with ourselves and each other. Again, there is the elders’ room. There is the supports who will be checking in on every one. And, certainly reach out to us if
there’s something that we can assist you with. Have a beautiful day, and we’ll take just a couple of minutes to get everyone together, and then we’ll get started.

--- Upon recessing at 8:27

--- Upon resuming at 8:33

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Good morning. Good morning, Chief Commissioner and Commissioners. Today, I am very glad to be leading a panel that I think will be addressing yet another topic of true importance. We are so fortunate to have a number of witnesses with us today. In fact, we’ll have four in total. They will be led by different counsel but if I could just, for the purpose of introduction, one, for the record, because I keep forgetting to introduce myself, I’m reminded, I’m Christa Big Canoe. I am Commission counsel. I’m Ojibwe from Ontario, and I’ve very grateful to be welcomed into this territory.

Today, the focus of the panel will actually be one, and if I had to deduce it to something quite simple, would be collaboration, and what happens in community when community partners, specifically survivors and police services work together to try to make change that will impact the lives of Indigenous women and girls.

And so, Commission counsel has, on consent and requested counsel Kimberly Carswell of the Winnipeg
Police Service to lead evidence of Chief Danny Smyth and Staff Sergeant Darryl Ramkissoon, and the first order of business would be to ask that you consider the request that Kimberly Carswell can lead that evidence?

**CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** That’s agreeable. Thank you.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you. And, then just so that we all know what’s happening, following Ms. Carswell’s examination of her witnesses, we will have the pleasure of hearing from Diane Redsky, and Commission counsel Jennifer Cox will be leading that evidence.

And, finally, we’ll hear from Rachel Willan. I will be leading that evidence, and in support with Rachel is her husband, Matt Willan. And so, I would like to now turn the mic over to Ms. Carswell.

**MS. KIMERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you, Christa. On behalf of my client and myself, I’d like to first acknowledge the spirits of the missing women and girls, the traditional territories that we are on of the Beothuk, the Mi’kmaq and the Inuit and Innu of Labrador. We acknowledge the grandmothers, elders, the prayers that we received this morning, and the lighting of the qulliq, the sacred items in the room.

We thank the Commissioners for this opportunity to appear before you, and thank also the
Commission staff who has been so helpful in enabling us to be ready for today. I would also like to thank the health support that’s been available, not only this week, but to me throughout this proceeding.

To start, I’d like to indicate to the parties that we will be showing some video clips from the media during our presentation. Some of that will have lived experience in it. So, I just would like to give you that warning at this point to protect yourselves when that information is presented.

And, now, I would ask that if you could, Mr. Registrar, if you could swear Chief Smyth, please?

MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Yes, I apologize. So, we are going to swear in which witness? Both?

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Both, one at a time, though. Chief Smyth first on the Bible.

MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Fair enough. Chief Danny Smyth, do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I do.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Sworn:

MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Okay. And, how are we doing the affirmation or oath for the second witness?

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Bible as well, please.
MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Bible as well. Okay.

Good morning, Staff Sergeant Darryl Ramkissoon. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON: I do.

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON, Sworn:

MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Thank you.

--- EXAMINATION IN-CHIEF BY MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And, before we start, two items. My clients have asked me to indicate to the parties with standing that they would invite you to please call them by their first names, Danny and Darryl, throughout these proceedings, and Chief Smyth, I believe you have some remarks you’d like to make?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Thank you. I’d like to start by thanking the Commission for the opportunity to testify here this morning. I’m here today to support a friend and a partner. Diane Redsky is a strong advocate for women and families, particularly survivors of exploitation and human trafficking. She is also helping to change the system to better meet the needs of those who have been exploited, especially Indigenous women and girls.

Ma Mawi is one of a handful of Indigenous service providers in Winnipeg, and it provides services
for Indigenous women, delivered primarily by Indigenous
women. And, the Winnipeg Police is a partner with Ma
Mawi, serving in a supporting role that focuses on
targeted enforcement at times for those trafficking and
exploiting women, and at other times, assisting the
outreach workers to transport exploited women and girls to
safe housing and programming provided by Ma Mawi.

Diane asked me to come here before you
today, and it’s my hope that together, we can illustrate a
model that emphasizes Indigenous-led community services
that are supported by the police in a collaborative way.

Before I talk about the partnership that
we’ve established, I also want to acknowledge that the
police in Winnipeg have not always been on the right path,
that our past actions and procedures contributed to
harming Indigenous people in our community. Indigenous
women were not treated with the respect and dignity that
they deserve.

As the Chief of the Winnipeg Police
Service, I offer my apologies for past conduct and
policies that contributed to harming Indigenous women and
girls.

I’ve been Chief of Police in Winnipeg for
almost two years. And, when I was appointed, I gave a
speech at that time that honoured many of the strong women
who work tirelessly in our community. And, I quoted a passage from an essay, and it went like this: “I’m interested in exploring the ways in which women share knowledge to support their families and communities, and in examining the types of power, although often unrecognized in the public sphere, that women hold in our society.”

Now, these words were written by Dr. Melanie Jansen. She’s an assistant professor at the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba. She’s also my friend, and has helped shape many of my views regarding women and diversity, both locally and in a more global context.

Her essay went on to say that, “I understand that these women’s and children’s lives are not perfect. They are faced with issues that are not prevalent in my world. But, what impresses me the most is not just the way in which the group cares for the children, but also the strong commitment to collaboration that these women have established in so many aspects of their lives. These women have found a way to share the load, to prosper not just individually, but also in ways that benefit the greater community. Undoubtedly, they could not achieve alone what they are able to do as a group.”
Melanie was speaking about a group of women
that she came to know in Uganda, actually, when she was
researching her thesis. But, she just as easily could
have been describing the women that comprise many of the
grassroots organizations in our own community in Winnipeg.
I speak often of community engagement and our partnership
with groups like the Winnipeg Outreach Network, and the
Sexually Exploited Youth Coalition.

These groups are led by strong women;
leaders like Leslie Spillett, Diane Redsky, and elected
officials like MLA Nahani Fontaine and MLA Bernadette
Smith. And, there are so many more women who work
tirelessly in our community.

This is the kind of community engagement
that I see as important. Partnering with groups like this
is the true essence of crime prevention through social
development. These Indigenous-led efforts will help break
through social barriers that left unaddressed can lead to
harm.

I’m committed to partnering with
Indigenous-led service providers like Ma Mawi, Dene way
(phonetic), and Ka Na Kanichihk. And, when possible, to
use my voice to validate their efforts and lend additional
credibility to support their programs.

I will ensure that the police reflect the
needs and expectations of our community, and this will be
done by continuing to recruit Winnipeg Police that is
representative by Indigenous officers and employees. This
will be done by continuing to partner with our Indigenous
service providers, and it will be done through training
and education so that our members understand the
generational trauma inflicted upon Indigenous people
through colonization, the residential school system, and
government-imposed Child and Family Services. It will
also mean honouring and promoting Indigenous women and men
within the police service as leaders and role models in
our community.

I believe we’re on the right path. This is
the direction that I want to lead, and I think the women
in our community will play a huge role in helping us get
there. Thank you.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you, Chief
Smyth. If I could ask that the PowerPoint presentation
that we’ve provided be put up on the screen at this time?

Chief Smyth, if I could ask you to please
go to Tab A of the materials that we’ve provided to
Commission counsel and that have been disclosed to the
parties? I understand that this is your curriculum vitae.
Have you had the opportunity to review that?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I have.
MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And, I note that you’ve been a police officer with the City of Winnipeg for over 30 years now?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That’s correct.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And, as you indicated, Chief for the last two years?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And, is there anything about your background that you would like to focus on after we enter this as an exhibit?

Chief Commissioner, if we could enter Chief Smyth’s curriculum vitae at Tab A as the next exhibit in these proceedings?

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Yes.

Exhibit 65 is Chief Smyth’s C.V., please.

--- Exhibit No 65:

CV of Chief Danny Smyth (six pages)
Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg Police Service
Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg Police Service

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Thank you. Chief Smyth, do you have any comments to make?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I would just like to comment on my journey before I became -- that led me up to
becoming a police officer.

First of all, I would like to acknowledge my own birth mother. My mother was from a small town in western Manitoba. She was pregnant, an unwed teen in the sixties, and was shunned, and shamed, and really sent to Winnipeg where she was to remain until she gave birth.

As near as I can determine, she was with her baby for a day before returning to her community without her baby. That baby was me. I was taken into care at that time and put up for adoption.

I understand it was the following year, actually, that I was adopted, and I was adopted by a young policeman and his wife. They cared for me and gave me all the opportunities that they could, and I was, frankly, the first member in my family to attend university, graduating in 1983.

Before becoming a cop, I had a number of jobs that included recreation. I worked in the Long Plain, worked and lived on the Long Plain First Nation. I worked in healthcare as an orderly, and I worked in Corrections in the federal system, working in prisons in both Matsqui in B.C., and in Stony Mountain.

I became a member of the police service in 1986, and there was a reason it took that long. For those of you that may have seen me walk in here today, I’m not a
very big man, and there were height and weight
restrictions back in those days, and I certainly didn’t
meet any of those. It was a human rights challenge that
opened the door for me, and really sent me on a different
path; one that I’ve never looked back on.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Thank you. If we
can now turn to Tab B, Darryl? If I could ask you to take
a look at that? That is, I understand, your curriculum
vitae?

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON: That’s
correct.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And, you’ve had an
opportunity to look at it, and it is accurate?

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON: Yes, I
have.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Chief Commissioner,
could I ask that the curriculum vitae of Staff Sergeant
Ramkissoon at Tab B be entered as the next exhibit in
these proceedings?

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Yes.
Exhibit 66 is Staff Sergeant Ramkissoon’s C.V., please.

--- Exhibit No 66:

CV of Staff Sergeant Darryl Ramkissoon
(12 pages)

Witness: Staff Sergeant Darryl
Ramkissoon, Winnipeg Police Service

Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg Police Service

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, Staff Sergeant, do you have anything you would -- in particular you would like to bring to the attention of the Commission?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Just a little bit about my background. I was born in Trinidad, in the Caribbean. Moved here to Winnipeg with my parents when I was three, and at the age of 11, we moved back to Trinidad. At the age of 19, I wanted a better life and more opportunities for myself, so I moved back to Winnipeg by myself. I had no money, no friends or family, and there were a lot of things that happened to me during those years that led me to policing. So, I applied at least three times until I finally got in on my third time in 1991.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you. If I could have the next slide? We appeared to have moved on -- oh, next slide, please? Thank you.

I understand that today we will be presenting four general areas, that being the background of the Counter-Exploitation Unit, various enforcement projects undertaken by the Counter-Exploitation Unit,
prevention, intervention and community collaboration; is that correct?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That’s correct.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you. Next slide, please. Next slide, please. Chief, if you could just speak briefly to the overview of the size of the City of Winnipeg, its demographics and of the Winnipeg Police Service for those who are not familiar with this?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** So, the City of Winnipeg has a population now of approximately 750,000. We’ve had slow but steady growth throughout most of our history. It is a diverse population which represents many different ethnic groups. In particular, there are over 70,000 Indigenous peoples that call Winnipeg home, both First Nations and Métis.

That makes up collectively about 11 percent of our population in Winnipeg, making it the largest concentration of Indigenous peoples living in a major city in Canada. Winnipeg also has one of the largest multi-racial populations for any large Canadian city as well.

In terms of language, Tagalog and French are the most common languages after English. Our Filipino population is coming on 70,000 in its own right. So we are a very diverse community.

In terms of the Winnipeg Police Service,
we've been in existence since 1874. Currently, there are about 1,900 employees -- about 1,380 sworn members, police members, and the rest being support staff. Of our makeup, and it fluctuates year to year, but we have between 9 and 11 percent of our membership is comprised of Indigenous officers. And when you fold in the supporting staff, it's about 9 percent overall of our makeup is Indigenous.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. Thank you.

Next slide, please.

Danny, we're going to move -- and Chief Commissioner -- rather quickly through this background in order to get to the more substantive topics. So if I could ask you please to take a look at Document C in the materials that have been provided. And do you recognize this document?

**MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Yeah, this document is -- this slide is showing a segment from our Strategic Plan.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. And the document at Tab C is the Winnipeg Police Service Strategic Plan from 2015 to 2019. Is this document a public document?

**MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Yes, it is.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And are you familiar with this document?
MR. DANNY SMYTH: I am.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And would you be able to speak to any questions parties might have on this document?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Chief Commissioner, could I ask that this document, the Winnipeg Police Service Strategic Plan 2015 to 2019, be entered as the next exhibit, please?

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Yes.

Exhibit 67 is Winnipeg Police Board, A Culture of Safety For All Winnipeg Police Service, Strategic Plan 2015 to 2019. Thank you.

--- EXHIBIT NO. 67:

“A Culture of Safety For All: Winnipeg Police Service Strategic Plan 2015-2019”

(20 pages)

Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg Police Service

Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg Police Service

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Thank you, Chief Commissioner.

If we could turn then, Danny, to Tab D.
That is a document entitled The Indigenous Women's Safety and Protection Report. And again, are you familiar with that document?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: I am. It's essentially a strategic report.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And it was produced in August of 2015; is that correct?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: That's correct.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And are you familiar with this document?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: I am.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Is it public?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And you would be able to ask -- answer questions on it for members of the parties with standing if requested?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Chief Commissioner, if I could ask then that the Indigenous Women's Safety and Protection report be entered as the next exhibit in this proceeding. It's dated August of 2015.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Yes.

Exhibit 68 is Indigenous Women's Safety and Protection, August 2015, Winnipeg Police Services.

--- EXHIBIT NO. 68:

Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg Police Service

Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg Police Service

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Thank you.

And in support of those reports, I understand you provide quarterly reports to the Winnipeg Police Board. And for this proceeding today, you've had those summarized, and that summary is at Tab E of the materials that have been provided to the Commission and to the parties with standing. Is that correct?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: That's correct. You have a sample quarterly report and a summation of all of the quarterly reports dating back from 2015 to the present.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: All right. So dealing first with the document at Tab E, that would be the summary document you've just referred to?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: That's correct.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: This document is not a public document; is that correct?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: No, this is a summary
In document, yes.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: All right.

MR. DANNY SMYTH: The quarterly reports themselves are public.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: That's correct.

And you would be able to speak to this document today if parties had questions on it?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Again, Chief Commissioner, if I could ask for the summary of quarterly reports to the Winnipeg Police Board from 2015 to 2017 be entered as the next exhibit, please.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Yes.


--- EXHIBIT NO. 69:


Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg Police Service

Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg
MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Thank you.
And at Tab F is the complete -- a complete report that you've referred to, that is, the public document and a report to the Winnipeg Police Board. Is that correct?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: Yeah. This report is a sampling of the kind of reporting that I do with the Police Board when we meet at public meetings.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: All right. Again, you would be able to speak to this report and answer any questions that parties with standing may have?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Chief Commissioner, if I could ask that the report of Chief Smyth update report to the Board, dated October 13th, 2017 be entered as the next exhibit, please.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Yes.

Exhibit 70 is Update Report to the Winnipeg Police Board by Chief Danny Smyth, October 13, 2017.

--- EXHIBIT NO. 70:

“Update Report to the Winnipeg Police Board” from Chief Danny Smyth to Chair and Members of the Winnipeg Police Board, October 13, 2017 (eight pages)
 Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg Police Service

Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg Police Service

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you, Chief Commissioner.

And finally with these documents, at Schedule C is the Winnipeg Police Service 2018 Business Plan. Do you recognize that document?

**MR. DANNY SMYTH:** I do. We do a business plan each year in support of the Strategic Plan. This is the 2018 Business Plan that aligns with the strategy.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And is this document made available to the public?

**MR. DANNY SMYTH:** It is.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And you are familiar with it?

**MR. DANNY SMYTH:** I am.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And you would be prepared to answer any questions with respect to this document that parties with standing may have?

**MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Chief Commissioner, if I could ask then that this document be entered as the next exhibit, the Winnipeg Police Service 2018 Business
Yes.

Exhibit 71 is the Winnipeg Police Service 2018 Business Plan.

--- EXHIBIT NO. 71:

“Winnipeg Police Service 2018 Business Plan” (24 pages)

Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg Police Service

Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg Police Service

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Thank you, Chief Commissioner.

Next slide, please.

Chief, if you could just -- or Danny -- if you could speak, please, to the history of the Counter Exploitation Unit where the service was and where we have come to be in relation to this unit?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: So this unit has done a transformational change during my time in the police service, but more, in particular, in the last 15 years. When I began, we were involved in work that would have been considered the Vice Division, with the Morals Unit conducting much of this work. Looking back, just the names alone were questionable, frankly. Moral seems to
imply some type of standard and/or lack of standard, and vice seems to imply behaviour that is bad. It's -- it was just not a good fit.

We began to transition with more of a focus on protecting and enforcing against those that were exploiting the women in our community. At that time, we started to move to naming the unit the Counter Exploitation Unit. We transitioned that from the Vice Division to a specialized Investigations Division that included other units like child abuse, internet child exploitation, and sex crimes.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right.

And if I could direct this next question to you Darryl. I understand one of the first initiatives that started the shift with a project called So Long John.

And if I could get the next slide up, please.

And that occurred while you were part of the -- during part of the time you were with the unit, and that was in 2003. Could you just speak briefly to this particular project, please?

**MR. DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's correct. Way back in 2003, we started targeting exploiters. We realized way back then that targeting persons involved in the sex industry was ineffective.
MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: All right. And you can see the numbers up there was — there were 73 arrests in that project, as well as the number of vehicles seized. And we'll talk about the vehicles in a minute.

But if I could have the next slide.

This is media reports from the results of that project. Is that correct?

MR. DARRYL RAMKISSOON: That's correct.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And I understand that a decision was made with respect to a strategy to involve the media in information surrounding projects of this nature and the results of those projects. Is that correct?

MR. DARRYL RAMKISSOON: That's correct. We -- in our media strategy, we do want for public awareness, plus it lessens the stigma of the exploited, and it also highlights our partnership with the other agencies.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: All right.

And then, Chief, I understand the major change came in 2013 -- if I could have the next slide up, please -- when the unit was reorganized and moved and certain reports were written that we'll get into in a minute that you've started to speak about. Is that correct?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: What you're seeing there
is a segment from our organizational chart, and it was the period of time when we transitioned what was then known as the Morals Unit over to this division. The Counter Exploitation Unit aligned itself with some of the other units that I mentioned: child abuse, internet child exploitation, and sex crimes.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. And during this period of transition, as I understand it, you were overseeing this area; is that correct?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes. At that time, I was a superintendent that oversaw the investigations portfolio.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. If you could then turn to the document that’s been provided as Schedule H to our material to the Commission and Parties, you’ll see a report titled Winnipeg’s Visible Sex Trade. Are you familiar with that document?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I am.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And I understand that was written by a member of what then became a Counter-exploitation Unit with proposals to embark on a new philosophy with respect to enforcement and interaction with women being exploited; is that correct?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That’s correct. One of the Sergeant’s in the unit at the time came up with this
idea and this initiative, to create a dedicated unit that
worked in this area, that would fall under this division
and specialize in both outreach and enforcement against
the exploiters in our community.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: All right. And you
are familiar with this report?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I am.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: This report is not
a public report, I take it?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: This is not.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And you would be
able to answer any questions parties with standing may
have on the report?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Chief Commissioner, if I
could ask the report titled “Winnipeg’s Visible Sex Trade”
it’s dated 2013, June 4th, be entered as the next exhibit,
please.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: I’m
sorry, the date again?

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: The date is on the

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Thank
you. I always get those dates backwards.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: So do I.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: So
Exhibit 72 is “Winnipeg’s Visible Sex Trade” June 6th, 2013.

--- EXHIBIT NO. 72:

“Winnipeg’s Visible Sex Trade” by Sergeant Gene Bowers, dated 2013-06-04 (eight pages)
Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg Police Service
Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg Police Service

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Thank you. And in addition there was a proposal then put forward up the chain of command, as it were, that entered as Tab I in our materials. And that is the request that the Sergeant’s report be accepted and that a pilot project be commenced with respect to the counter-exploitation team. Is that correct?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That’s correct. So within the counter-exploitation unit there was a dedicated counter-exploitation team. This team is dedicated to outreach and relationship building. They typically don’t get involved in any enforcement activities. This is what distinguishes this team from the other police working in this area.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Chief Commissioner,
this report unfortunately is undated. But if I could ask
that it be entered, it’s the proposal for the anti-
exploitation team pilot project.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Exhibit
73 is Winnipeg Police Service Division 41, Specialized
Investigations Division, Vice Unit establishment of an
anti-exploitation team pilot project proposal.

--- EXHIBIT NO. 73:

“Vice Unit - Establishment of an Anti-
Exploitation Team - Pilot Project
Proposal,” Winnipeg Police Service
Division 41 Specialized Investigations
Division, submitted by Inspector L.
Pilcher (four pages)
Witness: Witness: Chief Danny Smyth,
Winnipeg Police Service
Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg
Police Service

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Thank you.

Now, I understand there was one last recent
change, and that was in 2017 when counter-exploitation and
missing persons was merged; is that correct?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That’s correct. So
missing person and counter-exploitation were separate
entities. We were seeing a lot of -- a lot of overlap in
the work that they were doing. We saw an opportunity to merge our missing persons unit with our counter-
exploitation unit.

In Manitoba we have the distinction of having almost 10,000 kids in care. Much of that work falls upon the missing persons unit. Upwards of 80 percent of those kids are Indigenous. So it was an opportunity to merge the two units.

By in large it helped. They could help each other. It extended our coverage so that we had people out available in the field seven days a week, both on days and evenings.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: All right. Thank you. Next slide, please.

And this is the current staffing model of that unit. Is that correct?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That’s correct.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Next slide, please. This is the mandate of the counter-exploitation unit. This is not the team, but the unit as a whole, and if you could speak to that, please, Darryl?

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON: So with the realignment of the Counter-exploitation Unit and Missing Persons Unit, we became more a victim centered service. In regards to persons going missing and
exploited, this allowed us to align the appropriate resources and support and conduct robust investigations. This enabled us to do more project-oriented investigations, streamline our strategies, and provide increased coverage to deal with community and survivor complaints. It also increased our capacity to do more public education and presentations at schools.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you. And if I could have the next slide?

Darryl, if you could speak to the mandate of the Missing Persons Unit, please?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Again, with the bigger resource available to us we were able to -- especially for the chronic missing children, we were able to better position and initiate a coordinated response with other government NGOs and community partners.

**MS. KIMBERLY RAMKISSOON:** Thank you.

Now, Danny, you indicated that the Winnipeg Police Service had noted a correlation between missing youth and those at risk of being exploited. If I could have the next slide, please? And this represents missing persons incidents in Winnipeg in the second quarter of this year; is that correct?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That’s correct. What
you’re seeing there is really a snapshot of what’s happening in Winnipeg during that time. You’ll note that the majority of the missing children in our community are women or girls. The average age being 16 years. They comprise almost 65 percent of the missing. The boys follow, with the balance 35 percent, with the average age being 18. Again, I mention that almost 80 to 85 percent of those are Indigenous children.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And if we could have the next slide, please? This slide is for the same time period and shows the percentage of children missing as those children being in care; is that correct?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: So the blue part of that pie represents the children that are in the care of — either of CFS essentially, but it’s distinguished by the large majority of them are in group home facilities.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And that -- those numbers are broken down in the chart underneath; is that correct?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That’s correct.


Now, Danny, we’re going to look at some of the successful projects, but before we do, could you just sort of give us an update on the enforcement numbers this
CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: So again, what you’re seeing here is just a snapshot of some of the indicators of work that is being done by the unit. To date, in ’18, we have over 107 individuals that have been charged with obtaining sexual services for consideration. Of note, over 70 vehicles have been seized from exploiters involved in that activity during that same period.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: All right. Now, we’ve mentioned the use of a provision to seize vehicles. And if you could turn to Tab J in the materials, and next slide please? This would be the provision of the Highway Traffic Act that allows for police to seize vehicles used in the process of exploiting individuals; is that correct?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That’s correct. It’s provincial legislation that gives us the authority to seize a vehicle that’s being used for obtaining sexual services.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And that’s been a useful tool for police; is that correct?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: It has.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Chief Commissioner, if I could ask the excerpt from the Manitoba Highway Traffic Act CCSM Chapter H-60 to be entered as the next exhibit, please?
CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Yes.

Extract from the *Highway Traffic Act*, CCSM Chapter H-60 is Exhibit 74.

--- EXHIBIT NO. 74:

Manitoba *Highway Traffic Act*, C.C.S.M. c. H60, Part VII sections 241(1)-242.2(9), print date October 10, 2018, version current as of October 8, 2018 (12 pages)

Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg Police Service

Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg Police Service

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Thank you, Chief Commissioner.

Next slide, please. Now, Chief Smyth, this shows some longitudinal numbers from 2005, to the current day, to show the number of people both charged and the number of vehicles seized. And these are people charged with purchasing or exploiting women and girls; correct?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That’s correct. The top graph is showing the arrests. You’ll not some fluctuation going back to 2005. To date, as of the end of September we were at 107 persons that had been charged.

The bottom graph represents the number of
vehicles that we’ve seized, and of particular note, is
this year we have seized substantively more vehicles than
we have in the past.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Now, Chief
Smyth, I understand this slide you have to understand what
is a disk stop briefly, and what is CPSD-CEU? Could you
explain those two terms, please, for the Commissioners?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: So, these are
acronyms, and they are a way for the police service to try
to categorize and capture some of the work that’s done in
the field.

DISC is an acronym. It stands for
deter and identify sex consumers. This is done within our
service. It’s largely done by uniformed general patrol
officers, in addition to some of the work being done by
Counter Exploitation. When they have contact in the
field, they note the contact, and it comes out as what we
refer to as a DISC stop, which is largely like an
intelligence report.

As we started to more earnestly shift
over to outreach work and supporting those that were
involved in the sex industry, those that are being
exploited, we needed to find another way to capture some
of that work. The acronym, SPTSD, it stands for crime
prevention through social development. And, really, what
we were asking our units, primarily our Counter
Exploitation teams, is when they had contact in the field
to capture it using that particular type category, SPTSD.
And, it could be for anything from a casual conversation
to helping someone give them a ride to a safe place, to
taking them -- you know, anything from a medical
appointment to giving them a ride home.

So, there is a variety of things that
are captured within there, depending on what transpired
during the contact.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, the graph
would appear to show a shift from contact with potential
exploitors to more focus on dealing with exploited
persons; would that be fair to say?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes, you can see
the distinction there with the red bars is really just
showing some of that work where they’re conducting
themselves in more outreach work in the community.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right.

Next slide, please. Now, Darryl, the next slides I’m
going to ask for some assistance from the tech crew. If
you could put up this slide, and give us, while we’re
talking, put up the next one after while we’re ongoing?
I’ll give you a hint as to how many I want to roll
through. That would be most helpful.
Could you talk briefly about Project Create? And, when I ask you the questions about the projects, I’m not asking you to identify particular investigative techniques that would assist individuals in avoiding detection, but to speak generally about those projects?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** So, Project Create was a covert operation, both street level and hotels. It was about gaining trust with the persons involved in the sex industry and offering them some sort of resources and contacts should they choose to use it.

The next component on that was to target exploiters, and the third component was an educational component, educating the management and staff on identifying the signs of exploitation and human trafficking.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Again, if we could have the next slide? Thank you. And, part of that strategy, again, was use of media in providing information on that activity to the public, and there’s a couple of slides of that media coverage following this project; is that correct?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That’s correct. Again, the strategy is there for public awareness. Plus, in this, we also make sure we put
resource information in there, not only for our unit but our partners should exploited persons or survivors wish to contact these numbers after.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. If we could then move to the next slide and Project Hook? Thank you very much. This, again, was a project conducted by Counter Exploitation, I understand, in June of this year, and could you speak, again, generally about that? And, if one more slide could be put up as we go?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Yes. This was a project, a covert online project specifically targeting persons looking for children under the age of 14. The project we did with the assistance of our Tech Crime Unit, ICE Unit, and the Canadian Centre for Child Protection.

The project lasted approximately three months. It was multi-jurisdictional, and with warrants, we were able to identify the suspects and take our investigations to them where we were able to arrest them and prevent future victims.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. And, thank you. And, again, the slide currently up shows some of the media on that. Moving on, then, to Project Northern Spotlight, I just note that the Winnipeg Police Service has been involved in Northern Spotlight since
2014; is that correct?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That’s correct.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, we’ve heard significant evidence this week on Project Spotlight, so perhaps we’ll move on, then, through the slides on Spotlight. If you wouldn’t mind going to Project Return, please? Thank you. And, again, if you could scroll through as we go? Could you talk about Project Return, please, Darryl?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** So, Project Return was a collaborative effort between government and NGOs that was created in 2011 with missing persons, Counter Exploitation and Street Reach. It runs two to three times a year, and its main focus is on high-risk missing youths. Our purpose there is to locate and return them safely. And, the next component is to identify any youths who were being exploited and use covert operations to identify exploiters and arrest them.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. Now, with respect to this project, I understand there’s a significant use of community partners, including Ma Mawi, the Winnipeg Outreach Network, Bear Clan, et cetera; is that correct?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**
That’s correct.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And -- sorry.

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:
And, you can see in our media strategy, again, it’s for public awareness. Plus, it’s also to highlight the great work our partners are doing in the community. Without them, it would make our jobs a lot more difficult.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And, if I could ask you to turn to Tab K in the materials that were provided? This is a Winnipeg Police Service media release from last week, October 9th, 2018, and the latest Project Return. It’s in your materials at Tab K. And, do you recognize that?

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:
Yes, I do.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And, that lays out, again, the results of the project as well as the assistance received from various partners right in the media release; is that correct?

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:
That’s correct.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Chief Commissioner, if I could ask that the media release of the Winnipeg Police Service dated October 9th, 2018 related to Project Return be entered as the next exhibit, please?
CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Yes.

Exhibit 75 is Winnipeg Police Services’ media release, October 9th, 2018, Project Return.

--- Exhibit No 75:

Project Return / Winnipeg Police Service media release dated October 9, 2018 (one page)

Witness: Staff Sergeant Darryl Ramkissoon, Winnipeg Police Service

Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg Police Service

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And, if we could get the next slide up? Thank you. Danny, I understand you’ve also been approached by a number of media outlets to do stories on the work of the Counter Exploitation Unit and its community partners; is that correct?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Well, I would characterize it a little bit different. There is a lot of interest in missing and murdered women, both locally and throughout the globe. We have been approached by numerous production companies from CNN to BBC to some of our own local production companies, all looking to tell the story of what’s going on in our community as well as across Canada.
We’ve embraced that opportunity and certainly given these outlets access so that they could tell the story of what’s going on in our community and in our country. We’ve done that in collaboration with our partners.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Now, I understand that as part of that, you were not involved in the decisions with respect to how this is produced or shown; is that correct?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That’s correct. We have no control over that. It’s blind faith. We trust that they will provide a balanced story to the world.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, if I could ask that the video be played at this time, please?

*(VIDEO PLAYED)*

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you. Next slide, please. Next, Chief, if we could focus on our -- the Winnipeg Police Service Intervention Activities. And, perhaps Darryl you could speak to the type of individuals, three specific types, that are tracked through the disc stops.

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** For disc stops, what we’re looking at is identifying the exploiters and to track suspicious persons and vehicles.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And then the
Counter Exploitation unit, I understand, has made over 1,200 contacts in the last couple of years, and that would be with individuals who are potentially being exploited; is that correct?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That’s correct.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, that information does not form part of any criminal investigative file; is that correct?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That’s also correct.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** If you could take a look at the next slide, the Counter Exploitation team, and Danny, if you could speak to what this team’s mandate and the expectations for it are.

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Again, I referenced it earlier. This team is dedicated to being out in the field to reach out and try to establish relationships with those they encounter in the community. They’re not involved in any enforcement activity, they are strictly there to try to understand what’s going on in the community and establish relationships when possible, educate on resources that are available to these people.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, what sort of coverage does the team have with respect to hours and days
of the week?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Because of the merge between the Counter Exploitation unit and Missing Persons unit, they now have seven day coverage, days and evenings.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Right. Next slide, please. And, again, Chief, this was a -- we’re going to be looking at a video done by the BBC, again with respect to the operations of the Counter Exploitation team; is that correct?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That’s correct. This is an excerpt from a piece that was called Red River Women and it was pretty comprehensive. So, this is just a segment of it that focused on the Counter Exploitation team, but they covered a lot of other ground relative to things going on in Manitoba.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, again, this was not something that the Winnipeg Police Service had any choice in with respect to the music, lighting or production; is that correct?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** We’re not involved in the production. We just gave them access to our teams and resources so that they could tell the story. They came all the way from England to tell this story.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. If we
In-Ch (CARSWELL)

could play that video, please.

(VIDEO PRESENTATION)

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Thank you. If we could have the next slide, please. One of the other responsibilities of the unit, Darryl, is creating community awareness; is that correct?

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON: That’s correct.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: And, that’s done through a number of initiatives, including with our partners?

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON: That’s also correct.

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Now, if you could tell us about some of the recent initiatives, perhaps the -- working with evacuees from the North?

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON: Yes. We recognize the fact that persons coming to Winnipeg from smaller communities can be vulnerable and at risk to exploitation, so that’s why this June, or this past June, we did a joint presentation with the Bear Clan to a group of fire evacuees on the risk and how to identify exploitation and human trafficking.

In addition to that, our Counter Exploitation team, along with our school resource officers
have also presented to schools, with emphasis on certain age group that would be higher risk to exploitation.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Right. If we can move to the next slide, please. Next slide. And then there was some media attention paid again to the plight of those coming down from the North, and the fact that there was education provided; is that correct?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That’s correct.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, a sample -- if we could have the next slide. This is just a sample of the presentation that would have been provided to both the groups at the -- with the Bear Clan and later with school presentations; that’s correct?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That’s correct.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And, in addition, you talked earlier about, during Project Create, information being provided to hospitality and hotel industry employees, and that’s something that continues today in a more formalized way; is that right?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That’s right.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And the expectation is that will enable them to report exploited persons to
police to assist them.

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's also correct.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Now, in addition, the Winnipeg Police Services recently started educating other organisations -- thank you -- on -- with respect to working with sexually exploited youth; is that correct?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's correct.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And those -- sorry, go ahead.

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** We currently run a course called a youth sexual exploitation course, specifically for CFS workers, group homes and crisis workers.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And as a result of a recent suggestion by a survivor, a person with lived experience, there's been some change to that program; is that correct?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Yeah, as a result of that suggestion we established a fund that's called a survivor fund. So a portion of the money that is being paid by these workers for the course is being put aside for the survivor's fund.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Next slide, please.
In addition, there's work going on internally to educate our own members on exploitation, signs of exploitation. And this I understand is a slide from our intranet site, which officers, no matter where they're stationed, can access; is that correct?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's correct. We also give presentations to our recruit classes and from time to time our Counter Exploitation members will attend uniform shift briefings and educate the frontline members.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Next slide, please. In addition, the unit uses analysts to produce proactive bulletins based on information provided, whether it be from community partners or complaints with respect to areas that should be paid special attention, areas of concern. And this is one such bulletin; is that correct?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's correct. These bulletins are used to engage our members outside of our unit and also to be shared with our partners.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And they involve the use of crime analysts to assist in the determination of trans and help direct resources in that way; is that correct?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Yeah,
intelligence information we received, not only from other members, but from our community outreach partners, and this information is compiled by our crime analysis.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Now next slide, please. Danny, if you could speak to what this slide looks like and the fact I understand it was prepared by crime analysis for the membership.

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** So these maps are depicting certain parts of Winnipeg that are -- where we see the most at risk and vulnerable people being exploited. The two areas being depicted here on the left is the west end of Winnipeg, which is an inner city neighbourhood just outside the downtown on the west side. The map on the right depicts a couple of neighbourhoods in the north end, which is just north of the railway tracks, which is also adjacent to downtown.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Next slide, please. And, finally for this topic, Darryl, if you could speak to the meetings that are held with respect to high-risk potential missing persons?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** So, referrals are made to StreetReach by CFS and guardians. A risk assessment is completed specific to sexual exploitation. We meet weekly, monthly and twice a year with StreetReach to determine who will be labelled or
designated as a high-risk individual. So, we don't really chose the top 12 high-risk individuals and those individuals are each assigned a Counter Exploitation Unit investigator and a social worker. So once they're assigned that we use extensive resources to ensure their safety.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And there's also an information sharing process between the agencies, again, to help try and ensure the children's safety, youth.

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** That's correct.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Next slide, please. Next slide. Thank you.

Chief, if you could speak -- I know it was difficult to because the Winnipeg Police Service partners with many different agencies, but we're here to talk about its relationship with a few and let's start with the relationship with Ma Mawi if you would not mind.

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** So we've had a longstanding relationship with Ma Mawi, particularly under the direction of Diane. Ma Mawi is one of a handful of Indigenous service providers in Winnipeg. They provide all kinds of service, from recreation and social services to services around sexual exploitation. H.O.M.E. is another one, the Hands of Mother Earth, which is a retreat
centre just outside of Winnipeg, a safe place where those
that are recovering can heal and become more in touch with
their community. Even things as innocuous as hockey
programs. So, they're involved in a myriad of different
programming in the community.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Now next slide. I
know that we had intended to show another video and this
was another CNN one on H.O.M.E., but given the time
limitations perhaps we'll just ask that when I file the
record it'll be in the record in that manner, if that's
all right, Chief.

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yeah, and all of that's
available online. It's about a six-minute video that
really shows the retreat outside of Winnipeg and how it's
used.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. If we
could then turn to the next partnership, and that being
the sexly -- excuse me -- Sexually Exploited Youth
Community Coalition. And if you tell us a bit about that
Coalition, Chief?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** So the network is a
combination of Winnipeg organisations and community
members, including people with lived experience, that are
part of that and they get together regularly to address
sexual exploitation in Winnipeg. Certainly, some of the
things they do, they provide expertise and support to one another, increased awareness around things that they were encountering in the community. And probably where we come in, after being invited into the group in the last few years, to sharing information and resources with one another. They're able to bring suspicious activity and concerns to us and we're able to share information with them.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And if we could show the next slide, thank you. This is the -- no, sorry, back up one. This is the group of organisations involved in the Coalition.

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** So it's a combination of government agencies, NGOs, quite a few of our Indigenous service providers are included within the network.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** All right. Next slide, please. Next, if you could speak about the Winnipeg Outreach Network?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** So the Outreach Network is again another coalition of outreach workers, this time from 18 organisations, organisations like Ndinawe, the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, ANCR, which is our All Nations Coordinated Response for child abuse and those kinds of things. Primarily what they do is search out and
find kids at risk. They try to build relationships and really it's an effort to get them to safe spaces. Again, our focus is -- as part of that group, the Police Service, it's information sharing and support, and also includes some training workshops to better help the workers recognise sexual exploitation indicators. Darryl talked about that a little bit earlier.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Can you -- next slide, please? And the next slide, please. Again, the organisations involved in this.

One of the tangibles I understand was the creation of a resource guide for youth who might be underserved and others and that's contained at Schedule L in your binder. The resource guide produced by the Winnipeg Outreach Network. You're familiar with that?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I am. It's a document that they use and distribute regularly in the community. That document was put together by the members of WON.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And it's meant to be folded up, just so you understand, so that it fits in the back pocket or pocket of an individual. It's at Tab L, Chief Commissioner. And if I could ask that that be entered as the next exhibit? The Winnipeg Outreach Network Resource Guide.

**CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Yes.
Exhibit 76 is Winnipeg Outreach Network Resource Guide.

--- EXHIBIT NO. 76:

Winnipeg Outreach Network resource guide (two pages)

Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg Police Service

Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg Police Service

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Thank you.

And next slide, please. And could you speak about Ka Ni Kanichihk?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Ka Ni Kanichihk is another of the handful of Indigenous service providers that I've referenced here. They do a lot of programming in the community as well. In this instance I wanted to highlight the Heart Medicine Lodge as one of the programs that they have available around sexual assault survivors. We're not involved directly in the program, but what we were able to do for Ka Ni Kanichihk was to provide an opportunity or to provide production resources so that they could highlight some of the work around the program. We put to -- we didn't -- we had made it available to them, our Production Unit, so that they could put together a video that they could use in the future.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And if we could go
to the next slide, I believe with the assistance of Ms. Shelby Thomas. Thank you, Ms. Thomas. This video was imbedded, and we would like to play this one. Our partner has provided permission for us to do so here today.

(VIDEO PRESENTATION)

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Thank you. Next slide, please.

Chief, if you could speak about our relationship with the Eagle Transition Centre, which, I understand, was created by the Association of Manitoba Chiefs.

MR. DANNY SMYTH: The Eagle Transition Centre is a facility that helps many young families and young women transition to the urban centres, like Winnipeg and like Brandon. Our situation in Manitoba, we have a lot of fly-in remote communities to the north, and it's -- often, people are coming down to places like Winnipeg for a variety of reasons. It could be education, it could be medical services, it could be to visit relatives, or shop. There's a whole host of reasons that people come down.

The urban -- the Eagle Urban Transition Centre is there to help with that transition. One of the biggest things that they help to provide is housing, and helping people transition from a remote community to all the concerns and ills that go along with living in a big
I can certainly recall one young mother who had transitioned down from a remote community in the North. She was struggling when she got here. She was by herself with her young daughter, and particularly, she was having trouble meeting the rent. And she was desperate and she was starting to turn to the street.

Some of our community support officers crossed paths with her and certainly became aware of her situation. They were able to actually divert her and get her in contact with Eagle Transition. They literally drove her there for her appointment and really diverted her from having to be at risk on the street. They were able to help her provide a subsidy for her rent so she could continue her transition in Winnipeg.

They provide an unbelievable service to our community because we have a lot of people that come down to Winnipeg and places like Brandon.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Next slide, please.

And then the last organization, Chief, if we could speak to, is the Bear Clan Patrol.

**MR. DANNY SMYTH:** So the Bear Clan has really emerged in our community, particularly over the last 5 years, although they've been around longer than that. They've been under the coordination of James Favel.
They do an amazing job in the community, and they're largely a voluntary service.

They really came to prominence a few years ago when there was a young teenage boy that went missing, and they stepped up and really provided a coordinated search to try to locate this boy. Ultimately, this boy ended up being a homicide victim, but they really endeared themselves to the community and have gone on to do so much good work, particularly in the north end.

They're out on patrol every night, virtually every night. They provide outreach. They provide food to some of the children that they encounter.

And you know, we're dealing with a meth crisis in Winnipeg now, and one of the other services that they provide that they probably never even dreamed of was they probably pick up hundreds of discarded hypodermic needles every time they go out. I was taken aback when I walked with them in the spring, just the number of needles that they pick up that would otherwise be laying out as a hazard to our children in the community.

So they've done a lot. They've formalized themselves now with board governance. They've got some private funding. We're certainly trying to help them steer them into -- for some grant money for forfeiture so we can help them with some infrastructure. We've given
them some radios so that they're safer when they operate in the community. We're hoping that they will be able to mobilize with vehicles as well. I can't say enough about them.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And then finally, Chief, I understand you have two suggested recommendations for the Commission to consider. I understand that for parties with standing and the Commissioners, those were Tab N, I believe?

**MR. DANNY SMYTH:** So we certainly had the opportunity to highlight some of the work done by many of the Indigenous-led groups in our city. One of the things that I didn't highlight was just how much time and energy many of the directors and leaders have to try to raise funding so that they can keep their programming going.

I see Diane doing that. I used to see Leslie doing that. James is going through that right now. Tremendous amount of time and energy trying to raise funds. If I had any recommendation there it would be for sustained, reliable funding so that they can actually focus on the work that they do in the community and not have to spend time fundraising.

The second one I would have, and I talked about Eagle Transition Services, they're one of the few services in our city. There is a need for more services
like that.

And I would respectfully request that consideration be given for more funding so that more transition services can be established. They do a tremendous job helping people transition from rural and remote communities so that they're not caught up in some of the ills of a big city.

Those are my two recommendations. Thank you.

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** Chief Commissioner, could I ask that the recommendations of Chief Smyth be entered as the next exhibit in this proceeding?

**CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Yes. Recommendations by Chief Smyth will be Exhibit 77, please.

--- **EXHIBIT NO. 77:**

Recommendations of Chief Danny Smyth

(one page)

Witness: Witness: Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg Police Service

Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg Police Service

**MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL:** And then that completes the examination, and I would ask that the PowerPoint presentation be entered as our final exhibit in these proceedings.
CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Yes.
The PowerPoint is Exhibit 78, please.

--- EXHIBIT NO. 78:
Powerpoint presentation “Counter Exploitation - Winnipeg Police Service (2018)” (57 slides / pages)
Witness: Chief Danny Smyth & Staff
Sergeant Darryl Ramkissoon, Winnipeg Police Service
Counsel: Kimberly Carswell, Winnipeg Police Service

MS. KIMBERLY CARSWELL: Thank you, Chief Commissioner, Commissioners.

MR. DANNY SMYTH: Thank you.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Chief Commissioner, Commissioners, I would kindly ask that we have a 15-minute break now. That will provide us the opportunity to sort of shift the witnesses and counsels around at this table.
And I'd kindly ask any parties that have not yet returned your number, to please see Ms. Shelby Thomas during this break to do so.
And when we return, Commission counsel, Jennifer Cox, will be up front with Ms. Diane Redsky.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Okay.
Fifteen (15) minutes, please.
MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Thank you.

--- Upon recessing at 9:58 a.m.

--- Upon resuming at 10:23

MS. JENNIFER COX: We’d like to begin, if anybody could make their way to their seats? Good morning, Chief Commissioner and fellow Commissioners. My name is Jennifer Cox and I am Commission counsel. I have with me today Diane Redsky, and before we begin, Mr. Registrar, if we could have a promise to tell the truth in a good way? And, Diane has a feather here in front of her.

MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Good morning, Ms. Redsky. Do you promise to tell your truth in a good way today?

MS. DIANE REDSKY: Yes, I do.

DIANE REDSKY: Affirmed

MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Thank you very much.

--- EXAMINATION IN-CHIEF BY MS. JENNIFER COX:

MS. JENNIFER COX: So, Chief Commissioner, fellow Commissioners, my intention is to qualify Ms. Redsky as a knowledge keeper in relation to human trafficking and sexual exploitation. And, further, as an expert in Indigenous-led community partnerships.
So, with respect to Tab A in the materials that were provided, there is a curriculum vitae of Ms. Redsky. Diane, can I have you have a look at this? Do you recognize this document?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** Can you tell the Commissioners what it is?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** This is my curriculum vitae of all the experience that I have not only on the issue, but overall.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** So, particularly on the last page of the document under achievements, there’s a number of references there. I’m wondering if you can speak to -- like, there’s references to the United Nations. On several occasions, you presented to the United Nations. I’m wondering if you can speak just a little bit about that?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Sure. This is a really important -- as we all know, a really important forum to elevate the voice of Canadian Indigenous women at a global stage. And so, I have had the opportunity several times to be parts of various areas within the United Nations to bring that important voice on violence against women, on human trafficking and sex trafficking of Indigenous women and girls. And, right up until -- I’m leaving Saturday to
go there this week, to New York, to be part of a panel
that is finalizing the report to the United Nations
Security Council on peace and security of women.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** And, the other thing
that I would point out is that you’ve been working with
the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre for a number of years?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes, since 1998, and
there was a block of time that I worked for the Canadian
Women’s Foundation to lead a national task force on sex
trafficking of women and girls in Canada from 2011 until
2015.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** And, finally, you
currently have a role with respect to the national task
force; correct?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Well, this is the
federal government National Action Plan that is currently
being reviewed and hopefully launched in sometime next
year. The renewal of the federal Government of Canada
National Action Plan.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** And, finally, I’m going
to show you another document, Diane, if you can just
identify what that is?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** This is my biography.
It’s the long version of it, but there are various shorter
versions of it that also describe the work that I’ve been
doing on the issue of Indigenous rights and Indigenous women’s issues.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** And so, that was in Tab B of the materials provided to the parties and to the Commissioners. Chief Commissioner, if I could have both the curriculum vitae and the biography marked as an exhibit, please?

**CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** The C.V. for Ms. Redsky is Exhibit 79.

--- Exhibit No 79:

CV of Diane Redsky (four pages)

Witness: Diane Redsky, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre

Counsel: Jennifer Cox, Commission Counsel

**CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** And, her bio is 80, 8-0.

--- Exhibit No 80:

Bio of Diane Redsky (three pages)

Witness: Diane Redsky, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre

Counsel: Jennifer Cox, Commission Counsel

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** And, following that discussion, Chief Commissioner, I would kindly ask that
she be qualified as a knowledge keeper in relation to the
human trafficking and sexual exploitation, and further, an
expert in community -- Indigenous-led community
partnerships, please.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:
Certainly. Ms. Redsky is more than qualified to provide
opinion evidence with respect to human trafficking and
sexual exploitation, as well as Indigenous-led community
partnerships and marriage commissions.

MS. DIANE REDSKY: Yes.

MS. JENNIFER COX: So, Diane, we can get
right into it now at this point, and I think one of the
things that you wanted to talk about first was language?

MS. DIANE REDSKY: Yes. I would like to
begin properly, and to acknowledge my spirit name. I am a
proud member of Shoal Lake First Nation 40, which is a
First Nation in northwestern Ontario. I live in Winnipeg,
Manitoba.

I’d like to acknowledge the traditional
territory that we all have the privilege of being on. I’d
also like to acknowledge the elders here today, the
ceremonial items throughout this room and throughout the
Inquiry, guests. There are many leaders that I have
looked up to that are in this room and I know that are
watching, and I want to acknowledge them as well.
And, Commissioners, I acknowledge you, and the ancestors who are here in this room joining us today. And, most importantly, the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation, and for all survivors of all forms of violence.

I want to remember that there are women and girls, men and boys, who have been affected by this violence that are here, but also that are watching that may be triggered, and it’s very important for everyone here to take care of yourselves. This is not an easy topic and issue, to talk about the realities of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. And so, please be mindful of your spirit while you’re here.

I would also like to, again, remind everyone here and watching that if you do feel upset, I encourage you to seek support both in the room and elsewhere.

So, I’d like to -- I felt it was really important, and thank you for the knowledge keeper expert recognition, but I’d like just to qualify that just a little bit more by giving a very brief overview of my experience on the issue of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking.

I’ve been working on the issue for almost
25 years now, everything right from frontline service to
developing resources to solve this problem, this crime,
this victimization. And, right through to education and
awareness that has brought me everywhere around the world
to talk about this issue.

I’ve been a part of developing the Manitoba Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking Strategy, which is the only strategy in Canada, and that’s really important to highlight, that the Manitoba Sexual Exploitation Trafficking Strategy is the only strategy from 2002 until 2016 which today invests $11 million annually into a continuum of service, and there’s a whole range of that, and I’ll get into that near the end of my presentation. There are some incredible funding partners and people that I’ve met along the way as part of doing that work.

What’s also important is working with survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking that we’ve been able to develop one of the very first safe houses in Canada for girls and transgender 13 to 17 years of age. Currently, the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre in partnership with our community, we operate the only rural healing lodge in Canada for girls and transgender 13 to 17, again, who are sexually exploited and trafficked.

I’m a part of a grassroots movement of community-based organizations, survivor systems like
police and Child and Family Services, and government all working together. So, that has been my Manitoba experience that brings me here today.

And, I’m highlighting this because it’s important to understand that we -- and when I say “we”, I mean there’s a whole community, a whole group of us, as Manitoba’s Know More about sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, and how to work together collaboratively than any other province in Canada. Hands down, without a doubt, that is the experience. And so, it’s that experience that I bring here today.

Just before I get into the first part of my presentation, I’d like to just say a few statements that I feel is really important to put up front before I start and have on record, that not all missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls are victims or have experienced sexual exploitation and trafficking. That sex trafficking is the most extreme form of violence against women and girls, it is a human rights violation and it’s 100 percent a preventable crime. My presentation focuses in on women and girls, but this also happens to men and boys, and it’s just -- I don’t know very much about men and boys, but I don’t want you to think that it doesn’t happen to men and boys.

Sex trafficking operates on the same -- and
sexual exploitation operates on the same business principles of supply and demand. The demand to buy women for sex and to pay to sexually abuse girls drives the supply. Addressing the demand will address the supply. That being said, I clearly agree that a comprehensive approach is required and we must end poverty, there is a direct link to poverty and sex trafficking.

Sex trafficking is rooted in racism, sexism, classism. At its very worst, it harms and targets Indigenous women and girls who are affected even more than non-Indigenous women and girls. I also strongly advocate that we need the political will and the leadership at the top levels, combined with grassroots and survivor engagement. So, a real top, down, bottom, up approach is needed, and I’ll get into that in terms of solutions a little bit later on.

Lastly, I strongly agree that the big picture and the end game is to decolonize our systems and we must never lose sight of this. But, what do we do in the mean time? There are things that we can do in the mean time, and much of my presentation is about those things that we can do in the mean time.

So, my presentation is set up into four sections, the importance of language, understanding the continuum of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, the
work that -- of the National Task Force on sex trafficking of women and girls in Canada, and the Manitoba Strategy that has promising practices and even some more recommendations.

So, number one is language. And, this is critically important, because how we set the context to talk about sexual exploitation and sex trafficking is incredibly important because it shapes and it views how we see and how we view the issue. So, some key definitions that I feel are critical for this Inquiry is to understand that a trafficker is a pimp. We all -- if -- so the form -- if we have that image of what a pimp is, that is what a trafficker is, and in fact, that’s what meets the legal definition of a trafficker.

Another really important aspect of a definition is what I refer to as the sex industry. And, the reason why -- it’s important to refer to it as a sex industry is because many of us have been brainwashed to think that the sex industry is two consenting adults behind closed doors, exchanging money for sex and nobody is getting hurt, and in fact that’s not the truth. It’s not the truth.

I am a strong advocate that -- and you will never hear me say “sex trade”, because trade implies you’re trading something of fair value. When you
understand sexual exploitation and sex trafficking as much as we do, you will know that there is nothing fair of value being exchanged. The other is “sex work”, I will not say “sex work” because it is not employment. It is not a job, it is not a legitimate job. Again, as we understand sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, it is highly exploitive, and violent and degrades our women.

What is also important is to understand that there is a clear definition between sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. And, these are very different. And, women and girls can go from one to the other constantly, moving back and forth between sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. The key difference between the two is a third party, is a third person.

So, sexual exploitation is involvement in the sex industry in exchange for money, drug, shelter -- any kind of other necessity of life, having no choice but to be involved in the sex industry. And, what’s also important is that minors can never provide consent, and there are criminal provisions in the Criminal Code under the age of 18, and I’ll explain in a second why that statement is important.

Sex trafficking on the other hand requires a third party to force the sexual exploitation. So, the RCMP will define sex trafficking as forced prostitution,
so if that helps explain the difference between sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. So, for example, a pimp is a third party and is responsible for the recruitment, luring and forcing women and girls to exchange sex acts for money, then hand over all of or part of the money back to the pimp. So, the pimp again is a trafficker. Sexual exploitation and sex trafficking have clear intersections, meaning whether a woman is sexually exploited or trafficked, they are advertised in the same places and they are often bought by the same men.

Another important definition is the demand and the buyers. And, we know the demand and the buyers are primarily men who are buying women for sex and pay to sexually abuse a child. And, I really want you to really key in on some of the language change that I’m using, that I’m referring to. The demand and the buyers, they can also be called johns, but I do not support this because it minimizes the crime they are committing, whether it is to a woman or a girl.

In Manitoba, our language refer to the demand are -- and you saw some of that in the Winnipeg Police presentation. The demand, because we understand that they are responsible for creating and driving the supply of sexually exploited and trafficked women and girls, we understand that they are the ones responsible
for that. They are also referred to as perpetrators and offenders, because what they are doing is they are committing a crime.

When sexual exploitation and trafficking involves a child under the age of 18, they should never ever be called teen hookers or child prostitutes, or especially girls providing a service to johns. Why? Because it minimizes their victimization. It also implies that they had some choice in the matter when we know that minors cannot consent. Minors can never provide consent and there are criminal provisions in the Criminal Code for under the age of 18. So, instead, they are victims of child abuse. A perpetrator paid to sexually abuse a child.

And, I’m going to do a really important version of how this can impact a young girl. So, when I say the word “juvenile prostitution” or “child prostitution”, an image often times come to somebody’s mind that this is an older person. It’s an older girl. That they’re choosing that lifestyle, that they’re not victims, they’re just being bad teenagers right now. That they put themselves at risk, they probably asked for it and it’s just a lifestyle choice that they’re making. That there is a john and a pimp present and that there’s no sense of urgency to help because, oh, CFS will take
care of that or somebody else will take care of that.

Now, I’m going to switch gears and say the word “child abuse”. The image that comes to mind is always a younger person, someone is hurting them, they’re being victimized. That they didn’t do anything to put themselves at risk, that there’s a perpetrator present and there’s a sense of urgency to help. Somebody stop the abuse from happening. And, these misconceptions and the power of language just in those two incidences when you’re referring to children harms that same 15, 16, 17-year-old girl who is being victimized through sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. She is a victim of child abuse and that is critically important to understand that the power of language and how we set the context will drive how people feel, will drive how people respond. And so we have to call it what it is, particularly when it comes to children. Anybody under the age of 18, it is child abuse. Period. Bottomline.

The second part of my presentation is to talk about the continuum. And I really felt that this was critically important for the Commission to understand that there is a continuum.

So when we're talking about human trafficking, we're talking about sexual exploitation, we can't see it just in reference of the time it starts and
the time it ends, because there's always something that
happens before and something that happens after. And so
understanding the continuum is really going to give you
the education that everybody needs in order to come up
with the proper responses -- the proper response.

So I'm going to explain this continuum.

And I have to say this that this is a generalization. And
I've -- have been across the country and know thousands of
survivors, and there is a common experience that they have
to explain the continuum.

I don't by any means want the Commission to
think that this is the only way that sex trafficking looks
like and sexual exploitation, that it's the only way that
this happens and that it looks like. Every woman has
their own story and experience about what happened to her,
and so I'm only offering this as a generalization to give
you the depth and the scope of what sexual exploitation
and sex trafficking looks like.

So the -- it often begins -- and if you
look at the continuum, and I'm going to start kind of over
here -- that it often begins very young with some form of
childhood trauma. Whatever trauma that is, whether it's
sexual, whether it's physical, emotional, any kind of
trauma, something happened to her when she was little that
created a vulnerability that traffickers can sniff out,
and they're really good at sniffing the -- and identifying a vulnerable girl.

And so this is -- really kind of sets -- can set, and also is an opportunity to provide services, but oftentimes, it has now created her to now she's 13 years of age, which is today the average age of recruitment that traffickers are targeting girls, particularly Indigenous girls. They are targeting teens and forcing them into to be sexually exploited and trafficked.

And so now she is 13, and she's been recruited and lured and she is under the control of a trafficker, and that will last until she's around 25. And when she's around 25, she's actually of no value to a trafficker anymore. She's no value to a trafficker anymore because she's actually too old. The demand wants younger and younger girls. So she's too old.

And chances are by that time, she is highly -- experiencing trauma, she is most likely addicted to something, and she is suffering with some form of mental health. Because of the trauma that she has experienced from the time she was 13 until the time she was in her mid-twenties, that whole traumatic experience has changed her. But now she's of no value to a trafficker anymore.

And so, really, five things can happen to
her at that time, if it hasn't happened already.

The first is that they can stay with the trafficker and they can work with the trafficker and become sort of like a slave, where they are doing chores, they are counting the money, they're cooking the food, they're doing other recruitment. They have a name for them oftentimes called the "bottom bitch", who is the one that is now working for the trafficker and doing everything else but being sexually exploited and trafficked.

The second thing that could happen to her, if -- again, if it hasn't happened already, is that families have paid exit fees to get their daughters back. And we heard through the National Taskforce that can be anywhere between $10,000 and $150,000 to -- that families are paying to get their daughter back from a trafficker.

The third thing that can happen is that they will end up in the survival sex industry, where they literally are living day-to-day. Because of their trauma and lack of supports and opportunities for them, they have no choice but to exchange sex acts for a place to sleep, for food, for drugs, and other basic needs.

The fourth thing that could happen, if it hasn't happened already, is that she has committed suicide and/or has become part of the sad reality of those missing
In-Ch (COX)

and murdered Indigenous women who are and have been
victims of sex trafficking who have been murdered or are
still missing.

The fifth thing that could happen is that they begin the very long journey of rebuilding their life. And many, many do, and you have heard from some very powerful women already, and you will continue to hear with Rachel how rebuilding their lives have been important. And this is an incredible, huge, huge effort they make to do this; and oftentimes, it's the systems themselves that work against them.

Survivors have shared with us beginning by being turned down by Social Assistance. That they end up traumatizing, the trauma counsellors, that they are seeking for help to help rebuild their lives. They refer to these years of being trafficked and sexually exploited as the "lost years".

A young woman, 24, told us that when her trafficker died, that was her window of opportunity. And it was a really big challenge for her because during that time, that's when computers went from almost nothing to where -- being everywhere. And she had no idea how to even use a computer because she missed all of that; she wasn't allowed to be a part of that.

And so these are very basic things that we
take for granted. But women do rebuild their lives, and much of the work that -- and the leadership we've been doing, not only with the taskforce report, but also in Manitoba, is making it easier for women to rebuild their lives from this violence.

The final part of the continuum -- so if we go over here -- and I'll try not to hit you. The final part of the continuum is very tragic, and we found this, not only as part of the National Taskforce, but also the reality in Manitoba in our work, is that many women who are trafficked die young. The trauma that's done to their bodies over years, and years, and years, and just think if of it; 10 times a day they are forced to perform sex acts. It is a body invasion of its worst kind.

Many -- many women talk about each of those incidences as paid rape. And again, 10 times a day, every day, 7 days a week. It doesn't matter if you're on your moon time, doesn't matter if you're sick -- 7 days a week. So the trauma that's done to their bodies results in their bodies shutting down at a young age. So 50, 55 years of age, many of them, their lives are ending at that age. And so that is a tragic reality for women.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** So perhaps we can go into the National Taskforce as...

So in relation to the -- Tab C that was
provided to the parties and to the Commissioners, that
document has already actually been entered as an exhibit
in the Calgary hearing, so I'm not going to ask that it be
re-entered as an exhibit. But I want to -- for the
convenience of everyone, it's been included in the package
of material that's been uploaded.

So Diane, I'm wondering if maybe we could
go to the National Taskforce itself, your work with them,
and maybe talk a little bit about the various reports that
have also been... Aside from the No More document, there's
a number of other ones as well.

**Ms. Diane Redsky:** Great. And I will,
right away. Here we go.

So yes, this is a really -- and I
appreciate the opportunity to file this as evidence
because it is, and continues to remain, one of the really
important diving deep documents on the issue of sex
trafficking in Canada, particularly as it comes to
Indigenous women and girls and I'd to acknowledge the
Canadian Women's Foundation for putting the resources into
that document to have that -- to fund the National Task
Force to do that really important work. I'd also like to
acknowledge the Native Women's Association of Canada who,
as part of the National Task Force work, was commissioned
to do work on specifically on the sex trafficking of
Indigenous women and girls. And so that is really
important and valuable research.

So the Task Force Report itself is included
as evidence and is referred to. All of the work that we
did is outlined within the Task Force Report. It was
pretty extensive with site visits, research, six research
projects. We had national round tables with survivors and
service providers, national online survey, and then we did
grant making across the country ensuring that we are
supporting the work that is being done across the country
when it comes to some really important promising
practices.

So I'd like to get into what we learned,
overall what we learned about the National Task Force.
And I'm just going to go to my page here. So what we
learned is the biggest risk factor to sex trafficking is
just being a girl. Right off the bat, you're a girl. You
are already at risk. The common recruitment age is 13.
And I'll tell you something, when I first started doing
this work almost 25 years ago, the average age was 16.
Today it's 13 and getting younger and younger.

Why do traffickers do this? Why does this
happen? It's motivated by greed. Traffickers can earn
quite a bit of money. In fact, the Canadian Intelligence
Service did the math, $280,000 a year just for one girl.
And many traffickers will have multiple, multiple girls and which they're trafficking.

The girls and women that are bought and sold from inside Canada are targeted to marginalised girls. There's a very specific market, in fact, for very vulnerable Indigenous girls, very vulnerable Indigenous women.

The root causes: gender inequality, violence against women, poverty, organised crime, and, as I said in my opening statement, racism, sexism and classism at its very worst.

And one of the things we thought was important as part of the Task Force is to ask survivors and we met with over 160 survivors from across Canada. And we asked them, what systems did you interact with the most when you were being trafficked as a child? Like, where are we all? Why are we all missing this? And we wanted to know, where were you, what systems did you interact with the most. Number one was school, and number two child welfare, and number three a youth serving organisation, community organisation.

So we can't be looking for young girls who are the -- it could be anybody. We have -- the trafficking in, in fact, is moving so insidious that girls are even living at home and being trafficked. And so the
warning signs are getting harder and harder because it's getting more and more sophisticated.

Another important learning of the Task Force is that the survivor-led initiatives are essential. You can't do and shouldn't do any work at all unless you have a survivor beside you, unless there is survivor voice at the table, because nobody knows more, nobody knows better than a survivor. And so their role is critically important.

We have done the math on the cost of pain and suffering, the cost of lost earnings as part of the Task Force Report, which is really important. And we highlighted that one of the key risk factors is the inconsistent provincial child protection policies in Canada. We have six provinces in our country where child welfare taps out at 16. So if you're 15 and a half and you are in need of protection, chances are there's actually a risk that you could be denied service. And, in fact, we heard that from survivors that they were denied service because of their age. Given a bus ticket and an address to the closest co-ed youth shelter where we know traffickers just park outside. They are just waiting to recruit and lure from these.

And so those are really critically important learnings that we had as part of doing that
Some of the promising practices in Canada, which I do think are really important -- oh, sorry, I'm going to back up one second and acknowledge the Native Women's Association Report, and I just want to highlight a few things out of the Native Women's Association of Canada Report specifically on Indigenous women and girls. That 50 per cent of those surveyed -- and again, this was a small survey of experiential Indigenous women -- that 50 per cent of those surveyed were first recruited between the ages of 9 and 14 years of age. That 87.5 per cent had already been sexually abused, raped of molested before they were trafficked. A hundred per cent they were expected to do everything men wanted. 87.5 had to do things they were not comfortable doing. And 85 per cent said they tried to resist and leave their situation. And so 71.4 per cent did not abuse drugs, alcohol or other substances before being trafficked. And so those are really key learnings that we need to understand the impact as it relates to Indigenous women and girls.

And it also really is important that we also concluded that Indigenous women and girls suffer way more violence, more extreme violence than non-Indigenous women, which is also critically important for the report.

And just to talk very briefly about some of
the promising practices that are in Canada. And so while we -- I'll -- you know, we've been highlighting Manitoba, but there are really good things that are happening across the country.

British Columbia, their Fraser Health Centre, their emergency room staff in Surrey Memorial Hospital has an online training program for emergency room nurses called "help, don't hinder." The B.C. government has an office to combat trafficking in persons.

Alberta. In Edmonton there is a Centre to End all Sexual Exploitation. CEASE is a very -- is a grassroots community organisation. There's ACT Alberta as well in Alberta.

Manitoba, I'll highlight more of that in a little bit.

Ontario. The Ontario Government is the second province. So there's only two provinces in Canada that have a provincial strategy today. Manitoba, since 2002 and Ontario now has a human trafficking strategy as of 2016.

I need to acknowledge Sex Trade 101 as a very strong survivor-led organisation that is critically important to having a voice on this issue.

Quebec, Montreal -- and I see Clay is here and the work that they're doing to fight against sexual
exploitation in their city. There is the Montreal Police Department has a survivor-led service as a part of the work that they do with police.

And so those are really, really important solutions and things that we can look to that many communities who have had no money, trying to figure it out, trying to keep up with how much sex trafficking and sexual exploitation changes and how they do -- they've done all of this work across the country. So, it's really important to acknowledge their important work as well.

The 34 recommendations to end sex trafficking in Canada I just want to highlight just a few of them for the purposes of the recommendations.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** And so for the purposes of the record, those are the documents that are found in No More, which is at Tab C.

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** So the recommendations are essentially into four themes and I won't go through them all because we don't have time and you have the information. That the four themes are: change systems, support women and girls, build awareness that leads to prevention, and collective action.

And so I just want to highlight a few from these recommendations that I think are even more relevant for this Inquiry, is that we need to enforce the
human trafficking and sexual exploitation laws that we have already. There are many jurisdictions. We're lucky in Winnipeg and in Manitoba that we have a policing agency that works cooperatively with police, but that's not the case across the country. There are policing agencies and other places where there's nothing happening at all. There's no enforcement of laws, and it really is creating a vulnerable and lack of a safety net for Indigenous women and girls. So, we must be enforcing the laws that we have on the books right now.

We need to increase the civil causes for action and civil forfeiture procedures to return the trafficker profits directly to the victims. They are the ones that should be getting the money.

Another recommendation here that I'd like to highlight, which is critically important, is that we need to vacate and expunge records for women rebuilding their lives from trafficking. All of them pretty much have criminal records, and if you're trying to rebuild your life from a life of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking to get a job anywhere, it is like an upward battle, and having a criminal record makes that like 90-degree, you know, crawl out of hell situation for them.

And, we could prevent that from happening if they are given the proper support, just like
they did in Illinois in the United States. They have expunged the criminal records -- if any of the crimes were related to as a result of their sexual exploitation or their sex trafficking, those records are now vacated.

Another important in terms of changing systems is the decriminalization of women and girls who sell sex, and this is the Bill C36 that we have now that doesn’t charge women, because they’re not criminals, and that -- but charge the criminals. Charge the demand and the people who are responsible for creating the demand for sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. So, supporting Bill C36 is critical.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** Just for the purposes of the record, again, and for clarification if I might interrupt you, that’s the *Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking Act* in Manitoba?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** No.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** Okay.

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Bill C36 is the protection of communities and exploited persons bill. I don’t have the name on me right now. But, essentially, it decriminalizes women and girls who sell, and it criminalizes those who buy. So, it is also known as the Nordic model that was discussed quite a bit yesterday.

A trafficking proof child welfare
system. We need to have a consistent protective child protection age across Canada, 18, 19 at least. We’ve got to stop this 16-year-old that they’re not considered children in need of protection.

Provincial guidelines to help child welfare agencies help victims. The supporting women and girls. This is critically important, is that -- and we heard this time-and-time again yesterday, and I strongly support that we need to meet women where they’re at.

We need to have services that are available, that are unconditional, that are non-judgmental, that are kind, that are caring, that are loving, that are mobile, that are creative, that you do whatever it takes to help. And, if that means 24/7, if that means it’s got to be located in a certain place, whatever it takes to make sure that when she has that window of opportunity, when that window is there, that there needs to be a safety net in place. That we need training for first responders, that we need a dedicated safe house and detox and treatment beds.

We need long-term stable housing, economic stability, and there needs to be long term, really, walking with women for the long term, understanding the healing nature that is required from sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, that we’re
looking at this long term. Five, ten years; five, ten years of funding; five, ten years of having a constant stable service that is going to be available. And, it needs to be, for Indigenous women, it must be Indigenous-led. Bottom line, it must be Indigenous-led.

Building awareness. We’re not going to change anything unless we build awareness and we start building the protective factors of boys and girls, and that is going to be critically important. We need to target vulnerable youth to make sure that we’re creating a safe environment for them.

And, the last part is collective action. So, this is not just a government problem, a community problem, a police problem; it’s an everybody, every Canadian problem. Everybody, in fact, every individual in this room has the capacity and the power to be part of a solution. We all do.

And so, we’re calling upon and raising awareness in the National Task Force report that there are best practises that are out there like in Manitoba, like in British Columbia, where there are strategies that are in place that -- just copy them. Just use what it -- tweak it to make it work for your region and your jurisdiction, but the best practises already exist.

That there be a convening of a
survivor summit. The survivor voice is critically important and not heard enough, and we need the direction and we need to be able to support survivors in coming together so that they’re coming up with the solutions and guiding us.

And, of course, the last part of the task force reports are to have -- convene expert roundtables on certain issues, whether it be public awareness, research, technology, and national coordination. And, again, funding is critically important in all of that.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** So, with respect to the other documents that have been provided, aside from Tab C, there are a number of other documents that we have provided to both the Commissioners and the parties with standing. And, I’m going to show you -- this is at Tab D. I’m wondering if you can identify that document?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes. This is a really important document, and this is, again, the National Task Force report that was funded by the Canadian Women’s Foundation, and it represents the report of a roundtable of 20 survivors who came together. And, this is their voice, and in fact, literally their voice. The entire report is a compilation of quotes throughout the national roundtable hearing that we had in December 2013.
And, it is critically important to read this document because there’s also many of the recommendations that you’ve heard already, many of the recommendations that are just about to come, and you’ll hear from Rachel as well that survivors themselves have really important recommendations to include.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** So, in that report, there’s recommendations at the end; correct?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** Chief Commissioner, if I could have that marked as an exhibit?

**CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:**
Yes. Exhibit 81 is We Need to Find our Voices and Say No More, a report from the National Experiential Women’s Roundtable, December 5\textsuperscript{th} and 6\textsuperscript{th}, please.

--- **Exhibit No 81:**

“We Need to Find Our Voices and Say, ‘NO MORE,’” report of the National Experiential Women’s Roundtable held December 5-6, 2013 organized by the Canadian Women’s Foundation Task Force on Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada (24 pages)

Witness: Diane Redsky, Ma Mawi Wi
Chi Itata Centre

Counsel: Jennifer Cox,
Commission Counsel

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** Diane, I’m going to show you another document which is at Tab E.

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** This next document is a report of a national roundtable of service delivery providers from across Canada, which we, the National Task Force, brought together to learn from -- really, these are the cream of the crop at that time that were doing really critical work on the frontlines, on the issue of how to end sex trafficking in Canada, and their voice and their recommendations are also included in here.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** So, Chief Commissioner, if I could have that also marked as an exhibit?

**CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:**
Yes. Exhibit 82 is We are at a Critical Moment: Report from the National Roundtable on Service Delivery for Trafficked Women and Girls in Canada, September 18th, 2013 task force again.

--- **Exhibit No 82:**

“We Are at a Critical Moment,” report of the September 18, 2013 National Roundtable for Service
Providers hosted by the Canadian
Women’s Foundation’s Task Force
on Trafficking of Women and Girls
in Canada (24 pages)
Witness: Diane Redsky, Ma Mawi Wi
Chi Itata Centre
Counsel: Jennifer Cox,
Commission Counsel

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** Thank you. Diane, I’m going to show you another document, and this one is represented at Tab F of the materials.

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** This is of the Canadian Women’s Foundation National Task Force, some research. This is one of the research projects that did a really deep-dive examination of the laws to combat sex trafficking, and this is the final report.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** And, this is also part of what you were involved with; right?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** So, if I could have that marked as an exhibit as well, Chief Commissioner?

**CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Yes. Exhibit 83 is the Laws to Combat Sex Trafficking: An Overview of International, National, Provincial and Municipal Laws and their Enforcement by Barrett and Shaw,
--- Exhibit No 83:

“Laws to Combat Sex Trafficking: An Overview of International, National, Provincial and Municipal Laws and their Enforcement” by Nicole A. Barrett & Margaret J. Shaw, December 2013, commissioned by the Canadian Women’s Foundation’s Task Force on Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada (104 pages)

Witness: Diane Redsky, Ma Mawí Wi Chi Itata Centre
Counsel: Jennifer Cox, Commission Counsel

MS. JENNIFER COX: And, finally, as represented at Tab G, Diane, I’m going to show you another document.

MS. DIANE REDSKY: Yes. This is another research project commissioned by the National Task Force, funded by the Canadian Women’s Foundation. It is an assessment of sex trafficking in Canada, and it’s really one of the first research projects that we did.
MS. JENNIFER COX: And, just for the purposes of the record, Chief Commissioner, the last document represented at Tab H is also an exhibit that was previously provided to the Commission in Calgary. So, it’s included for your convenience, but it’s already been marked as an exhibit.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: So, Exhibit 84 then, is an Assessment of Sex Trafficking by Nicole Barrett, May 2013.

--- Exhibit 84:

“An Assessment of Sex Trafficking,” by Nicole A. Barrett, May 2013 (58 pages)
Witness: Diane Redsky, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre
Counsel: Jennifer Cox, Commission Counsel

MS. JENNIFER COX: In terms of a point of clarification, Bill C-36 is actually Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act, so that’s the technical terminology that goes with -- thanks to my colleague, Ms. Big Canoe.

So, Diane, one of the other things that you wanted to talk about was specifically what you have been doing in Manitoba. So...

MS. DIANE REDSKY: Yes. Thank you again
for the opportunity. Manitoba is a very -- like I said, a very important province that I believe that Canada can learn, the world in fact can learn a great deal from, because we have rolled up our sleeves and worked together, we have a lot of firsts and we have a lot of onlys, and again, we have made significant impact. And, I want to -- what’s important about the work that we have done is that it’s really important not to leave anybody behind. And, one of the strategies that we naturally came together on is that we developed a common table, and a common table is -- has, really, four key sectors that are involved.

The first is the political will, you need the political will -- and we had it at the time and still do. The political will to end sexual exploitation and trafficking in our province. The second is that, because we had the political will, we had the systems at the table, and then we had the leadership of police, we had Child and Family Services at the table, we had health, education. And so, we had the systems that could be part of the solution.

The third is that we had community based organizations, and there’s many that were discussed today, that are women serving organizations, youth serving organizations and especially Indigenous led organizations. The fourth and probably the most important is that
survivors are involved in everything that we do. And, in fact, we have an experiential advisory committee that is the go-to committee for anything related. Nothing moves forward unless these four people are involved.

And, in fact, it is so natural to us now that if somebody is missing, if there’s a sector missing, there is not a survivor at the table, meeting done. There’s not a systems at the table, you know, we can’t move ahead without them. And so, it really has created a natural way in which we collaborate with each other. And, you heard a little bit about how that has evolved with our Winnipeg Police Service who have been really critical at helping us address some of those -- and a way to get ahead of the exploiters and the people who are harming our women and girls.

The only thing I would add in hindsight to the work that we do in Manitoba is that I would add business. I would add the private sector as part of the solution base. And, I think we can do really much better at that.

We have -- in Manitoba, we have a Human Trafficking Act, and I believe that that is -- did I provide that? I’m not sure if I provided that. Again, we have the only provincial Human Trafficking Act in Canada that does have -- yes. That does give two things, one it
does provide for civil -- an opportunity to sue your trafficker for money, to be compensated. Two, that it makes it easier for anybody to get a protection order if you have to intervene between an exploiter, a trafficker, and a child essentially, or anybody for that matter. And so, it makes it easier to get protection orders, so that there’s an opportunity to intervene so we can have the helpers go in and help women and girls.

We fully enforce Section 52 of the Child and Family Service Act. Every single act, as far as I know, in Canada has a section within their act, that if you are responsible for putting a child in need of protection, you are committing a crime. And so, our province actively enforces Section 52. And so, I do have some information on that. I’m just trying to get the numbers here. So, there’s been -- since the Human Trafficking Act, our provincial legislation, we have had 45 cases of protection orders that have been successfully obtained by using the provincial Human Trafficking Act.

The shirts that you see me wear here today is a campaign that we did when the Grey Cup came to Winnipeg and it’s called Buying Sex is Not a Sport. That was a real community initiative of making sure -- because we know any time there are men with money who are transient, you are going to have sexual exploitation and
trafficking, whether it’s a resource community, a sporting event. And so, we worked together as a community, with police, with CFS, with the CFL and created a campaign.
And so, it was quite successful, where we created a lot of awareness, and we had a lot of services that were available for the women and the girls who were being targeted for sexual exploitation.

You heard already a little bit about the Winnipeg Outreach Network, and that is critically important because that is a relationship between all of the frontline outreach workers who have incredible street intelligence of what is going on on the frontlines. And, that is critically important for them to come together and to share information. And, again, I’ll add that our Winnipeg Police members are a part of that, as well as Child and Family Services is a part of that. And, everybody, again, working collaboratively.

We have in Manitoba as I said the only real healing lodge in Canada. We have one of the first safe houses for girls and transgender 13 to 17 years of age. And, another really important program that, when we did the National Task Force, and it’s still the same to this day, is the only program in the entire world is run through Ndinawe Child and -- Ndinawe, which is a youth serving organization. It is child and youth care diploma
program for survivors of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, and they have been operating, I believe, for about nine years, and there is over 100 graduates. So, these are now survivors who are working anywhere within the Tracia’s Trust, whether it is in a specialized resource like home, or whether it is working at the province, or whether it is working at any of the programs, that we now have a pool of survivors and survivor leaders who are a really important part of moving forward.

We have a really strong relationship -- again you heard about the Counter Sexual Exploitation unit, and that just didn’t happen overnight. It was a relationship that evolved over time because we were all committed to making it happen, you know? And, any relationship, there is ups and downs, and difficulties with relationships, and we have gone over -- like, we’re over the -- you know, it took a while for us to build those relationships. And so, we are -- you saw some of the results as a result of the success of having those relationships with the Counter Exploitation unit and with police.

The last thing I want to say about the Manitoba Strategy, and again it is a model that is -- we would highly -- in fact, the National Task Force recommends that a National Anti-Trafficking Strategy be
modeled after the provincial Manitoba Strategy. And, I want to make it clear that there is an order also to implementing strategies, because when you talk about the issue of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, people want to get involved and they want it to end, like, right now, like right away, and it doesn’t always work that way. What we learned in Manitoba is that, before we created education and awareness, the community and the systems and our collaboration built the services first. So, we created the safety net, which was critically important that the safety net be built because the second phase of Tracia's Trust -- our provincial strategy, which is in memory of Tracia Owen, who was a young girl -- that reminds us not to -- that we need all hands on deck for kids. And that Phase 2 of the strategy was to raise education and awareness. And sure enough, as we raised education and awareness, the phone's ringing off the hook. We needed places in which to support people. And so there is a very specific order.

So I really caution everybody in the room and the Inquiry that let's not be so quick to educate everybody because if we don't have the proper resources at the grassroots level to be the proper safety net, and it is -- has to be a proper safety net and not just anybody can do trauma inform work, that then -- then please don't
do it because you're creating harm. You'll create harm if
there's not enough resources or a place to refer women to,
and that is critically important.

And I just want to conclude my presentation
-- one minute over -- and conclude my presentation with a
-- the reality of where we are at now.

Slide 14. Thank you for your patience. It
won't be long.

Sexual exploitation and sex trafficking in
Canada is getting -- is not getting any better; it's
getting worse. It is a growing problem that is almost out
of control.

The girls that are being trafficked are
being trafficked -- are getting younger and younger. And
like I said, there's a very specific target and market, in
fact, for young, very vulnerable Indigenous girls. And as
I said, when I first started doing this work it was 16.
That was -- well, almost 25 years ago. The average age of
recruitment now is 13, and getting younger, and younger.

That trafficking is becoming more subtle.
This is -- it's not -- there's not even -- they don't even
use the word "pimp" anymore, really, out there.

Traffickers are posing as boyfriends or managers or
friends, sometimes even peers, and so it's harder and
harder to detect, actually, who it is and who is that bad
friend or who is that bad boyfriend. It's getting harder
and harder for them to stand out.

    Trafficking is becoming less visible, while
sexual exploitation and sex trafficking is becoming less
visible because it's going online. And the Internet is
making it possible for traffickers, as one mother put it,
"to enter my daughter's bedroom through her computer
screen". And so the Internet is playing a really
significant role in being part of the growing problem of
sexual exploitation and sex trafficking.

    And lastly, that sex trafficking is
becoming more profitable for more people, and that's
going back to that sex industry again. That there are
more people profiting from the sexual exploitation and sex
trafficking -- and it's growing, and growing -- than ever
before, and it is alarming, and it is a cause for concern.

    So I do urge the Inquiry that there really
needs to be a concerted effort and the renewal of a
Federal National Action Plan that is vital to having some
federal leadership in our country. That the renewal,
which the -- we had a Federal National Action Plan from
2012 to 2016 that invested $6 million a year up until
2016, and then it went down to $2 million a year. And we
hope it'll be renewed. It actually formally has not been
renewed.
And so we would call to have a Federal National Action Plan renewed because it allows for the creation of laws, it allows for the creation of funding for services, and it allows for the creation for some kind of national coordination of service providers and leadership across the country because that is vitally important in the work that we’re doing.

And -- so that concludes my presentation. Unless you have more.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** Sure. Just a couple of clarification questions. So going to the Federal National Action Plan, what's been the action plan that you've witnessed of the funding being depleted? So what are the specific things that you've seen that you no longer have available to you?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Okay. That's -- and thank you for that question. The original Federal National Action Plan really focused in on education and train -- education and awareness and training of police officers. Which was really important at that time because we had a new law in 2015, and there was a big question about how do you -- or 2005, I mean -- how do you apply that law, how does that law get applied. And it is -- it's an indictable offense. So it's like -- it needs this much evidence in order to lay a human trafficking charge.
And so much of the work that was done was by the RCMP. The RCMP National Coordination Centre was established where there was an RCMP officer in every province that was dedicated to working on the issue, with communities, on the issue of human trafficking. They did education and awareness within communities. They helped communities with building action plans and funded those action plans.

And that was really vital, particularly to vulnerable First Nation communities, who are very at risk because of either their location or because of the vulnerability of the girls within the community and how traffickers were exploiting that vulnerability. And so we went from having a RCMP officer in every province to, I think there is one now in Canada.

And so the education and awareness materials, which I brought a kit, were done through a national consultation with young people, with service providers, with Indigenous communities, with a whole bunch of key stakeholders. And they built a really good toolkit that was available. You could just call and ask for one and they would be mailed to you. And so that resource has been extremely limited because the lack of funding to be able to have those tools out there and accessible.

And probably a important impact is a lack
of money now available for people on the frontlines that are doing the work, that are doing the work with survivors of sexual exploitation, survivors of sex trafficking, and that there is -- there's almost no money available, specifically through the National Action Plan.

And probably the largest lost opportunity is national coordination. Human trafficking doesn't -- and any sexual exploitation doesn't care about borders. They don't care about your -- what province you're in. And so we need that national oversight and that national coordination in order to really work at to combat both sexual exploitation and sex trafficking.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** And the next clarification question I have is the legislation in the Province of Manitoba. Is that the correct -- the Child Sexual Exploitation ---

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** --- and Human Trafficking Act?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** That's what you referred to earlier?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes.

**MS. JENNIFER COX:** Those are all my questions, Chief Commissioner, Commissioners, parties with
standing. So I think that concludes the direct examination.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Chief Commissioner, Commissioners, I will seek your guidance on this. We will require a short break before. One, for coordination; and two, to give the witnesses a moment of opportunity.

But I do want to put to you that it's my intention once I lead the evidence to complete the evidence and not have a break. It would be more trauma inform to be continuous than to pause for lunch.

And noting the time is now 11:30, I would like to have your direction on maybe instead of having a 5-minute break, we have a 10-minute break, knowing that we'll go to 12:40 to start lunch, or would you prefer a short break and a push-through?

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Okay. What's a realistic time for a break in terms of duration, to be honest?

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: To be honest, if we ask for five, it will likely take ten ---

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Ten.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: --- to get everyone back in here, to reconvene.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: And then you anticipate the evidence then will be until 12:30?
MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: The evidence is anticipated to be one hour.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: One hour....

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: I just don’t want to start, take the pause, and then recommence.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Okay. Let’s do this. We’ll split the difference, and we’ll make it a 7.5-minute break.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you.

--- Upon recessing at 11:33
--- Upon resuming at 11:48

MS. TERRELLYN FEARN: ...diabetic, we’re going to look at getting a few things put out for you if you do need to eat. So, please let us know, but we will work on that as we work through some of the lunch and have a little bit later lunch; okay?

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So, good morning, again. Chief Commissioner, Commissioners, I have the opportunity now to introduce Rachel Willan as our next witness, and the parties have also been advised of this, but just for the record, we’ve been fortunate to have Rachel, actually, testify before us before. She, about a year ago, actually, testified for us in the Part I community hearings and shared her personal story as a
She will be touching on some of those issues again, her lived experience. And so, as I’ve done kind of throughout this week, and as Commission counsel has done throughout this week, we’ve, you know, kindly reminded people that when we’re sharing these lived experiences to 1) to protect your own spirit, but also to kind of walk gently when we are talking with Rachel, because she is going to be sharing a lot of her background and past, and how she has managed to accomplish where she is today.

With her today is her husband, Matt. And, when they testified together a year ago in the community hearings, they demonstrated, I think, to the National Inquiry the importance of relationships and healing together. And so, it’s good to see Matt again here to support his wife.

In addition to that, Rachel was also on a panel in Winnipeg on human trafficking. And so, today, as we move forward and the testimony she provides here is really what the parties with standing will have the opportunity to question her on, not on anything that she had previously said.

Before we begin, Mr. Registrar, could you please promise Rachel in on a feather?
MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Yes, for sure. It’s really good to see you again, Ms. Willan. Do you promise to tell your truth in a good way today?

MS. RACHEL WILLAN: I affirm.

RACHEL WILLAN: Affirmed:

MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Thank you.

--- EXAMINATION IN-CHIEF BY MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So, Rachel, I think what we would like to do is we’d actually like to start by putting the PowerPoint presentation up, and Rachel, you created this PowerPoint, I understand?

MS. RACHEL WILLAN: Yes.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And, there’s parts that we’ve added into this PowerPoint that was a PowerPoint that Matt had created, too. If I understand, you created these for the purposes of the speaking engagements you do with youth and others, and at schools; is that correct?

MS. RACHEL WILLAN: Yes.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Okay. And, there are no documents to be entered into exhibits today other than the PowerPoint. There will be videos, and as we come to them, I’ll ask for them to be an exhibit. But, for the purpose of today’s testimony, can we please have this marked as an exhibit?
CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Exhibit
85 is Ms. Willan’s PowerPoint.

--- Exhibit No 85:

Powerpoint presentation “Rachel’s Story of Survival: From the Streets to the Books” (26 slides / pages)
Witness: Rachel Willan
Counsel: Christa Big Canoe, Commission Counsel

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So, if we could just go to the next deck? So, I understand you two want to start with introductions, and I just want to offer you the opportunity to share with us your introduction and what you’re comfortable sharing with anyone in attendance.

MS. RACHEL WILLAN: Good morning. I would like to start off by saying I’m honoured to be back and share a bit more on the aspect of human trafficking, you know, other than my entire life story which pretty much sums it up to almost 99 percent of the early childhood that most of our survivors have experienced, the main contributors being poverty, addictions, being victimized right from the womb. Those are the early -- early -- it’s so evident that more than 99 percent of us survivors have endured the same. So, I’m not going to touch too much on that.
I’m a married Métis woman. I originate -- my community is Duck Bay. My mom was status from Pine Creek. It cut off at me, and I probably carried my heritage with me all my life, and teach my children to be proud of who they are. I have five boys being my first five boys, and then I have two little daughters that came along last, and I share four with my husband.

I’m 43-years-old. I’ve been in the child welfare system since the age of 2, eventually becoming a permanent ward at the age of 4. I was raised in approximately 53 different placements, including lock ups, group homes, foster homes. There was never any temporary home other than one that I could remember, and today, I still remain in contact with my one sister. I still talk to her, and she’s in my life. So, is my old foster home.

At an early age, I was subjected to lots of sexual violence, starting from -- I would probably say as far as I could remember. I started to remember at age 2, 3, 4, 5, and it might have been somewhere between 4 -- age 4, age 5, that I actually became a permanent ward of the Children’s Aid Society then. My dad was my first perpetrator, my biological dad. I have a stepdad and a biological dad who has since passed on. He was the most -- one of the most brutalist men I’ve ever, you know, had encountered in my early life.
My mom passed away in 2009. My mom shared six kids with my dad, one being taken in 1981 and adopted out, and all I know is his name is Quentin, and I hope some day to meet him. And, I often wonder how his life is, because my dad wasn’t only a perpetrator to myself, he was also a perpetrator to my brothers, my older brother and my younger sister.

My mom had six kids with my dad, and I’m the only one in my family that went head on and shared it with my family and didn’t live in denial. And, I did that by being incarcerated many times and being able to have some points in my life where I had recovery from being in an institution. And, throughout those times, I reflected a lot on my life, and I’ve always known what happened to me, and it was time to stand up and share that.

When I first exposed my dad, my own mom, I think, felt a bit of shame, and she didn’t want to admit. Her words were that, “I never left you alone. I never left you alone. I never left you.” But, I could remember my grandma, who just passed away a year ago, at the age of 87, trudging us through the snow, me and my brother, with my mom, just to bring my mom to safety. As my mom was carrying my sister -- my mom was pregnant year, after year, after year almost. And, I know that my mom loved us, she was just caught in the cycle. And, I didn’t learn
this up until I sobered up almost 13 years ago.

For the longest time, I just felt that my mom didn’t love me. And, most often, this was taught to me by the child welfare system, that I was not loved, I really didn’t matter. It wasn’t in those specific words, but it was in a way where actions were shown to me that I didn’t really matter to anybody. And, that’s where I kept running, and running and running, and just kept on going. I just could not settle anywhere. I was never looked at internally for any kind of -- you know, fetal alcohol effects or anything. It didn’t matter back in the early -- you know, late 70s.

And, I have children today that I had exposed to some drugs and alcohol, and they’re excelling, and I say that with so much pride because, statistically, I know I broke the cycle. And, I have four at home and they weren’t supposed to be in the “regular school curriculum” and they’re excelling, grade 9, 10 and 11, and my daughter is in grade 5. And, I say that with pride and it’s one heck of a job getting them up in the mornings, but they’re in a really nice school in Fort Richmond Collegiate.

And, I’ve really connected with the educational system and it was -- I have turned into a real vicious mama bear, because most often, our school
curriculum doesn’t fit the needs of our children, and I battle that with them and I said, you’re going to fit my children’s need. I said, you’re not going to turn their life to fit yours. I said, I’m tired of it. And, they have. Without a doubt, they have.

Because telling me that I’m not required -- my grade 9 daughter, she’s grade 9, she’s 13. She didn’t qualify for bus service, but yet it’s 3 kilometres away, and I couldn’t understand why. And, they said, we don’t do bussing. So, that would make her walk 3 kilometres to school and my heart just dropped. And, I said, well, I’m going to take you up on the challenge, Ms. -- whatever her name was. And, I said, I’m going to take you up on that challenge, I’ll be the first one to do it. And, she was very ignorant. Showed hostility within her voice. And, I said, okay, okay, okay. I said -- so she replied, the answer was no to bus service for my daughter. This was just the beginning of the school year. And, I said, well -- moving forward, I said, I’m going to wait for a response from our educational minister, and then for now just leave it. And, the next day, my daughter had bus service. The next day. And, I said, well, isn’t that amazing how you found a loophole, eh? I said, you did it. Thank you. I appreciate that.

So, having to learn to be kind even when
you’re shown unkindness from our systems has really been—
2018 has been my biggest teaching of my recovery. And,
battling systems that oppress us and continue to oppress
us. And, when my children are my world, I live for and
breathe for my children and— you know, as rough as it
gets, my child— raising my phone bill to $2,000.00,
using 53 gigabytes of data, I just about had a heart
attack.

So, then, I got on the phone with Fido and
then I got from one level to the next level, to the
president level. And, I said, listen here, we’re evolving
in technology, I said, so you just decide to let him use
50 gigabytes and slam me up the ass? I said, that’s not
happening. So, what they did was they eradicated more
than half my bill. It’s because I spoke up and I said,
you need to start— you know, children cannot get phones,
but yet we want to know our children are safe, whether it
be boy or girl. So, that was a nice thing, you know?

Moving forward, you know, I’m raising my
kids. In my early life, I was bounced all over. I ended
up in a group home— one particular group home that was
Nichiwamane (phonetic), it’s still— they’re still around
today, but they’re not— they weren’t as big as they
were. They had a group home at— they must have took me
back 10 times and threw me out 10 times. So— but they
never gave up on me. Never ever, no matter what I did. I even stole their van and went on a joyride. And, I parked it the wrong way, that’s how they knew I took it. Being 12, 13-years-old.

Sometimes -- and I connect with those people too. And, that’s where I first exposed what happened to my dad. And, it was right from that group home, you know, at the age of 8, 9, 10. I was given opportunities to see my mom. I was never adopted, so I was always running back to my grandma’s and -- they lived in the central part of Winnipeg. I would always go back no matter where they put me in the city. If they put me in Dauphin, if they put me in Pine River, wherever they put me at, I always made my way, whether it was hitchhiking, catching a ride, stealing a car, I made my way back to my grandma’s house because I knew my mom was close by.

So, I always came back. And, during those times, I was often looking for my mom, whether it be on Main Street -- half the hotels are not there. And, I didn’t really look at it as exploitation but, you know, I thought it was, kind of, cool to be drinking at age 10, you know, getting kind of drunk off of one beer. For me, it was just coping -- instant coping and it was free. And, dabbling into, you know -- it wasn’t so much the
drugs, but it was mostly alcoholism.

And, from an early age -- I've seen it my entire life, so I started doing that. And, I was about 12, 13 that I started to pretty much -- you know, my first encounter was with somebody from my community. Other than my dad violating me, was another older man that just picked me up -- I was sitting at the school library. He took me and he just did whatever and dropped me off. I was completely devastated. The first thing I did was jump in the bathtub and scrubbed so hard, I almost scrubbed my skin off. And, I was so scared that -- I just felt so completely dirty. I didn't even know how to respond. I never, ever told anybody. Like, I never told anybody -- really, I told -- I shared with my husband, but nobody else I told. And, this person still walks around my community today. But, nobody knows that.

I ended up coming back to the city from my community. Something happened there where I was, kind of, not ousted, but I ended coming back from my community. I lived there for a bit and I had some loving family that did take care of me. I must have been quite the handful because I ended up coming back, I had a problem with stealing, lying, all those things that come with that. I was placed in a -- with my grandma's sister. And, I have to say, it wasn't the best place. Me and my brother were
beaten. We were the foster kids. We were the kids that hardly got any clothes, that got one present -- lucky to get one present at Christmas while everybody else got 25 presents. And, it was really hurtful. And, I was glad to flee from there.

I left, came to the city and it was completely -- it just chewed me right up just so fast and quick. I was exposed to coke and shooting up. I was -- I don’t think anybody ever knew that I was a -- the bars that don’t exist, such as the Manor, (indiscernible), the Patricia, all those bars that are not there today, where Thunderbird House sits, I don’t think anybody ever knew that I was 13 or 14, but I was allowed in every single bar, right up until I was 18. Nobody ever knew. And then when I celebrated my 18th birthday, I was like, yay, I’m 18. And, everybody just looked at me. Like, you just turned 18? I’m like, yes. I was never 18 to begin with. But, yet I went about it. I’ve always hung around with an older crowd of people, always, thus making me more vulnerable, I guess, you know, not really thinking about it. And I was introduced to coke, you know, pretty early. And I tried it a few times, you know, 11, 12, 13, but it was not really my thing at that time.

And eventually, I was taken to -- I had met some older -- older women, and they always had money and
they always had, you know, this -- and so we walked over
the Salter Bridge in Winnipeg and she just said to me, you
know, “Go down under the bridge right there, just walk
there. Somebody is going to pick you up right away.”

So I just kind of glided with her, and I
just followed her and low and behold I was stopped so
fast. And I thought it was the coolest thing, not
realizing I was being exploited. Because when I got in, I
remember the guy handed my $60 and I was like, “Well, can
you take me here first?” To a bar that’s no longer on
Portage Avenue that used to be called Portage Village in.
I said, “Can you take me here and I’ll be right out?” And
for me I was like, holy smokes, I just got 60 bucks, right
on. And then I went back, and back, and back, and that
was just the beginning of that.

And I really got entrenched into drugs, and
I remember being -- you know, I had a baby at 15. I was
14 when I, you know, just had 14, just turned 15 and I got
pregnant, and I remember -- I’m just going to bounce a
little bit back there. I remember the guy was 27, I was
15. He had -- he’s been with Hydro for over 30 years. I
think he must just have hit his 35 -- 35th year. And I
have a child with him. My child is 28 years old.

I’ve always had an ability to see my child,
but there’s a real broken bond where we haven’t talked in
quite some time. But his dad was actually convicted of
sexually assaulting one of my friends that has been
trafficked and exploited as well. And how I found that
out was, we were sitting in a sharing circle and talking
about the first time we had did things, you know. She
said, “I wasn’t, I was raped.” And she shared with me the
guy’s name and I was just stunned.

I looked, and I went racing -- back then we
had a warehouse -- I’ll call it a warehouse, it was called
Seven Oaks Youth Centre. It was not -- you didn’t have to
be criminally charged with something, it was just a
warehouse because there was not enough placements for
Child Welfare, well, Children’s Aid, back then. So that’s
where I was staying. I eventually ended up going to Villa
Rosa.

But I confronted him and asked him, like,
you know, you raped my friend. And he goes, “It wasn’t
like that. It wasn’t like that. That’s not what
happened.” But he actually did time for it. And he did
18 months for it. I’ll never know if they had a sex abuse
registry then.

But so I think the rift right there, the
bond between my son and him that I shared, I basically had
my son and Children’s Aid told me -- and I can mention the
worker’s name too. The worker’s name was Ruth Turzids
(phonetic). I’ll never forget her name because she basically said, if he wants to be -- if he wants to be in my child and my life, he has to support us financially.

So I agreed, because we just agreed automatically. I don’t know what the terms were, but I just remember saying, “Okay. CFS will leave us alone.” Because I was so fearful that they were going to take my baby, and at the time I was breastfeeding him. He was two weeks old.

And then it came to a point where they had to make a permanent plan, and they put me in a home with an old lady that was about 80 years old. I had no clue, not even a clue, the only thing I knew in my mind was if your baby cries just put him in a safe spot and don’t ever shake your baby. So those are the only -- that was the only one teaching I was ever taught.

So I remember putting him in the crib and this was the third night, going on the third night. I had no help from the woman, she was never really home, actually. And I remember calling and seeing if Children’s Aid, and saying you know, “You’ve got to come get my baby. I don’t know what to do.”

You know, I loved at him, and I was crying, and I was looking at him and he was crying. I picked him up. I tried to do what I could. I wrapped him, I changed
him, I fed him, I burped him. None of that was helping, and I think now that I’m much older that he felt my internal feelings of not knowing what to do as a mother, you know, and feeling my emotions of a bond that was supposed to be, but wasn’t.

So I put him in there, in CFS, and his dad came to see me after work and he said, “Well, where’s the baby?” And I said, “I gave him to CFS.” And he was just shocked and outraged, and I just basically signed him over to his dad and said, you know, you have him. And it was a pretty sad situation because I know I loved my baby, but I just never had no skills. I was not taught any skills.

Right from then on it -- I couldn’t believe how when I was in Seven Oaks Youth Centre they allowed him in to visit me and bring me treats, and allowed me to live with him. And now that I’m older, I always think about accountability. That they let me, at age of 15, be with a 27-year-old perpetrator that’s been convicted of sexual assault. But yet, they -- somehow, they must have knew that, and I just often wonder where things went wrong, and I’m not going to sit here and sit and you know, just solely focus on the negative.

At the end of the day, I was -- I managed to get away from him, but then I just moved on to other exploitation and you know? I’m not going to say I
exploited myself, because the first woman that took me
down was another older lady showed me where to go, and it
started from there and I remember not even knowing how to
shoot up. And I remember just sticking my hand out and
not even knowing what was going in my arm and just going
like this.

And twice I was -- I woke up on the floor
and still continuing to do it. And I remember running to
the bathroom to vomit every time I got -- somebody shot me
up and it just started from there. I ended up -- it was
just survival. You know, I was running from the system.
I was given a sheet of bus tickets a month and $28 from
Children’s Aid for the month. Nobody ever checked up on
me. Nobody ever knew where I was back then. Obviously,
things have changed.

I was fully pretty much -- fully a young
full-fledged addict already. Had started to shoot up and
just, you know, it became so normalized to me, it just
chewed me right up and I got into the criminal element of
that with perpetrators. Every single conviction that I
have on my record is against a perpetrator, every single
one is against a John. I’ve never had a fight or -- with
a woman, where I was charged, it was against a -- it was a
robbery, a brutal robbery, or a fight.

So I look back at that. I became, you
know, just completely numb to any kind of feelings. I never even knew what normal was. Like, I couldn’t even identify myself as anything. I didn’t know where I stood anywhere. I was just a complete numb person existing in a society where -- where nobody paid attention. So I just kept getting high and drinking, and doing everything.

And when I say drinking, I would drink the hard stuff right until I couldn’t feel and blacked right out. And I had many suicide attempts, many, and you know, I look up now and I thank, you know, I’m thankful that I’m still here. I just don’t think it’s my time. It wasn’t my time ever.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** You were just talking -- you were talking about when you were transitioning into adulthood, where you were already at a place where your addiction took over your life. And you were talking about particularly, charges you had, that you received against mostly, almost always male perpetrators, where you would fight back or do things. This actually created a criminal record.

And I’m going to ask the next slide be pulled up. In this you actually have -- you’re sharing with us some pictures. I want you to be able to talk a little bit about these pictures and maybe explain to us a little more when you say all of my charges were against
male perpetrators, often were those in instances where you were fighting back or trying to defend yourself.

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Yes, it was then. Going back on my last one there, after I had left him, it wasn't long, I was in my 20s, my early -- I believe I just turned 20. I had met another older man, again, once again, whom I had a child with who trafficked me right from the moment I met him. And his name was Elford Williams Neil (ph). He's since deceased.

I share two sons with him. They're 22 and 19. And I love my boys with all my heart. And one just graduated in June. And it was one of the highlights of my life, you know, having him graduate. And I have many more to graduate.

His dad I was with for 10 years and he was one of the biggest exploiters that I've ever had. The one on the left is where he beat me. He beat me so bad. And I remember he grabbed me by my face because he wanted me to -- I'd bring home men and I would get the money and I would say, "Okay, just tell him to go now." And he would punch me, physically punch me in the head or grab me by my hair because he wanted to watch me have sex with him and I was not about that. I was, like, "No, just tell him to go." And he got uglier and uglier and uglier.

I actually had my first son July 12th,
1996. I went into labour on the street corner of Pritchard and Aikins. My water broke standing on the corner while he just stood a few feet away from me. I went and had my baby in the hospital and he said to me, "You know, they're not going to let you keep the baby anyway, so we might as well just go." So I listened and I left the hospital with breasts this big. Didn't even have -- I had one pad. And I was right back to the same corner, just on a -- the other side of the street while he watched me again.

I was so numb to anything. I just didn't even realise and it was about a week later that somebody from the authority came and got me to sign papers. And what I signed was my son's status card and them surrendering my baby over to this authority, which I'm grateful they did because I've always had the privilege to see my sons at any given time. Because in every family there's a -- there's somebody that's good in every family and his sister took my sons and I contribute. She's a Ma Mawi home as well. She's licensed through Ma Mawi.

She's raised my two sons. And, you know, I never wanted to take my kids away from her because I knew that she wanted the best for my kids. And I know that. One's going to head to university next year, my 19-year old.
And, you know, these are some of these mugs. And I remember many times him kicking me out of a place where we shared the rent with or I shared rent with him, but yet when the police would come I would get taken away, thrown in the drunk take or taken to jail because I assaulted him, but there was never any opportunity for me to share why I assaulted him, but yet we had a police force back then -- not like we do today. We have a -- the force has totally shifted from back then 25, you know -- back then where I was just slammed in the back of a cruiser and just taken away.

At one point I hit him with a 2x4. Another time I stabbed him up here. He's drugged me. I've woken up naked. He's drugged me so bad where I was slamming into poles walking down Main Street and then beat me up. And I finally had enough and I stabbed him three times and I was actually convicted.

And then it wasn't until I ended up having another son actually. I had another son in 1999 and he was born in prison. And while I was in prison I knew that my baby was going to be taken, but I had some recovery time because I was doing a long stretch. I had gotten out twice and during that time I got pregnant. So I knew going back I had skipped bail twice. But I got pregnant.

So I made a plan. I called -- in Portage
In-Ch (BIG CANOE)

1. la Prairie I called this Child and Family Services and I said, "Look, I'm having a baby. I see you through the fence. Your agency's right across from the jail. Can somebody come and see me?" And I had them come see me.

2. And I was fortunate I had a nice lady, you know, and they made three visits a week after I had him. And he went to a good home. He went to a home in a -- with a Métis woman who left her colony to marry, you know, to marry a Métis man. And she learned our culture as a Métis woman. And it struck me. I was thinking, oh, what are the odds.

3. And when she brought him back to me -- I ended up going to treatment for six months on parole. And she brought him back to me and I remember being -- how she had his clothes so neatly folded and she just had everything so cute. And she told me that she really loved my son and my intentions were good in my heart, but I slipped right after that. It didn't take me long, because their father moved in with me. I obtained housing within a month. I got my full parole. Their dad moved in.

4. Within two weeks I was back on the street corner and he would watch the kids.

5. And I was doing the same thing, same thing. I didn't get into the drugs right away, but I got into the drinking because I knew I had to be piss tested every Friday. So after I got piss tested I would go on wicked
mission of drinking. And then, you know, the second --
and then I got into the hard drugs and there was no hiding
it anymore from the parole board.

And I don't know how I actually got parole
board -- like, how I actually got parole. It was a one-
time chance and I remember sitting in front of a bunch of
people and they were asking me why I feel I should deserve
parole. And I said well -- you know, they said, "You have
a big gap here in your record and then you have this --
this, like, really outrageous charges." And I said,
"Well" -- you know, "Were you good during that time?" And
I said, "Ah, no." I said, "I just wasn't getting caught
for what I was doing." You know, because I never once
stopped. And he said, "Well, that's fair to say." You
know, everybody chuckled, but I -- "That's fair to say,"
he said, "Because most people would say they were doing
good." And I said, "Well, I was never doing good. I just
learned to get craftier as the time went on." And that's
what we call survival. That's where I learned to survive.
And by then I was really adapted to that lifestyle.

I ended up going for my sentence. My last
sentence was a Gladue sentence. Somebody mentioned a
Gladue yesterday and that played a huge role in my
recovery. And it took me to plan my Gladue decision. It
was never offered to me in a prison. I told my lawyer, "I
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will not go and be sentenced in front of a judge unless I have the Gladue component." I said, "No, no."

They wanted to do a PDR, which is a predisposition report, and I said, "No, no. I'm not accepting it. I'm not dumb. I know my rights. No." I said, "So send somebody here." And I refused to take any other worker unless it was my probation officer that I had previously. I had her for -- she's become like a mom to me. She just finished ringing the bell on her cancer treatment. And I still keep in contact with her today.

And, you know, I was able to move forward when I got my parole and I left. And but I just became -- he was just dragging me down. And I ended up going back to jail. My kids got taken away. Well, he kept them actually. And then while I was inside everything was being sold. I was phoning outside. I had two boys. I obtained them, got them back.

And I did the work actually in treatment. I stayed in treatment for -- in St. Norbert for six and a half months. He stayed for one month and left. He got kicked out because he was too violent to me in treatment. And that's why he got kicked out. So basically he was waiting on the outside for me when I came back and it got really, really ugly.

When -- how I got my parole revoked was he
phoned in. Within 24 hours they caught me, 12 hours after. He told them what corner I was standing on, because I took too long to come back with money to supply him. And I was happy to go back, but I missed my kids, my two boys.

I went back. And while I was in there for those six months finish -- to my warrant expiry date, I remember thinking, you know, I'm going to kill this guy. And this is me sober. And the first thing the prison did was want to put me on anti-psychotic meds. And I said, "Oh, no, no, no, no. No." I said, "I'm just trying to tell you how I feel," I said. And I reached out to a few, you know, people that I trusted.

And the whole prison system, I mean, right from when I was 17 -- I was actually -- I was 17 when the first -- when the remand centre, when it first opened, I remember I was 17. And I got spoiled. I was a little spoiled inmate by the older women that actually loved me in there, and I was like the little boss. I was working in the kitchen, and -- you know, that's who became my family.

Today even, I connect with a lot of the older women. Not all the older women are exploiters, but I did have one exploit me as well. But that part, they know who they are, and they're probably watching today.
They're still in my life, and I have lots of -- I just love them to death. They stand by me.

And during those thoughts of wanting to kill him, I was sober. And I couldn't believe. I told my mom, "You know, I think that I'm going to kill Neil when I get out", you know, because I'm having these thoughts. So then finally, I just prayed, and I prayed, and I prayed, and in the cell, you know, please, I just -- I can't live like this anymore.

And when I got out, I left jail with $1,900, knowing I was planning to get high. You know, I could say in my heart, I didn't want to get high, but I knew, okay, I'm saving up for when I get out; I'm going to have one big party. Because my intentions weren't to get well because I had too much trauma.

So I left. Got out. Never seen him. He looked for me, kicked doors in for me. The doors that he kicked in were actually houses, and he got turned out pretty good because I hid in the closets.

Women defended me. Women locked the door or held the door because they wouldn't let him into the door where I was, where I was hiding in a closet filled with dirty clothes and needles hiding from him. It was women holding the door shut that protected me, and it was my other survivor sisters that said you're not going to
hurt her.

And one of them, she -- her name is Christine, but we called her Cece. She's like my best friend. And she committed suicide. She was just going to attend her second year at River College, Youth and Childcare Program. And we walked our life together. And she left behind -- all six of her kids were taken, and she was finally raising one little baby boy named Frank. And she was like my little right sidekick, you know. She was feisty as heck. And I miss her so much. I miss her right -- every day.

Flying here, I was thinking and looking at the clouds, you know. And I think my mom's in the clouds. You know, that was going through my mind.

So I was able to break free from that relationship, you know. I didn't call it a relationship; I just called it -- I didn't know what to call it, actually. And I continued to use, and I ended up meeting Matthew, meeting Matthew. And when I met him -- he has his side of the story, and his side consists of being forced to sell drugs too at a young age to survive.

And he was new, because I had never met him. Mind you, it shifted here because he's five years younger and I'm five years older. So I don't know what you want to call me, but -- a cougar, or whatever you want
to call me, but it's been, you know, 18 years.

   And he's never been a drug user. I was.

So it was really difficult and volatile. It was not the
greatest beginning, but to us, it was the greatest
beginning. But to society, we were two monsters that were
probably going to -- you know, Bonnie and Clyde, that
we're going to just hurt somebody.

   And he was selling drugs and I was coming
to buy. You know, he sat there one day, and he said,
well, "Why do you do what you're doing?", and I was always
defensive, and I said, "Well, why do you do what you do?";
I said, you know. I just told him no business asking me
why I'm doing what I'm doing.

   But he was wondering, you know, because he
was just basically plopped there too to sell from --
exploited from his parent, his dad. You know, that's
something that his dad exploited him to sell drugs. But
at the same time, he had a moral compass where he said he
knew what he was doing was wrong, he knows what I was
doing was wrong.

   So we connected and we sat and talked for
hours, and I was jittery and I was flying all over, and I
was -- you know. But at the end of it all, we made a
connection. And never -- we never talked like about
anything, you know. And he said in his mind he thought,
you know, in this house, all these beautiful women. If I
was going to ever pick anybody it would probably be that
strong woman right there. He tells me this later. And
I'm like...

So we kind of, you know, just started
talking and talking, and out of all the treatment --
shitty treatment, you know, "Okay. You're done getting
high. Get out the door". That's how most people --
dealers are. I turned vicious. I chucked chairs. I've
threw knives. I threw bottles at dealers who expect you,
in minus 55, when you're coming by, to get high really
quick, and they shoot you out the door.

And I said, "Listen here you", you know, "I
put clothes on your back, I feed your big mouth. You
ain't fuckin' throwing me out until I'm done. You're not
doing this." And I got vicious and I they would have to
call the higher up. And I said, "I'm still not leaving.
I don't care who you call. Call whoever you want." And I
was vicious. I turned so ugly that I felt that one of
those little boys selling to me, they're going to be
paying for it because I'll knock their teeth right out of
their gums.

You know, I was at that point that you're
not going to mistreat me anymore. Just because I'm
addicted, you're not -- and you're selling, and they think
they're cool making this money. And I'm thinking, hmmm, well I'm an old dog. Not happening. So they just kind of let me be.

And the stipulation for Rachel to go in any drug house was make sure Rachel's not drinking. But I was really clever. I put it all around me. I put all my bottles around me, and I sat there really quiet until they kicked in, and then hell broke loose and I was out the door. So that's how I coped for the longest time.

And I got to meet Matt more often and more often. You know, it was about a month, and we ended up getting into a relationship. And that was pretty much the end of his selling, you know. It happened.

I got pregnant immediately. And I shared with Matt at the same time that at that time I had contracted Hepatitis C, but I was really fortunate. By the grace of God, you know, Creator, I thank -- I'm thankful because I don't have it no more. We know it's curable. I just could not believe the life I lived that I didn't walk away with HIV. Through everything I've been through.

And I shared with Matt, this is who I am, this is what I have, this is the baggage I come with, you know. And he accepted it. He accepted it.

And the one thing that was really difficult
was I only knew one way to live. I only had one vision
and that was to cope. So when I got pregnant I would try
and sneak away. And he'd find me, and I would fight back,
and -- you know. I want to -- he said, "I just want to
have a healthy baby. I don't want to have a baby that's
addicted to drugs." And I didn't know any other way but
just to get high.

So we moved forward, and I had some long,
good healthy -- and there's our kids, our babies there.
Serenity is -- oh, it didn't go up there.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Can we just change
to the slide that has the picture of Rachel and the kids?

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Serenity is the one on
the left. She had the -- she was born during my recovery.
I've been sober since April 23rd, 2007. And my other
three right here were taken in September 6th, 2006.

And from September 6th, 2006 until
April 23rd, 2007, I was out on bail for a violent, violent
assault, robbery, and forcible confinement. And I felt so
invisible because many doors were kicked in in the houses
I was in. I couldn't understand, I have a warrant out,
how come they're just letting me go? I used to wonder
like, what's going on? I know they're investigating
somebody, but why am I still sitting here?

We had a Canada-wide parole lady sitting on
the -- she was wanted on a Canada-wide warrant. She's laying on the couch. I'm here cowering, hiding, trying to say my name's a different name. But I know our police knows our names. And I'm thinking, how come they're not -- they don't want me? So it left me just to spiral into a deeper...

At this time, Matt was getting well, and -- he was getting well. He was visiting our kids every week for -- you know, there was 50 -- over 50 visits where Matt was the connection to our children. For six months I was in jail. For six months I was -- I was just using. I was down to a -- I was about 90 pounds when I got arrested, and I had three pairs of jeans on and I was Size 0. And, it was kind of when they arrested me, I was just like, "Oh, I'm so glad I had racked up 24 charges." I just surrendered right then and there.

But, I still had a hard element to me where I just needed to get rid of it, and you know, I turned to prayer. I did. People could say -- you know, I think that when you mix our cultural component with our faith, it's actually very beautiful, and I love that about our human spirit, is that we can feel what we need to feel and mix two things together and make it beautiful.

And, I'm not ashamed to say, you know, I prayed to God, because at the end of the day when people
say to me, “Oh, I don’t believe in God,” and I say,
“Bullshit. When you’re in a cell, you’re praying to him,
so shut up.” Don’t tell me you’re not praying to him,
because you are, because I did, you know?

And, for me, that’s where I found
myself. It was in a cell. I was, like, I am so tired of
being tugged in every direction. I swear to God I just
was tugged from child welfare, EIA, Justice, probation. I
had everybody under my skin pulling me. I didn’t even
know where I stood. I didn’t even know who I was. I was
so fuelled by shame. I’m supposed to be a mom. My family
looked down on me. “Oh, she’s just standing on the
corner.” “Oh, she’s just doing” -- certain family
members, not all my family. My grandma had 13 kids, 12
kids; eight daughters. I believe eight daughters, or nine
daughters, sorry.

But, my mom -- I have a particular
auntie. If she’s watching this, she knows who she is.
Always checked up on me. Always did, and she has become a
big force, like a big -- you know, she’s the auntie that
had one son, one daughter. My uncle has been at his job
for -- I actually have good, stable family members that
have been employed for 35, 40 years in the same field,
like, whether it be labour work or whatever. But, there’s
a few family members that I do have that are healthy.
But, there’s a real disconnect, you know? Because it’s judge -- they’re the judge. “Well, she stood on the corner”, and they were very embarrassed about it, and it made me more shamed. But, I moved forward anyway.

And, my mom passed away. I got pregnant and I was just praying and praying that my mom would be able to meet my little daughter, Serenity, the little one. She got to meet her, and the one thing is my mom was married November 1st, 2008. That was her final wish, because the cancer had come back. And, that’s why I got released.

I had to sneak a letter into my pad from one institution to the next, which you’re not getting to see nobody, and I had to sneak it to my lawyer to give the judge. I had written a three-page paper that took me almost probably a month to rewrite and write, but I really wanted to highlight if I’m given a second chance, this is what I’m going to do.

And, I got that second chance, and I got bail. I got bail on my own recog., and I couldn’t believe it. I was, like, this woman is letting me walk free today? Like, she’s letting me go? And, I got -- and no surety or nothing. And, I made sure that when I called in my second chance, I was going to make the best of it.
And, you know, today, I’m 13 years sober. I ended up going back to school. I’ll be 13 years sober. This was one of my first visits after I had seen my kids. It was at Wabun I got to see my little Serenity. It was really weird, because we got married, and he went home, and I went home with my baby.

So, we had Revenue Canada up our alley, and we’re having to, like, violate ourselves as human beings. Okay, you really want to know? We have child welfare involvement. He has to live there, I’ve got to live here. Why? You’ve got to explain to them why, and these are people you don’t know.

So, we’re constantly having to revictimize ourselves as people, because we’re technically married, but we have two different households. We have to explain to EIA systems. We have to explain to the government. We have to explain to everybody why we’re in the situation we’re in, but yet, we’re married. It was really odd because, you know, to get married and just him go home, me go home, and “Okay, see you husband.” “See you wife.”

But, you know, we ended up getting married and, you know, it was a beautiful day. Our children were all involved. I just had my baby. I was taking a program that was mentoring women, and I stayed in
that program for 18 months. As soon as I finished that, I became employed with the Native Women’s Transition Centre. I never thought that I would ever live to see to have an actual job, because I was so conditioned to live on welfare, and that’s the colonial systems that are designed to make us think we must just live on welfare.

And, you know, regardless, I feel, you know, I couldn’t handle it. Every worker I met had something up their butt, and I was just, like, “Oh, God, I’m so tired of dealing with you.” That’s why there’s plexiglass here, you know, because the money is not coming from your pocket, it’s coming from up over there. So, get it out of your head.

There was always something political you had to face. So, I made sure that, you know, I worked for a bit. Five years, actually, I was employed, and I resided at Native Women’s for 18 months, and that’s where my baby was born. I was given a chance from Judge Patti-Anne Umpherville. She stepped down from the bench, and her words to me were -- when she sentenced me and gave me my opportunity to be out in the community on such offenses, she said that my case that she read of my Gladue was the most hardest one she’s ever read in her career as a judge.

So, standing there, ready to give
birth two days prior, like, I was ready for a scheduled induction and, “You go and have your baby, but you don’t want to come back before me, because you won’t get another chance.” I was sure that I was not going to come back, and I did not come back.

By then, the Crown had appealed and said I shouldn’t have -- I shouldn’t be out in the community. I should be locked up. And, lo and behold, I went in for -- it went to the three-judge level, I guess, and all of a sudden, it was Judge Murray Sinclair, and I was just staring when I walked in the courtroom. I’m like, huh? Huh? Oh my God. So, I was kind of, like, excited but scared. I was thinking, well, I know he believes in us people. I know he does. So, I’m not going back to jail.

I already had this in my head, you know, because somebody has got to believe in us somewhere, and I know this guy does. And, he denied the primary, secondary and all grounds, that I’m doing what I should be doing in the community. I’m not running around doing other things. And, I worked really hard to get there and I ended up having my baby, being a resident to being employed.

I’m going to be honest. I loved the work. You know, I didn’t even consider it work. It’s a
way of life. We give back as a means of -- that’s our way of life. It is by giving back. And, I don’t let no room for boredom come in my head. I’m constantly going where I overdo it, where I need to actually just sit down and take time.

I went back to school. I took a two-year course on child welfare, a very condensed course. I did a lot of healing. My husband also took the same course after me. He was running a roofing business and he said, “Hmm, I don’t want to be a labourer all my life here. I think I’m going to go back to class.”

So, he ended up coming back, after me, though. And, we -- I guess I’m just going to...

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, we just put up on the screen From Tears to Triumph, and you know, we know that you and Matt got married in 2010. You both went back. You got more education, and I want to kind of bring us to the kind of work you’re doing now and all of the success you’ve had now. I know we have a couple of videos we want to run, and I know that you guys both want to -- you in particular wanted to have an opportunity to talk about one of the mentors that have made a big change in your lives and the work you’re doing now. I understand that one of the big things that just recently happened was that the work you guys do, you actually got a van through
a charitable organization as a result of the good work you’re doing. And so, if you could maybe explain to us some of that good work and how the van came to be, and then we can show the clip of it.

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** There’s a component to therapy. We work with Mitch. We’re both contracted through child welfare agencies and we work with -- he works with the young boys, I work with -- I have my case load. And, we hold some pretty big case loads. And, there’s also an adult component from when they age out. It goes from 18 to 40. It used to be 29, but now it’s 40. And, it’s for men and women.

And, it’s to enhance -- give them life skills, giving back to the community. OPK is an offset, just so that they’re followed after they come out of care or age out, and it’s for men and women. Particularly a lot of men are in it, so my husband takes on that role and that’s the work we do with OPK.

We were just recently asked to -- received the keys to a 2017 Dodge Caravan through United Way -- through MPI. Manitoba Public Insurance gives away a vehicle every year and they chose OPK. And, Matt did a -- I’m probably the only woman -- I follow the men around most of the time, I don’t know why. Well, my husband is, so I, kind of -- I think it’s important to bring woman --
a balance with the woman in the youth, teach them at a young age what’s healthy and what’s not. So, I bring my girls.

And, when they want to look for boys, they say, well, let’s go drive down Selkirk and look at Ndinawe. Oh, let’s see, I said, I’m going to take you to church to go look for boys. Never mind going to Ndinawe. So, I’m always teaching my little girls balance. And, my girls start from 10 to 20. Age 10 is my youngest therapy girl. He has -- his as well. He’s had a lot of success with his. And, that’s the first one. We received a van just on October the 11th, the United Way Kickoff Campaign, and it was awesome.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So, this is the first video.

MS. RACHEL WILLAN: Mitch. He’s like Papa Mitch. Yes.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So, we could play the video ---

MS. RACHEL WILLAN: He took us under his wing and ---

(VIDEO PRESENTATION)

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So, Rachel, I noticed that you were also in the circle, and I think some of your children were in that circle too, eh?
MS. RACHEL WILLAN: Yes.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So, it’s really become, kind of, a family business to support the community, that pathway to give back. And, I think I’ve heard you both say this before in part, it’s part of the healing process, giving to others helps, and it’s part of the healing process. I know that -- I want to give you a chance to talk a bit about the Action Therapy as well, in terms of the work that you guys do. And, one of these important components is you guys -- you said it wasn’t easy in the beginning, things didn’t work well.

MS. RACHEL WILLAN: No.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And, all these circumstances that kept you apart because of the volatility of your relationship, but then you healed and you have been sober together for years, and now you give back to the community, and you volunteer, and you work and you’ve got the education to help people who may be in similar circumstances. What about things like the work you’re doing now with Action Therapy and helping people in Winnipeg?

MS. RACHEL WILLAN: Some of the work -- I know my work is just completely -- I immerse myself in taking care of our women. I’m not -- you know, I love all of our people. Taking care of our woman, adult, youth,
kids, however it is. Some of the things we do in Action Therapy are, we volunteer for Got Bannock, Mama Bear Clan, which is just an offset, it’s a supported women supportive initiative. Feeding our -- doing some Lateral Empathy, which is volunteering, and another part that OPK does too, as well as -- is moving women out of domestic violence situations at the drop of a hat. There’ll be teams of guys that will go move a woman and her basic necessities, and her children, away from harm, and take her somewhere safe. Most often, it’s not a shelter, because we don’t have enough shelters in Winnipeg. And, literally, there is -- the woman has to have somebody special in her life to go to, that’s safe, because we don’t have enough. But, the team, I try not to do the lifting, but they come and they take that woman out and bring her to safety. And, often times, it’s -- they get that call.

A lot of sweat lodge ceremonies we go to. I know I (indiscernible) a lot of them, (indiscernible), and it’s beautiful. Building -- you know, building networking, building relationships with other ones. And, I never forget where I come from. I drag Matt with me to all this sexually exploited youth coalition meetings that I had (indiscernible) away, and I think it’s important to balance out our trans, our women, as well as our men. So, I bring Matt along on a lot of
them.

And, just teaching them land based activities, hunting, fishing, and it’s a therapeutic way. And, basically what we do is we’re -- we’re the in between. When they’re transitioning out of care and having their term -- like, when you hear “social worker”, a lot of them are really -- have become pretty -- they don’t like their social worker, put it that way. So, I’m just, kind of, the bridge in between the worker and the child, and just doing that -- changing their ways and trying to have -- like, even explaining to a 10-year-old why this has happened to her.

And, actually, just last week, I got the worst social history I’ve ever read in my entire life. It actually traumatized me when I read it last week, because I was trying to make sense of how can -- what’s going on and why isn’t this -- something’s not right. Why is there just silence or one liners. I’m not getting, like -- you know, it’s four months now and I should have, kind of, got somewhere. So, I had to figure out why. And, when it was sent to me, I was like, ha, I had to read it twice. ...But now it all makes sense to me of why my beautiful little girl -- you know, I call them my girls. Everybody thinks I have 20 kids. They're my girls, I said. I'm really protective, so don't bother my girls. But yeah. So
that's part of what we do.

And we actually foster two. And I explained to my kids that that's their sisters. When you go to school, those are your sisters, and they're your sisters in the house here. So you must know this. And my kids are pretty understanding. Yeah.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** While Rachel and I -- while Rachel asks -- answers my next question, if we could go through the decks that show the pictures, the next few pictures, but stop at "right where I'm supposed to be", the slide.

But if -- you know, as we're talking about this, Rachel, one of your philosophies is, you know, everything you've gone through and all the hardship and stuff puts you in a place today -- you've mentioned that you're a helper. You explained that you're a helper in sweat lodge and that you're doing lots of spiritual stuff. But can you tell us a little bit about what you mean when you say, "right where I'm supposed to be today"?

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** I had a few jobs. I worked at our exploited safehouse, our shelter, our women's centre that is the only one in Winnipeg that is open for a few hours a day. I was actually employed for 1 year there and I resigned, by my choice, because it's not effective case planning. It's completely upside down,
and I ain't afraid to say that. It is upside down.

We have survivors that have contributed years of their life to this program, and upper management has torn it into pieces. And I'm not ashamed to say that I made a phone call on Monday and I said, "What are you doing?" You know, "Our women will not -- they'll stay silent, they won't say anything. So they're further entrenched into exploitation because of your style of management. This is not proper."

You know -- and when we're doing the work we do, for me, I take it so passionate, because at the end of the day, we need to have these programs. And you know, all the work we do, I don't even consider it work, it's a way of life. I mean, I couldn't be more blessed to have Mitch pull, not only my husband, but pull me up to a level that I'm actually starting to feel less hatred for the child welfare system. Because of him, I can actually sit and talk to a worker without just wanting to strangle anybody. Because you know what? That was a healing experience that he gave me.

I mean, for the many years that -- I've utilized many programs, and one of the biggest programs I utilized was actually Mom Away. I'd go there. Flying on planet Mars, and I'll tell you they're doors were always open to me. I always went there for food, I went there
for help. When I was raising my kids, I went there for diapers, I went there for everything I needed. So for years they've been there.

And given...

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So do you want this one?

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Yeah.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Because we're going to have to cut one too.

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Yeah.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So you were talking about the mentorship and stuff. And I know there is a short videoclip, Number 3, the third video.

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** My sons are in this video, and they were in the last one. So it just shows the ripple effect that we have on our children and our youth and the work that we do. Little eyes are seeing constantly; right?

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So ---

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** That's me.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** There we go.

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** I don't think it's that one. No. That's not the one.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Oh, sorry. You wanted...
MS. RACHEL WILLAN: It's this one.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Oh, I'm sorry.

MS. RACHEL WILLAN: Number 2.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: I'm sorry. My mistake. It was Number 2. I apologize in advance.

(VIDEO PRESENTATION)

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: So this concept of the lateral empathy, it's really kind of taken on a life philosophy for you. It's pretty neat when I -- I think it's a positive spin on sort of what has been hardship and negative outcomes.

There is one last video, and this is the point we'll end on, because -- and I just want to ask though. Anything that's in the slide presentation that the parties have seen, are you okay if they ask you questions about the points raised in the slide presentation?

MS. RACHEL WILLAN: M'hm.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Great. There's a particular video here, it's just publicly available. And I can't remember if it's Vimeo or YouTube, but can you tell us about this video and this song that we're going to play? Because I know that you wanted this to be an ending point for you.

MS. RACHEL WILLAN: I was at a Safety
In-Ch (BIG CANOE)

Canada meeting about a month ago. I think it was a Public Safety Canada meeting, and I met a gentleman there who works in Saskatchewan, and they have a bunch of homes out in Saskatchewan, and they're each categorized from 0 to 6 months, 6 months to 12 months. And he was giving us how they work with their systems out there.

But he explained to me two youth came up to him and they had this idea, but they had no money. So he pushed, you know, made $500, put up a page. And -- I don't have the rights to this, but it's on YouTube.

And I just started crying when I read it. When I seen it, I just had tears, because it depicts who we are as women, we're -- who we really are, but it also shows another component to it, the stigma that lies with women as drug addicts, you know, and all those things that come with it, but it also shows the beauty of her culture, dancing in her jingle dress.

So for me, it really -- it touched my heart that two youth, you know, our youth have gifts, and we sometimes don't recognize that. And it's so important to showcase their gifts. And for me, this touched my heart watching this video.

(VIDEO PRESENTATION)

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So obviously clear at the end the message, but also, you could see her
dancing and them singing in front of an MMIWG monument. And this kind of thing or these type of messages that are going to help reach out to youth and focussing some more of that positive energy or, as you folks call it, that empathy I think will take us a long way. Was there anything else you wanted to add as a last word, Rachel?

**MS RACHEL WILLAN:** I wrote down some recommendations that I have. The one that I don't understand -- I've been speaking at what we call "john school" in Winnipeg -- well, at least I call it "john school". I don't know if there's any fancier name than it could be, but for some time. I haven't spoke recently and this is done through the Salvation Army in Winnipeg. And where they're -- I believe they're -- they pay about $1200 and it's kind of a first-time offenders get to take this school.

And I could never understand why, because they have money, they're allowed to pay, you know, $1200 and walk away with a day program, but yet we've been -- our human rights have been stolen. And apparently it's a human rights issue not to have their names published, whether they're a first-time offender or not. Our laws must change to protect our vulnerable women and girls and our children. I believe that a john school is just a
gateway for them to get a little bit smarter and go
gateway for them to get a little bit smarter and go
through social media and start meeting up. To have them
through social media and start meeting up. To have them
given -- the first time offender given a chance at picking
given -- the first time offender given a chance at picking
up a young girl by seizing their vehicle.
up a young girl by seizing their vehicle.

As survivors we struggle on a hundred
As survivors we struggle on a hundred
dollars a month. Some people struggle. And, you know, I
dollars a month. Some people struggle. And, you know, I
see women all the time. There should be a law where,
see women all the time. There should be a law where,
whether it's your first time, your name's going -- putting
whether it's your first time, your name's going -- putting
out in the paper. People are going to know who you are.
out in the paper. People are going to know who you are.
Because if you're my neighbour, you're my pastor, I want
Because if you're my neighbour, you're my pastor, I want
to know if -- are you picking up our women.
to know if -- are you picking up our women.

There should be no human rights --
There should be no human rights --
apparently I asked and it was a human rights. Well, you
apparently I asked and it was a human rights. Well, you
know what? If they're stealing our human rights at the
know what? If they're stealing our human rights at the
age of 14, 15, 16 and they're out there picking up our
age of 14, 15, 16 and they're out there picking up our
women, I believe that society, Canadians, as a whole, have
women, I believe that society, Canadians, as a whole, have
a right to know who these men are. There should be no --
a right to know who these men are. There should be no --
nothing against human rights. They've fortified [sic] the
nothing against human rights. They've fortified [sic] the
right when they're out picking up women, you know,
right when they're out picking up women, you know,
forfeited the right.
forfeited the right.

At the end of the day, all the -- you know,
At the end of the day, all the -- you know,
you don't learn in one day. It's going to take a lifetime
you don't learn in one day. It's going to take a lifetime
for us survivors to learn how to undo half of the things
for us survivors to learn how to undo half of the things
that happened to us and to accept it and move and heal,
that happened to us and to accept it and move and heal,
move forward.
So a one-day program and $1200 gets them to walk away. But yet I just ordered my criminal record check and I got six prostitution charges that are on my criminal record that are never going to go away. So, if perhaps I decide to move, you know, a job or get another job one day, I think it's fair to say that we need a system that's not going to have that and keep on shaming us as women. That must go.

And another part is ensuring our schools -- that was one of the recommendations that there's no first-time offender program. You offended. That's it. Your name's being published. That there shouldn't be nothing like that.

So my second -- well, another one was ensuring schools have self-care. We have a curriculum now that's mandated to teach our children the cultural component of Indigenous people, but from what I'm understanding, they don't have no self-care program after. So I'm wondering why my child's behaving the way he is, why this is happening, why this is going on. So I phoned the school and I find out that you started the curriculum of Indigenous peoples, showing them the graphic history of our people, but yet sending him home just like that.

And my child's, you know, what I would call not acting his self, not wanting to shower, not wanting to
do this. And then so I said, "Well, did you ever think
that perhaps maybe it's bringing him back to when he was
taken at two years old?" Like, I needed to open up their
eyes. I said, "You guys are not doing any self-care with
our children." "Well, there's guidance counsellors."
Yeah, sitting way at the end of the hallway in their
offices. I said, "Sometimes our Indigenous children don't
have tools to walk over there, because when you walk to
the office that's a bad place to be." We know that.
Those offices are a bad place to be.

But there's other ways to do self-care for
our kids when they're teaching this curriculum to our
students. They -- there's a lot of money, the TRC
dollars, and they need to start pulling out. "Well, how
do we do that?" And I said, "Well, you're a teacher.
Write a proposal. Get it. You know what to do. Don't
ask me to do your work because that's your work to take
care of our children and do it properly and effectively.
Not send them home after they just watched a brutal
massacre of our people on a video."

When women are reporting sexual violence to
police, they're never going to be safe. We're never going
to get to the proper numbers that are actually out there
of women that are actually being trafficked, because we
have a system designed that the perpetrator gets out on a
$10,000 bail or a $20,000 bail. Our law is not designed
to keep our perpetrators behind -- you know, again, it
goes to the human rights again and they have human rights.
So our women don't have nowhere safe to go. And this is
what we're seeing. We're seeing a constant -- they're not
safe.

One of the big ones we need is a 24/7 safe
space. I couldn't even say it enough. And if we call
putting one in each province just a Band-Aid solution by
saying, okay, now you've got your 24/7 safe space. But
you need to look at the capita. How many exploited people
are in that region or that city?

So one might not do it, but two, there's a
capacity at each place. But they need to be -- there
needs to be survivor led component. We need to have
mental health workers there, we need to have -- for the
detoxing. We need an Indigenous-led detox centre that's
there's a cultural component to it. Yeah, and the
criminal records was my last one. That's always been an
ongoing issue about that.

And I just have some other ones that I'm
not sure that were from a lady.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** You can give us one
more.

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** I think they're pretty
much the same. Yeah. We need an exiting plan.

   You know, I could sit here and say that exiting is the most -- hardest thing to ever do, whether it's for survival, sex work, or whether it.... For us, however we put it, we need a woman...

   Nobody's going to exit in a day. And I have never met a worker come up to anybody and say, "Well, you know, you shouldn't go out and work." You know what? If you tell a woman in 30 days every single day you love her, "I love you, you're beautiful, and you know what, you're very gifted, you're strong", and you nurture that woman, you're going to find her brain's going to shift and she's going to walk out of an exit on her very own. When we don't have enough love and we don't have enough people to tell our women that they're valued, we're not going to have no exiting plans.

   It doesn't take anybody -- a rocket scientist to know what it takes to surround a woman with love and have her exit on her own. And you know what? They find themselves. Because I did. I know what it takes. It takes a dedicated team, who you trust and who you feel -- and we're feelers -- to know that they're going to have you. Whether -- I'm always part of the team. I always knew that I can go there at any time. So like I felt around and I was very untrusting.
But we need exiting plans. And -- you know, you don't sit down and do a case plan and say, okay, well you need to get off the speed. It doesn't work like that. It takes time. And engaging in communication, keeping constant case planning, but behind the scenes, you know, just wrapping them with love. Eventually, the women get it, and that's done through day-to-day to day-to-day work.

You know, I've seen transformation of many women, and they're listening right now, and they're watching, and they know who they all are, and they know I love them to death. And we fight like heck, but they still know I love them. So at the end of the day, those are some of the recommendations for that, you know, I -- on human trafficking.

We need space and we need it now. We can't just cover up, the Band-Aid solution, and give us a little place. I mean, we've showed you the model that I feel is really good and inclusive to all women, not just Indigenous women. Women all around the country matter, and it's about time that Canadians wake up and say, you know, let's start putting the money....

People are worried about Portage and Main. I said, oh, who gives a shit about Portage and Main, build us a damn shelter. You know. Who cares about that?
That's been like that for years. Oh, just happen to go underground and walk still. It's not going to make it any better. Give us what we need, because at the end of the day our lives matter. And it's so important for people to say.

You know, like how long are we going to wait for a safe space? You know the one we have is open three hours or four hours a day? I said, you know what this is? This is just a place to come and lay your skinny bag of bones, that's all it is. There is no effective work being done because there's not enough workers because everybody's running off.

We need a huge facility that can accommodate our people and our women. And you know what? I can guarantee it's not only going to be Indigenous women using that. Because if we show the diversity that we have in Winnipeg, it's not only Indigenous women dealing with violence, it's all types of women. They just don't know how to go about it because there's no 24-hour facilities to say, hey, my husband's really drunk right now, and you know, I just need to get to safety for a few hours. Those women will utilize that, you can guarantee it.

Thank you.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you so much, Rachel.
This, obviously, concludes the examination in-chief. I know that people have been very patient waiting for lunch and are probably quite anxious to get to lunch. I am going to ask for a shorter lunch, if you are willing to grant it, so we have time this afternoon for cross-examination and your questions. So if we can be back right at 2:00.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Two o'clock please.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you.

--- Upon recessing at 1:22 p.m.

--- Upon resuming at 2:12 p.m.

PANEL 4, Resumed:

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Good afternoon, Chief Commissioner, Commissioners. So the next part of the process we're about to go into is the cross-examination.

And just as a friendly reminder, and also to remind even the witnesses on the stand so they understand why the lawyers that led them may not be answering their questions, is at this part, now that the examination in-chief is done, we can't talk to the witnesses about their direct evidence. We can talk to you. Would you like water? Would you like this? We just -- we can't talk to you about your evidence, so the
evidence you've already given, until the parties with
standing have had an opportunity to ask you questions.

I'd also just like to put in another
reminder for the gentleness and kindness and respectful
questions which I know all of the parties have been very
kind to continue doing. I have a short list, and we will
have the larger list distributed in hard copy momentarily,
but so that we can proceed.

At this point, I would like to invite, MKO.

Ms. Jessica Barlow will have seven-and-a-half minutes.

--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. JESSICA BARLOW:

MS. JESSICA BARLOW: Good afternoon. I'd
like to begin by acknowledging the spirits of our sisters,
families and survivors, Elders and grandmothers, and
sacred items in the room, and the Commissioners, and the
Inquiry staff. Thank you.

The witnesses. Thank you so much for being
here and sharing with us today. Rachel, thank you for
sharing your journey with us, and Matt as well. Thank
you.

I want to express gratitude for the lands
that we're on and to the Beothuk, Mi'kmaw, Innu and Inuit
peoples of these lands for welcoming us here.

My name is Jessica Barlow, and I am
privileged to legal counsel on behalf of MKO. And I would
also like to thank AFN in Nunatukavut for providing us
their time today.

All of my questions today will be for you, Chief Smyth. And in the interests of time, I might jump around a little bit. So apologize in advance.

But as you know, my client represents numerous sovereign First Nations in Northern Manitoba. And it's been consistently identified throughout this Inquiry, and also, it's a well-known fact that there are specific realities in the North that lead a lot of people to come to Winnipeg. You've identified some of those factors today, but some of those include things like access to healthcare, dental, education, employment, people are also evacuated for natural disasters and they come to Winnipeg. Would you agree with that?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. JESSICA BARLOW: Thank you. And so my clients outlined for me that in the beginning of this Inquiry process that there's a very large importance on urban transitioning, and also, violence and exploitation prevention. And so that's very important to them, and I'd like to speak more about that today with you.

MR. DANNY SMYTH: Okay.

MS. JESSICA BARLOW: And you kind of visited that in your early testimony.
And so are you aware that there are some Indigenous women and girls that are coming to Winnipeg that have maybe never been to an urban centre before?

**MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

**MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** And so they may not have ever seen a crosswalk or a skyscraper?

**MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Yeah, I'm sure it's very overwhelming at first.

**MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Thank you. And so this might be a particular vulnerability for them?

**MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

**MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** And so you’ve also identified in your testimony, and you’ve acknowledged that women, and Indigenous women and girls particularly, can be vulnerable, and I’d like for you to identify specifically in your experience what types of vulnerabilities you see in -- either in Winnipeg or coming to Winnipeg, please.

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Well, certainly -- I used the one example this morning about the young woman that we encountered who was struggling with the rent, so I won’t reiterate that. Another one that I encounter, and we see it a fair bit, is social media. So, many of the youth up north, they have access to all the same apps and all the same platforms that we do in the urban centres,
they’re connecting with one another through social media, and my observation is sometimes when they come down to places like Winnipeg, they’re more trusting than perhaps they ought to be, and at times, it puts them in a vulnerable position. We certainly experience that with the file regarding Christine Wood.

**MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Okay. Thank you. And so, what is the Winnipeg Police Service doing to protect these women and girls knowing this?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Well, certainly, it’s all about awareness, particularly on the example I just used with social media. So, in part, we can message that, but that’s something that we need to message with the community, so that the communities themselves can safeguard and warn their children before they come down. I had a long talk with George and Melinda Wood when I went up there, and George talked about that, you know, recognizing the vulnerability of many of the youth coming down.

**MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Thank you. So, you spoke about the resource guide for the outreach network, and in your PowerPoint, it contains a map with contact information for different support organizations in Winnipeg; is that correct?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes. Just to --
that was put together by the network itself, not by the police.

**MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Thank you. And, are you aware, in your experience, if this resource guide is widely distributed in northern First Nations communities in Manitoba?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** No, I’m not sure.

**MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Okay. Thank you. And, would you agree with me that even if these women, let’s say they haven’t been to the city often or ever, if they’re receiving this map or this information and with nothing else, that this -- while it is a great step, and I do recognize that, that it may not be the most understandable way or the most navigable way to access programs and services or know how to stay safe when coming to Winnipeg?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I would agree with that. In fact, I would think the transition centres themselves, I referenced Eagle Urban this morning, to me, that’s the gateway to learn more about a centre like Winnipeg.

**MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Wonderful. Thank you. And so, you spoke about different outreach presentations, Staff Sergeant Ramkissoon you spoke about that as well, and I’m just wondering if there is
presentations done in northern First Nations communities and in those schools -- in the schools in the north, does the Winnipeg Police do those?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** We typically don't travel much outside of our jurisdiction. Our jurisdiction is Winnipeg. So, it would be rare for us to be doing presentations systematically in the north.

**MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Do you think that might be helpful, if the Winnipeg Police would travel to the northern communities knowing that they come to Winnipeg often? Do you think it might be something that would be helpful?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I think the message would be helpful. I’m not sure that it needs to necessarily be delivered by the police, but I think it would be a helpful message.

**MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Wonderful. Thank you. And so, you made a recommendation earlier that there be long-term and sustained funding for urban transition centres in Winnipeg; is that correct?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That’s correct.

**MS. JESSICA BARLOW:** Would you extend that recommendation to include providing long-term and sustained funding for centres in First Nations communities in the north, to provide programs and services on urban
transition, education on risks and prevention, job training and skill development, supports in organizations for navigating urban centres before people come to Winnipeg?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Certainly sounds reasonable. I don’t have a lot of experience up north.

MS. JESSICA BARLOW: Is that something that you would recommend though, in knowing all of the things that we just talked about, is that something to prepare people to come to Winnipeg?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: It certainly sounds reasonable, yes.

MS. JESSICA BARLOW: Wonderful. Thank you. I don’t have much time left, and so I think I’m going to leave that there for today. But, I thank you all so very much for coming and I thank you for the work that you’re doing.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you, Ms. Barlow. Next, we would like to invite up Families For Justice. Ms. Suzan Fraser will have six minutes.

--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. SUZAN FRASER:

MS. SUZAN FRASER: Commissioners, grandmothers, elders, Inquiry staff, witnesses, family members of the public who are here, I am grateful to be here in the traditional territory of the Mi’kmaw, the
ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, and also recognize the Inuit and the Innu as the original people of Labrador.

I also, in the spirit of my conversation with Ms. Gabriel, acknowledge today on the last day that we’re here for evidence, that I wouldn’t be here today without the assistance provided to my family over in the 1700s with the assistance of the Haudenosaunee people, which led me to be here today and the privilege that my family members enjoy.

Witnesses, I represent a group of 20 families. So, within the families, there’s many people. And, I’m here on behalf of those families, I’m grateful to be here on their behalf to ask you some questions.

Rachel, you will know of Alaya McIvor who is a member of our group, and she gave evidence almost a year ago, Commissioners, on her experience as a survivor. And, you can agree that, if you remember, she made many of the same recommendations that you have made here today. Do you remember Ms. McIvor making some recommendations?

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Yes.

**MS. SUZAN FRASER:** Right? And, those recommendations, one of those included that the justice system understand the trauma inflicted on those exploited by the justice system and who were re-victimized by the justice system. And, would you agree that continues to be
a really important point of our focus?

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Yes.

**MS. SUZAN FRASER:** Right. And, I take it you would agree as well, Diane, if I can call you Diane, that the justice system really needs to understand the exploitation and the trauma suffered by those who are exploited sexually?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Absolutely. And, in fact, it’s vital that the justice system has more of an awareness and understanding of what happens to the brain when trauma happens, and the long-term impact that that has to that particular individual.

**MS. SUZAN FRASER:** Right. And, I think when Alaya gave her evidence last year, she talked about the services that would help survivors identify their gifts would be of great value to them, and that’s part of what you have been talking about today, Diane?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes, absolutely.

**MS. SUZAN FRASER:** Okay. And, I think -- I’m happy to see you endorse so many of the things that she talked about. And, Commissioners, in my final submissions, I’ll draw you some connections to those. But, Chief Smyth, it’s not a surprise at this point in our history that women are coming to cities from First Nations communities in the north across Canada, is that fair?
CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes, there’s -- it’s been pointed out a lot of different reasons why people are coming.

MS. SUZAN FRASER: Right. And, everybody working in policing and everybody working in civic government knows that Indigenous people will and may leave their home communities for various reasons to come to the cities?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That’s true. They just may not realize how much of a struggle that can be at times.

MS. SUZAN FRASER: Right. But, if we look at all of the studies and all of the roundtables and everything, it’s not really a mystery to us what people need to be safe in a city, is it?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I guess it depends on your perspective.

MS. SUZAN FRASER: Okay.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I live in a city. It may be different for somebody from a remote community.

MS. SUZAN FRASER: Right. So -- but having worked with people and having established the partnerships that you have made, it’s now pretty clear that housing, access to services, access to wraparound services are all things that a city can build in order to
make -- to choose to make their place -- their city a safe place?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That’s a fair statement, yes.

MS. SUZAN FRASER: Right? And, similarly, cities can choose to not provide a cushion for people who are coming and transitioning from remote communities, and leave people in peril; right?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. SUZAN FRASER: And, Diane, you would agree that, every day, cities are choosing across Canada, whether their cities are going to provide a safe landing spot for people who are transitioning from the north or from remote -- environments that are remote to the cities? Every day, cities are choosing whether they’re going to be safe places, would you agree?

MS. DIANE REDSKY: Absolutely.

MS. SUZAN FRASER: All right. And, would you also agree with me that we have known for a very long time, the kinds and types of services that we need to provide to keep women safe.

MS. DIANE REDSKY: Absolutely. We have known that our -- for generations.

MS. SUSAN FRAZER: Okay. And I’m going to just ask you this because the -- the survivor led
component, and having survivors at the table, has been key to your success. I think, Chief Smyth, you’ve said that, Diane, you’ve said that -- you’re both noting. And what I want to ask you, Dianne, is am I right that those survivors need to be supported in meaningful ways to participate at those tables?

MS. DIANE REDSKY: Absolutely.

MS. SUSAN FRAZER: Right. Because sometimes they are there at those tables with people who are well paid and well housed, and they come for honorariums.

MS. DIANE REDSKY: You -- we -- you have to be very, very careful and respectful that they are not being re-exploited again for their stories, for their input. Because that -- I’ve seen that happen often throughout Canada, that it becomes a tokenism type of engagement, whereas it needs to be absolutely meaningful. And in fact, the more survivor led, the stronger the initiative will be.

MS. SUSAN FRAZER: Thank you very much. Thank you, Commissioners. I’ll have to leave early so, a la prochaine.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you. Next, We’d like to invite up the Institute for the advancement of Aboriginal Women. Ms. Lisa Webber will have three and
a half minutes.

---CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. LISA WEBER:

MS. LISA WEBER: Thank you very much.

Good afternoon Commissioners. Good afternoon panelists. And I echo the acknowledgements of my friends before me. Thank you. For the sake of timing I’ll be very brief.

My questions first to Ms. Redsky, thank you for your presentation. You referenced Bill C-36, Ms. Redsky, which is federal legislation. The Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act.

For the sake of time, I’ll ask you quickly, first, are you aware if provincial governments are concurrently developing legislation within their areas of jurisdiction to parallel or compliment that bill? And related to that, would you support a recommendation by this Commission that provincial governments to in fact undertake to develop that legislation and reflect in their policies?

MS. DIANE REDSKY: So first of all, I’m -- I am not aware of provincial governments doing a version of -- if I understand you correctly, a version of Bill C-36. And I certainly would support strongly that there be as much jurisdictional authority to give the tools that authorities need in order to maximize on supporting women
and criminalizing the demand.

**MS. LISA WEBER:** Thank you.

Thirdly, related to that, would you support a recommendation by this commission that that work by the provinces must involve meaningful consultation with the Indigenous led organizations whose mandate is to include working with Indigenous women and girls?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes. In fact, it shouldn’t happen unless we’re at the table in a meaningful way.

**MS. LISA WEBER:** Thank you.

A question for Ms. Willan. Thank you so much for your presentation today. Your story was very impactful. One point in particular that I would like to ask you a question about, because it really -- I can tell you in our province it is an issue as well. You talked about curriculum in the schools. And I wondered then, if you would support a recommendation by this Commission that the development of Indigenous history curriculum in schools must be meaningfully guided by the Indigenous Nations whose traditional territory those schools operate in?

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Yes. It must be led in a way by our people. And you know, in a way where our children are not traumatized, revictimized. We have a lot
of children in care that are going through schools and I
know my children I have at home, where I only observe the
behaviours that I was able to think -- to know if
something was going on.

But it was not -- and the school had no
after care plan for children. And I recognize that, but
it’s been shown to 1,300 children in one school and that’s
-- how many children are in our -- where my children go?
So at the end of the day, I think it must be -- it must
change their -- the way they’re teaching it, but not stop
teaching it, because it’s Canadian history, you know?

MS. LISA WEBER: Thank you.

MS. RACHEL WILLAN: Thank you.

MS. LISA WEBER: I agree. Thank you very
much.

Chief Smyth, you talked about in reference
-- I think in one of your slides, the fact that vehicles
are seized when there are charges laid. And I’m just
wondering -- I’m assuming therefore, that eventually some
of those vehicles make their way to auction.

And I’m wondering, if that is in fact the
case, would you support a recommendation that such funds
perhaps be earmarked specifically to go towards programs
that support women and children who have been victimized
by trafficking?
CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I’ll certainly -- I’ll answer that in reverse. I support funding that would go to help programming. I should clarify, with the vehicles seized, they are impounded for a period of time and then they are released to the owner.

MS. LISA WEBER: Thank you.

I see my -- I am out of time. Thank you, Chief Commissioner and Commissioners.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you. Next, we would like to invite up the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples. Ms. Lombard will have three and a half minutes in cross-examination.

---CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. ALISA LOMBARD:

MS. ALISA LOMBARD: Good afternoon. I echo the sentiments of my colleagues in their acknowledgement of the land and the spirits here today. My sincerest apologies for any abruptness, but given time restrictions, I’ll just jump right into it.

Ms. Willan, thank you for reminding us of the importance of little eyes. I think that really conveys a way of life and it’s important to keep that in mind all of our work. And I don’t just say that because I’m heavily pregnant.

My questions are directed to Chief Smyth and Officer Ramkissoon. Yesterday we heard from Lanna
Moon Perrin, who said that she didn’t know of anyone who’d been charged, prosecuted, and convicted for criminal offenses committed against sex workers. Ms. Willan told us today about how every single conviction on her criminal record involves fighting perpetrators.

You’re both familiar with the Criminal Code of Canada and its provisions relating to murder, assault, sexual assault, and aggravated assault; correct?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Yes.

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

**MS. ALISA LOMBARD:** Thank you.

Would you agree that the following -- that following a report made to police, the police’s job includes; one, the gathering of evidence and the conduct of a meaningful investigation; consideration to the swearing of an information; passing the file to the Crown for it to determine whether it will exercise its discretion to prosecute; and importantly to keep the survivor or family apprised throughout of both developments and decisions. Is that about right?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That’s a general framework, yes.

**MS. ALISA LOMBARD:** Excellent, thank you.

Would you agree that discretion, or judgement calls, on behalf of police and the Crown, play a
significant role in how the process just described unfolds, and if it unfolds at all in practice?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. ALISA LOMBARD: Would you agree that the existence, perceived or real, of trafficking, exploitation, or sex work, does not displace the need for police and the Crown to consider other provisions of the criminal code previously mentioned in the investigation and prosecution process?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I’m not sure I heard a question in there. So I’m -- could you reframe that?

MS. ALISA LOMBARD: So if there’s any perception of activity in trafficking or sex work, that doesn’t necessarily, or does not, displace the obligation of police and the Crown to consider the existence of other crimes, such as sexual assault, aggravated assault, et cetera.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I would agree.

MS. ALISA LOMBARD: Thank you.

A recurring theme that we’ve heard is that Indigenous women don’t think that anyone will believe them. Does your force take these beliefs into account in assessing the credibility of a survivor?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. ALISA LOMBARD: Thank you.
Ms. Willan spoke about the challenges associated with having a criminal record. Do you support the expungement of a criminal record for prostitution related convictions, since the criminal code provisions attaching to those offences have since been repealed by Bill C-36?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I do. I think it should be considered.

MS. ALISA LOMBARD: Thank you so much.

Since I have a few moments left, I thought I would ask Ms. Willan a very quick question. As a strong, resilient, Indigenous woman, you mentioned that Indian Status stops with you. And so, I was wondering what type of bearing does Indian Status have on your life, if any?

MS. RACHEL WILLAN: Other than the free medication? I have always identified as Metis, my entire life. My lands, you know, I’ve grown up knowing that I was Metis, but I never really knew the meaning of it up until I -- you know, my identity was kind of lost or shook along the way. But it was rooted at a young age, but taken away for some time.

But I -- for me, I just -- regardless of who we are and who I identify with, I just have so much love for our people, regardless of where they come from,
or who they are, that it's hard to -- you can't categorise people. And for me I'm Indigenous. You know, I'm Métis and I'm very proud to be and I've always been, regardless of the ugliness and the racism that we endured for many different systems. I'm not going to let them to steal my pride away ever.

MS. ALYSA LOMBARD: Thank you.

MS. RACHEL WILLAN: Thank you.

MS. ALYSA LOMBARD: Thank you, everybody.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you.

Next we would like to invite up the Regina Treaty Status Indian Services Incorporated. Ms. Erica Beaudin will have three and a half minutes for cross-examination.

--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. ERICA BEAUDIN:

MS. ERICA BEAUDIN: Good afternoon. A final wela’lin to the Elders, drummers and singers for their prayers, songs and Nakurmiik for the lighting of the qulliq. Once again I acknowledge and thank the Elders for the welcome and -- to the unceded territories of the Mi’kmaw and Beothuk, as well as the Inuit, Innu people who call this home.

My name is Erica Beaudin and I hold the position of Executive Director of the Regina Treaty Status Indian Services out of Treaty 4 territory in what is now
Saskatchewan.

Well, here we are. What a journey. Thank you to the Elders, knowledge-keepers, grandmothers, NFAC, Commissioners, staff, witnesses, the rest of the parties with standing, and most importantly, the families who have supported and trusted all of us with your greatest loss. And hopefully, in the months and years to come, the governments and all other systems will honour your truths as well as your solutions and we can collectively say that we all worked together so that no more families ever have to go through the incredible pain you've gone through. Your survival, as well as your "thrival", as past witness Jeffrey McNeil called it, compels me to continue on with this hard but hard work.

Meegwetch to all the panellists this morning. Working in Regina I have so many questions for Diane and Chief Smyth, but we just don't have the time. So the only question I'm going to ask is to Rachel Willan. Rachel, your story is one of courage, resiliency, love and hope. I hope that -- I hope you feel comfort in knowing the difference you needed in your life but didn't receive is now being given to others as you walk with so many. You have given us so many concrete examples of the journey towards reclaiming the spirit and person that was meant to be. Indeed, when you state that
exiting takes -- exiting the life is the hardest thing to do, you demonstrate the many years that path takes, but that we should never give up on anyone. No sister left behind.

As mothers we always want for our children to live a life better than ours. Sometimes due to our own pain we haven't been able to give them that. That doesn't stop our hopes and dreams for them.

Right now, if you could save a magic wand to create that wonderful world that an unborn grandchild would be born into, what would that look like? In other words, what does that ideal life look like for our beautiful brown babies in the future? I believe the answer you give will be a guiding north star that may assist the Commissioners as they put their final report together.

So I ask you, what's more powerful than a mother's or grandmother's greatest hopes and dreams for the ones they love?

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** I'm emotional. For me, I'm not a grandma yet, but I know that I'm -- it's coming upon me. And I've come to love and, you know, there's not enough love around. And I know that. I wasn't given it so I show it so freely and I wear it on my sleeve and I have so many girls, you know, my girls. And I continue to
say "my girls" because they are our girls.

And we must, as a Canadian society, take care of our girls and nurture them, you know. They don't have to be our -- we haven't -- like haven't birthed them, but at the same time, it's our job as Canadian citizens to ensure that our girls are safe and nurtured and loved and, you know, are able to just grow up and given the opportunities that we all deserve.

**MS. ERICA BEAUDIN:** Thank you. In leaving I send to you and surround you and all the women here and listening in love.

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Thank you.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.

Thank you, Ms. Beaudin.

Next we would like to invite up the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. Allison Fenske [sic]. And I'm sorry, I'm getting that last name wrong.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** It's okay. It's Fenske.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you. Allison Fenske will have eight and a half minutes.

--- **CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. ALLISON FENSKE:**

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Thank you. I would like to begin by acknowledging the land that we are on and the people that are hosting us. And in doing so, I wish
to recognise the Beothuk, the Mi’kmaw, the Innu and the Innuit.

I want to give thanks for the opening prayers this morning and acknowledge the sacred items that are here. I want to also acknowledge the Elders, grandmothers, survivors and families and their strength and resilience.

On behalf of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Rachel, thank you so much for sharing your story and for your strength, your courage and your resilience. Thank you also, Matt, for being here to support Rachel and for the work that you are doing together.

I'd also like to thank the number of parties that gave the AMC their time.

My questions today are directed to the Winnipeg Police Service. And I'd like to focus on the relationship between missing person incidents and the Child Welfare system.

Today you identified, through your PowerPoint, a significant overlap between missing person incidents in Winnipeg and children missing from the CFS facilities; correct?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. ALLISON FENSKE: We know from your summary of the Indigenous women safety and protection
reports that are at Exhibit 69 -- and thank you for providing that summary -- regardless of the number of the total missing person incidents or the unique individuals, an average of 85 per cent originate from a CFS facility; correct?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That's correct.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** And that's something that's consistent in terms of since the time that the Winnipeg Police Service began reporting these statistics.

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yeah.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** It's remained. So and the lowest was 82.6 per cent in the second quarter of 2015, the highest was 89 per cent in the third quarter of 2017; correct?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** I understand there's also a high proportion of repeat and chronic missing person incidents within the city?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yeah, it's not unusual for people that are staying in group homes, they get reported and missing multiple times, sometimes in the same week.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** And so if I understand correctly from your statistical analysis, repeated and chronic is five plus incidents -- missing person
incidents?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH**: Three I think is what we use as a criteria.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE**: And is that three within the same quarter or what's the -- is there a time period ascribed to the number of reports before someone is repeat and chronic?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH**: I'm going to turn that one to Darryl because he's more in the day-to-day.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE**: Thanks.

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON**: It's usually within the same month actually.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE**: Okay. And when you started reporting these repeat and chronic incidents, they're -- around 60 per cent of incidents are involving repeat and chronic. Is that about correct?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON**: That's correct.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE**: And sometimes, for example, in the first two quarters of 2017 that reached as high as 93 per cent of all missing person incidents in those 2 quarters?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON**: That's correct.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE**: Would it be fair to
say then that there is also a significant overlap between incidents originating in CFS facilities and those individuals who would be considered by the police to be repeat and chronic missing persons?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Correct.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Are you aware of a particular proportion around that?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** A proportion or ---

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** A proportion of the repeat and chronic missing persons, how many of them would be missing from CFS facilities? No, it's ---

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** I would ---

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Sorry.

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** Well, like, the chronic and more repeated ones are out of the total we have per month we would say about 80.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Right. And so it's --- sorry, 80 per cent?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** No, sorry, 80 individuals.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Okay. And of those individuals, are you aware of or do you track how many of those are coming from a CFS facility?
STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON: I don't have those numbers ---

MS. ALLISON FENSKE: Okay.

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON: --- at this time.

MS. ALLISON FENSKE: Thank you. Based on both of your experience and your understanding of WPS interactions with youth in care who are reported missing, why are they going missing? What are these kids telling you or telling your officers?

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON: I can speak.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Go ahead.

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON: It's varied. At first I used to think it was gang affiliations, drugs, but we've talked to some of the individuals and it's sometimes just boredom. Sometimes they want to go back to their families. Sometimes it's conflicts within the group homes. It could be something as simple as that. We've actually had runaways tell us they want to go to a different group home where they have structure, where they're not bored. And we've worked with the agencies to try and accommodate that. Unfortunately it takes time.

MS. ALLISON FENSKE: Thank you for that
answer.

I also understand that there's been a recent reduction in the number of missing youth, and that in your more substantive quarterly reports that are publicly available, you’ve attributed that to partnering directly with CFS agencies in implementing a reporting a missing child in care form for -- specifically for foster and group homes. I’m wondering about this form and what about this form would account for that decrease?

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:

Going back to -- we decided to come up with a questionnaire form, because we can’t just sit back and criticize these agencies and not try to educate them and train them, what they need to do. So, the form was actually to -- for the group homes, so the workers, to start answering these questions such as, have you checked their social media? Have you gone to look at the previous addresses? Little things like that, before they actually call the police, because what they were doing is they would automatically phone the police thinking that relieves them of any liability.

So, now the form kind of step-by-step -- 10 to 15 steps that they have to go through before they actually call the police. And, it’s actually working. Sometimes they can phone the last previous number that
they were found at and find the child is there and have
them come back.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Thank you. So,
that would be to basically so that you know that when
you’re getting a call about a missing person, this is
someone that is believed to be missing and not simply
someone that the group home or foster home has lost track
of? There’s a difference between the two; is that fair to
say?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**
Yes. Or, somebody or someone who just doesn’t want to be
found at the time, at least, because our officers can
spend their whole shift, sometimes 10 hours, looking for
these children, which is not a bad thing if we know
they’re not checking the same addresses that they don’t
have to.

So, if the group homes can kind of do
that before they actually call the police, it would save a
lot of time.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** And so, when the
police do encounter a child who has been reporting missing
from a CFS facility, or who has been identified by police
as a chronic or repeat missing person, using your
language, what action is taken? Are there any specific
protocols that the police employ when dealing with these
specific children at risk?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** We will talk to the social worker and try to put together some safety plan. So, now it’s up to the social worker to actually sit down with that child, find out the reasons why they’re going missing, and try and come up with a suitable plan, whether it be to change the group home, care, whatever the reason is. But, we need to have a safety plan in place before.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** And, is this a practice or is this articulated in a written policy for the force?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** It’s currently a practice that we are currently doing with the group homes and CFS.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Okay. And, in your PowerPoint, you referred to youth who are designated as high risk. What criteria does the WPS use to assign that label to a child?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** I don’t have every step in front of me right now, but it’s how many times they run away, if there’s a history of exploitation, addictions, those factors come in play before we designate them.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** And, that
designation can sometimes be communicated to the public in
terms of missing person alerts; correct?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**
That’s correct.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** And, would you agree that it’s possible that being designated as a high-risk individual could cause some stigma to be -- within that label on that child?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**
That is possible.

**MS. ALLISON FENSKE:** Okay. I see that I’m out of town. And so, I appreciate the answers. Thank you.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.

J’invite Femme d’autochotones du Quebec. Maître Miller will have 3.5 minutes for her cross-examination.

--- **CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. RAINBOW MILLER:**

**MS. RAINBOW MILLER:** Good day, Commissioners. Good day, witnesses. My name is Rainbow, and I am legal counsel for Femme d’autochotones du Quebec, Quebec Native Women’s Association, and I just wanted to say -- I want to acknowledge that we are on Mi’kmaw territory today.

Ms. Redsky, you’re such an example and I’m so honoured to be asking you questions today. You are
a pioneer in the question of sexual exploitation. And, also, Rachel and Matt, thank you so much for your testimony. Rachel, I was so touched by your strength and your beauty today, and how resilient you are.

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Thank you.

**MS. RAINBOW MILLER:** You’re such an example for all of us. My first questions will be for Ms. Redsky.

You talked about the safe houses and also the long-term housing that you have in your programs. Could you tell us how it is instrumental in rebuilding girls and women’s lives?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** And, I’m really glad that you asked that question because as an Indigenous organization providing, and developing, and offering the services to sexually exploited and trafficked girls, it is really important that they are coming into a resource that welcomes them, that is not -- that is kind, that is caring, that honours who they are, honours where they’re at.

And, we surround them in a safe place that is rooted in culture, and is rooted in language, and is rooted in our Indigenous values and our knowledge on how we care for one another. And, that has had huge impact and success in girls who have been extremely
vulnerable, 40 to 60 placements, and these are the places where they’re not running from.

**MS. RAINBOW MILLER:** And, in those programs, do you have, like, counselling, or do you help these girls go back to school or finish their high school? Are these some of the programs that you offer?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes. Absolutely. So, the first thing is safety, and we do everything through relationship-building, and that is really critical in their care.

The other really important thing is that we’re so far from mainstream type of services where even -- and I talked about language. We don’t call it case management; we call it care planning. And, the whole goal of her care planning is to support her in regaining her power, because sexual exploitation and sex trafficking is about losing power and not having power, or power being taken away.

So, all of the work that we do through the mandatory and the optional programs, and through the way we do things and how we care for one another, is all about reclaiming and creating opportunities for her to reclaim her own power.

**MS. RAINBOW MILLER:** Okay. And, my last question, because I don’t have no more time, it was
set out in the evidence throughout the week that sex trafficking is very lucrative. Do you believe that organized crime is involved in the traffic of women and girls?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Absolutely.

**MS. RAINBOW MILLER:** And, is it something that -- because when I look in the documents, it talks about gangs. It doesn’t talk about organized crime, which is different, you know. It’s not a gang that has three or four girls. It could be, like, 20, 50 girls.

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yes. Sex trafficking is -- the people that are the traffickers are also very broad. And so, you can go from organized crime, like, that is very, very organized, right through the spectrum of a couple of guys live in Winnipeg, have a cousin in Calgary, and maybe a friend in Edmonton, and they are buying and selling girls amongst themselves. Or, it could be a localized small gang, or an individual, or an old man who is doing the sexual exploitation. So, anywhere along that continuum are who the criminals are that are trafficking our kids.

**MS. RAINBOW MILLER:** Thank you so much. I had so many more questions, but my time is up.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.

Next, we would like to invite up the Treaty Alliance of
Northern Ontario, the Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Grand Council Treaty 3. Ms. Krystyn Ordyniec has 3.5 -- oh, I’m so sorry. I missed one. Thank you. I apologize, Ms. Lomax. I skipped a line, obviously. The Native Women’s Association of Canada, Ms. Virginia Lomax has 3.5 minutes.

--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. VIRGINIA LOMAX:

  MS. VIRGINIA LOMAX: Thank you. First, I want to acknowledge the spirits of our stolen sisters who are with us here in the room today, and I thank the people of the territories who have welcomed us to their territories today, but I don’t have very much time. And so, I want to give all of my time to you today, Ms. Redsky.

  You spoke to us today about how you created safe spaces for Indigenous trans and two-spirited youth, and I was hoping that you could speak to us about how you created those space spaces? And, if you could share best practises for anybody else who is trying to create those safe spaces?

  MS. DIANE REDSKY: Well -- and thank you. That’s a really good question, because all too often that doesn’t happen, and that creates a very unique vulnerability, and even more vulnerability for transgender and two-spirited youth.
And so, all of the work that we’ve ever done at the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, particularly with the safe house and with our rural healing lodge, is the women themselves will tell us what it is that needs to be within programming. So when we developed every one of our resources, it has been done in consultation with the people who will benefit from that service.

And so when we developed both the safehouse and Hands of Mother Earth, we had a experiential, a survivor group, and within that survivor group, we always make sure that there are transgender, two-spirited women that are involved in the decision-making and planning what the resource is going to look like and what needs to be in there. And that is a critical and vital step in any kind of program development, any kind of resource development that is going to be done, particularly when it comes to trauma inform services.

**MS. VIRGINIA LOMAX:** And since I have a little bit more time, I’d love to ask you, we sometimes hear about tokenizing trans people and two-spirit people. And I was hoping you might be able to comment on the difference between tokenizing and create — and making space?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Well, yeah, and tokenizing is you get invited to a meeting, you get your
money, and you leave. And there's really, you've asked
the question, you maybe didn't write anything down, or you
wrote something down and you didn't really mean it. And
that actually does happen more often than when trans and
two-spirited are being meaningfully involved into the
development of any resources.

And so it is really critical that we are
having them sit at the table in a meaningful way, working
in the safehouse, like working within the resource, of
being compensated properly for their voice and for -- and
that they're being cared for in a trauma inform way. All
of those things are really important and we have to value
and respect what they bring because they are the ones that
are the experts.

**MS. VIRGINIA LOMAX:** Certainly. And
yesterday, we had a witness testify that it would be a
good idea to have research done on Indigenous sexuality
prior to colonialism and contact. Would you agree that
that is a very important next step in addressing an
epidemic of violence?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Yeah. I -- like I know
very little about myself, pre-contact, and so that would
be a learning for me too.

**MS. VIRGINIA LOMAX:** Thank you very much.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.
Now, we would like to invite up the Treaty Alliance Northern Ontario, Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Grand Council Treaty 3. Ms. Krystyn Ordyniec will have three-and-a-half minutes.

--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. KRYSTYN ORDYNIEC:

**MS. KRYSTYN ORDYNIEC:** Good afternoon, Chief Commissioner, Commissioners. I would echo the sentiments of my colleagues and thank you very much for the warm welcome onto the territory today.

I don't have a lot of time, but I am honoured to be here on behalf of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, as well as Grand Council Treaty 3, who are here together as the Northern Treaty Alliance.

So I thank you, Diane, so much. I know you've done a lot of important work, and our clients say thank you so much. As well, Rachel, thank you for your story and your bravery.

Chief Smyth, thank you for your humility and your humanity. As you are no doubt aware, there is -- the Thunder Bay Police Service is the subject of an OCPC investigation, the Board, as well as an OIPRD investigation into the actual service.

And my question for you is before those reports come out, before looking at recommendations, your opinion on what municipal police services can do to begin
to address historical systemic issues that are so prevalent?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: Well, I think the first thing you need to do is establish a relationship with those that were harmed and those that can share their experience.

MS. KRYSTYN ORDYNIEC: Thank you. And my next question would be, there is a search for a new chief of police for the Thunder Bay Police Service, and I wondered what you would say to that individual who would ultimately be appointed to that position on the first day of their job?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: It's not going to me. (LAUGHTER)

MR. DANNY SMYTH: You know, depending on where that person comes from, in my own experience, relationships developed into the various communities in Winnipeg long before I became chief, and I think that allows you to sort of hit the ground running. So I'm a proponent of sort of homegrown, if you will, if it's appropriate.

And you know, there's so much involved in selecting a chief, it can become very political as well. But certainly, having established contacts and relationships in the community is half the battle.
MS. KRYSTYN ORDYNIEC: Thank you. And there's a saying in the law that says, "Justice must not only be done, but also must seem to be done." Are you familiar with that?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: I am.

MS. KRYSTYN ORDYNIEC: And would you agree that this would also apply to police services and how service is given to the public?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: Certainly. I'm always aware of perception.

MS. KRYSTYN ORDYNIEC: And that perception, I think you alluded to it already, is also hinged on trust with communities; correct?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: Indeed.

MS. KRYSTYN ORDYNIEC: And would you agree that the historically disadvantaged relationships of those with Indigenous communities, trust is even greater of an issue?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: Yes. It can be a very big challenge to re-establish trust.

MS. KRYSTYN ORDYNIEC: And would you also agree that just because something isn't reported it does not mean it is not happening?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: No. I mean, I agree with you that something can happen and it wasn't necessarily
diagram.

**MS. KRYSTYN ORDYNIEC:** And in a situation where a police service would come out and say that something is not happening because it is not reported, can you just speak on the -- how that would affect the trust between a police service and a community?

**MR. DANNY SMYTH:** Well, I guess it depends on the credibility between the service and the community. You know, we know much of the content that we've been talking about here today -- exploitation, sexual assault -- those are all very underreported things. So you know, I would agree that things can happen and you may not necessarily see them through a report.

**MS. KRYSTYN ORDYNIEC:** Thank you very much for your time. Thank you to everybody.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.

Next, we would like to invite up Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society. Mr. Darrin Blain, who is already at the podium there, has three-and-a-half minutes.

--- **CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DARRIN BLAIN:**

**MR. DARRIN BLAIN:** Chief Commissioner Buller and Commissioners, good afternoon.

What a beautiful welcome we've had from our host communities, our host nations, and our Elders this week. And I want to also thank Audrey for the cedar that
she gave me this morning. I think we all needed a bit of cedar after yesterday.

There's a bit of sadness within the parties with standing mulling in the hallway, it's a sad day for us to say good-bye. We are a newly formed family. I now have about 70 new sisters and about 3 new brothers.

(LAUGHTER)

MR. DARRIN BLAIN: And lots of new grandmothers. Yes.

Good afternoon, Chief Smyth. Are you drawing a link -- pardon me. In your materials, you draw a link between the missing and murdered -- the missing girls that are the result of being sexually exploited. Are you also drawing a link that as a result of being sexually exploited and trafficked that one of the unfortunate results of that is also that some of these unfortunate women and girls would end up being murdered?

MR. DANNY SMYTH: That's certainly a possibility.

MR. DARRIN BLAIN: Thank you, Sir.

Ms. Redsky, good afternoon.

MS. DIANE REDSKY: Good afternoon.

MR. DARRIN BLAIN: I want you to imagine for a second a 13-year old girl in her bedroom in a northern community. She happens to have Internet, she
happens to have a computer. She's just about to put herself to bed for the night. She wants to check her Facebook, she wants to check her Instagram, and whatever else a 13-year old would want to check on social media.

A predator, a criminal finds his way into her computer somehow and starts planting seeds to lure her into what we're talking about today. In the limited time that you've got with this Commission, namely, the next few minutes with me and your only time here today, can you tell the good Commissioners what on earth we need to do for that little girl, what resources need to be in place in her community, and how on earth we can prevent these seeds from germinating?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Thank you, that's a really good question. The first thing is that this happens all the time. It happens more often than people think. And, when I go across the country, wherever it is, particularly in the north, that every community I have been, there has been at least one story of at least one girl who has disappeared or has been lured to an urban centre.

And so, there's two things I want to say about that. The first one is that there needs to be resources in First Nation communities that are adequate, that are building on her protective factors to know how to
protect herself online, that parents can have conversations and know also how to support to protect them online. That’s the first thing.

**MR. DARRIN BLAIN:** Right. And, the Commissioners are noting these as you go. Go ahead.

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** The second one, which is critically important, and we can’t forget that there are bad people who are targeting our kids. And so, while we can do all of the resources and put -- do a lot of education, we can’t forget that there are bad people who are targeting our young Indigenous girls and counting on them to be vulnerable, or uneducated or not knowing how to be safe online, that these individuals are there.

And so, we need enforcement, we need to be raising strong boys, we need to be educating and creating opportunities for men to be part of the solution and involved in meaningful ways. And so, while we look at this issue, we’re thinking about her first and foremost, but let’s not ever forget about the people who are targeting our kids solely for the purpose of planning to victimize them.

**MR. DARRIN BLAIN:** Thank you. And, good afternoon to you all.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you. Next, we would like to invite up Pauktuutit, et al. Beth
Symes has three-and-a-half minutes.

--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. BETH SYMES:

MS. BETH SYMES: Thank you very much.

I'm Beth Symes and I represent five Inuit organizations, but most importantly for this cross-examination, the Manitoba Inuit Association.

Chief Smyth, you’re aware that there are Inuit in Winnipeg?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. BETH SYMES: And, you’re aware that each year, over 15,000 medical visits from, sort of, central Inuit Nunangat come to Winnipeg?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes, I think it’s -- I don’t know if the pronunciation is right, but Kivalliq. Yes, I’m aware of the transition centre.

MS. BETH SYMES: Right. And, you’re aware then that some of these people who come south, some of these women and girls who come south speak no English or very little English?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. BETH SYMES: And, I watched the videos, and I have to say, where they are housed, whether it’s in a hotel or in a boarding house, is in one of those pink areas in Winnipeg.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Indeed, on
Burnell.

**MS. BETH SYMES:** And, these are very dangerous areas?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Well, it can be. I should point out, it’s also close to the hospital as well.

**MS. BETH SYMES:** Well, exactly. But, nonetheless is that there are traffickers, pimps, whatever we want to call it, who are waiting outside that hospital, hotel or the boarding house to try and lure a young Inuk girl; right?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That’s certainly possible.

**MS. BETH SYMES:** Okay. And, not only do we have the medical visits, we also have Inuit young people, children, coming south to go to finish high school and to go to college and university, you agree?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I wasn’t aware of that, but it’s -- certainly I’m aware of a lot of young kids coming down from the north to do things like school, employment and medical visits, yes.

**MS. BETH SYMES:** And, are you aware that there are Inuit children in care in Winnipeg?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I wasn’t aware, but it’s not surprising to me.
MS. BETH SYMES: I’m going to remind the Commissioners that when we were in Rankin Inlet, we heard the story of two Inuit girls, one from Chesterfield Inlet, one from Rankin Inlet, who were apprehended when they were about 13 in Winnipeg from an incredibly abusive situation. I’m going to commend you, sir, your female police officer was outstanding in acknowledging, and reaching out and assisting these two young girls get treatment, physical treatment, mental treatment, and to be safe.

But, one of the things I want to ask you is that, in Exhibit 76, which is, you know, all your partners and agencies, et cetera, you don’t list the Manitoba Inuit Association.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: No. And, in fact, I noted that earlier in the week when I was preparing for my testimony, and to be honest, I have not had any personal experience with the Inuit association in Winnipeg.

MS. BETH SYMES: Do you undertake to me that you will go back in on Monday, call Rachel Dutton and begin to establish some sort of a relationship between the Winnipeg Police Services and the Inuit in Winnipeg?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: You have my word on that, but I think they should be part of the coalitions
that I spoke of earlier.

MS. BETH SYMES: And, is there any Inuit cultural training for police officers in Winnipeg?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I don’t know that we have specific training for Inuit, we certainly have a lot of Indigenous training. I would have to check to see if there’s an Inuit component to that.

MS. BETH SYMES: And, over and over again ---

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: I’m sorry, Ms. Symes, you’re out of time.

MS. BETH SYMES: I’m sorry. Okay.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you.

MS. BETH SYMES: Thank you.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Next, we would like to invite up the Association of Native Child and Family Service Agencies of Ontario. So, you’re still here, but you’re in another capacity, so I would like to reset the time for six minutes. Well, she’s acting as agent for another party, in this capacity. So...

--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. BETH SYMES:

MS. BETH SYMES: Okay. I just want you to imagine that I am Katherine Hensel. I am tall and I am trying to occupy her very large shoes. And so, Katherine apologizes that she -- her younger daughter is
ill and she had to go home early. I am with Deanna Jones Keeshig who is helping me formulate these questions.

In terms of the Association of Native Children and Family Services Agencies in Ontario, the first thing that Katherine wants you to know is that youth that are in care under her agencies come to migrate to Winnipeg, and children in care in Manitoba and Winnipeg migrate to Ontario, to Northern Ontario. The border is, kind of, permeable, would you agree?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Yes.

**MS. BETH SYMES:** Okay. Now, I wanted to ask you, Chief Smyth, using Tina Fontaine, not as, like, the worst case example, but as a way of exploring some issues, because you have given evidence today about human trafficking in Winnipeg from the perspective of the Winnipeg Police. And, Katherine now would like to ask you questions about the same exploitation and human trafficking, but this time from the perspective of the Indigenous children. And, I’m going to purposely call them children because, to me, that’s who they are.

Now, in terms of Tina Fontaine, at the time of her death, she was a child; right? She’s 15.

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That’s correct.

**MS. BETH SYMES:** And, she was grieving from the death of her father?
MS. BETH SYMES: And, she also had some mental health issues and those were the reasons that she came into care, that there were not appropriate services to deal with these?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I wasn’t aware of that, but I’ll take your word for that.

MS. BETH SYMES: But, she had obviously been found to be a child in need of protection, that’s how she got into Child and Family Services?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. BETH SYMES: And, she had come to Winnipeg to try and establish a relationship with her birth mother?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That’s my understanding.

MS. BETH SYMES: And, as a child, a 15-year-old child in need of protection, Tina was housed in a number of hotels. That’s where she was placed in care.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That’s my understanding.

MS. BETH SYMES: And, the Charterhouse Hotel, is it also in one of those pink areas?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: No, the
Charterhouse is right downtown.

MS. BETH SYMES: It’s on an edge; right? Not far from the one in the west?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Not too far.

Certainly walkable.

MS. BETH SYMES: Okay. And, would you agree with me that outside these hotels were men who were there to lure, to pimp, to somehow get children like Tina to come into the sex industry?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I don’t have direct knowledge of that, but that’s certainly possible.

MS. BETH SYMES: Well, I’m not asking in particular to this one, but the hotels where Tina was housed by Child and Family Services that pimps, traffickers, in fact, hang out around those areas.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: One of the things I should point out, and it may well be one of Tina’s legacies, is that hotels are no longer used to house children.

MS. BETH SYMES: But, the traffickers, the pimps, know where to go and look for these children.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes, I think we’ve heard some evidence of that throughout the week of how they go about their business.

MS. BETH SYMES: Now, we know that Tina was
involved in a police stop in which she was in a vehicle with a much older man; is that correct?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That’s correct.

MS. BETH SYMES: Now, is this one of these so-called DISC stops?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: No.

MS. BETH SYMES: Is the DISC stop new?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: No, the DISC stop has been around for a while.

MS. BETH SYMES: Well, can you tell me, why wouldn’t any alarms go off from the police to see a child with a much older man in a vehicle? Obviously, they weren’t related, were they?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Certainly, I have addressed this publicly in the past. Those officers didn’t perform their duties. They were both held accountable individually.

MS. BETH SYMES: So, what I’m really trying to say is, this is the ideal time, if possible, to try and identify -- this is a child who is being trafficked, or at least a risk that the child is being trafficked.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: She was certainly very vulnerable. Yes.

MS. BETH SYMES: Okay. And, in fact, Tina was one of those youth who, in fact, had been reported
missing.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I think so, yes.

MS. BETH SYMES: I was really, really troubled by the answer that you gave to one of my colleagues in which -- or perhaps you gave it to them, that when you said that the police were now downloading the responsibility to the group home to try and search for the child before she is reported missing, and I want to lead up to this by saying in Tina’s case, from the time of that stop, that traffic stop, until she was killed was very short.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I believe it was about a week, but she was found and returned to care the following day from that traffic stop.

MS. BETH SYMES: But, what I’m trying to say is ---

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Sorry, Ms. Symes. Do you want to reset the time for Ms. Hensel again? I see you’re on the list next for her.

So, on behalf of the Independent First Nations, Ms. Symes will be acting as agent for 3.5 minutes.

--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. BETH SYMES:

MS. BETH SYMES: So, I’m still wearing Katherine’s hat and the shoes are still feeling a bit big.
The Independent First Nations have three First Nations very near the Manitoba border. Ms. Redsky, Shoal Lake is one of the independent First Nations, also White Dog and Big Trout. And so, the people who grew up in western Ontario actually look to Winnipeg as that’s where we belong, rather than to big bad Toronto, et cetera. So, it’s out of those, then, that I continue to ask the questions about Tina.

And so, the question I was trying to get at, Chief Smyth, is that for a child who is in a car with a stranger, right, a trafficker, someone who is trying to groom her, to lure her into the sex industry, would you agree with me that in many cases, time is of the essence?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: In that case, Tina should have been taken into care.

MS. BETH SYMES: And, that it’s like the old way was come back in 24 hours if your daughter is missing.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That wasn’t the case here.

MS. BETH SYMES: I understand that. But, do you understand our concern that a missing child, a child that appears at a traffic stop, being potential to being trafficked, is a child that needs immediate, immediate police attention?
CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I think I just said that.

MS. BETH SYMES: Okay. And, I understand, then, that she was found subsequently in a hospital -- sorry, she was found, taken to a hospital and treated, and then she was returned to a hotel, the hotel where she was?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That’s my understanding. The police weren’t involved in that.

MS. BETH SYMES: Now, in terms of Tina, she is, I think you said, one of about 10,000 Indigenous children who are in care in Manitoba?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. BETH SYMES: And, can I ask you, in 2014, were there any protocols between Winnipeg Police Services and any of the Child and Family Services that would have applied to Winnipeg’s investigations and contacts with Tina?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I’m not sure what you mean by investigations.

MS. BETH SYMES: Well, in terms of the stop. Were there any ones in or are there any today arising out of lessons learned from Tina?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I’m not sure how to answer that.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: I’m going to stop
the time for a minute, because I believe that he has answered that question two times now in terms of his response. One of the lessons learned was the change in hotel, but also, one of the lessons learned was that -- and he spoke to the discipline of officers. I kind of feel like the same question is ---

**MS. BETH SYMES:** I’m not asking that.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Maybe you can reframe it so that it doesn’t seem like that’s the same question being asked?

**MS. BETH SYMES:** That’s not the question I’m asking. The question is, were -- are there, today, any protocols in place between the Winnipeg Police Services and Child and Family Services that would protect children like Tina?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Well, there are protocols in place, and there were before that. The officers involved didn’t follow those protocols.

**MS. BETH SYMES:** What changes, if any, have you made to make children like Tina more safe?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** It’s just going to be our ongoing relationship with the groups that I’ve talked about, the coalitions, where we try to look out for it and protect our children. I expect my officers to follow all of the protocols and follow the rules that wasn’t done in
that particular case.

**MS. BETH SYMES:** Would you -- Ms. Redsky, would you recommend to the ---

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Sorry, Ms. Symes, before you started the question, you are out of time. And, if you had asked the question before the time, I would have absolutely let the answer occur. Thank you.

Next, we would like to invite up ITK. Ms. Elizabeth Zarpa will have 3.5 minutes.

--- **CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA:**

**MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA:** Good afternoon. My name is Elizabeth Zarpa. I am legal counsel representing Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, which is a national organization that represents the four Inuit land claim regions in Canada.

I want to thank and acknowledge the original habitants of these lands, what is now Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunatsiavut, namely the Mi’kmaw and the Beothuk of Newfoundland, the Inuit of Labrador and the Innu of Labrador. I acknowledge also Nunatsiavut elder Sarah Ponniuk.

Thank you all for your testimony this morning and this afternoon. That was very powerful and a very difficult week for many of us. My questions will be geared towards you, Ms. Redsky, and you, Ms. Willan. I
will try and do it very quickly, because I just have three minutes.

Ms. Redsky, in your experiences through programming relating to sexual exploitation and sex trafficking in Winnipeg, have you worked with Inuit women who are involved with sexual exploitation or sex trafficking?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** No, I have not.

**MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA:** Okay. And, have you, Ms. Willan?

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** I have.

**MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA:** And, in your experience, can you please explain whether you are aware of any rehabilitative programs or programs in place for Inuit who are involved in sexual exploitation?

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Usually, the Inuit, I would kind of bring them to where I used my services. So, if I used not an Inuit service, but they would be surrounded by the programs that helped me, and I have many great relationships and friends, and to me, I’ve worked great with the women.

**MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA:** Would it be a recommendation that throughout the urban centres where Inuit reside, including in Winnipeg, that there be Inuit-specific healing lodges or rehabilitative programs, or
safe spaces where Inuit women and girls who have been
exploited can go to heal while accessing their cultural
foods, language and customs?

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Absolutely.

**MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA:** Thank you.

Yesterday, we heard from Ms. Moon Perrin that
decriminalizing the act of sex in exchange for money could
potentially make it safer for Indigenous women who are
being sexually exploited or participating in sex work. If
you’re open to this, can you please explain whether you
think decriminalizing sex in exchange for money would make
it safer for Indigenous women? And this is towards both
of you.

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** I'm not for
decriminalising exploitation. As a survivor, I never,
ever in my life would have thought that I would be
standing on a corner to survive, for a place to sleep or a
place to eat. By any means, it is not a job. It is not a
way for us women to make money. We are women. We are
caregivers. We give birth. We know our roles in society
-- you know, out in society. And I don't believe that
we're putting -- by -- you know, we're not going to be
safe either way.

We need to end the demand and that's plain
and simple. We need to start going after the people
purchasing and buying sex and start really pushing and
enforcing the -- and changing the legislation to not
penalise the women, but decriminalising it would not do
it. Because you know what, we're sending the wrong
message for our next generation. Enough protecting our
perpetrators. We need to start taking care of our women
and we need to start showing them the love that they
deserve. So I'm not for that whatsoever.

Thank you.

MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA: Thank you and it's
open if you're open to ---

MS. DIANE REDSKY: Oh.

MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA: --- discussing it. I
asked both you, but ---

MS. DIANE REDSKY: Oh, okay.

MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA: --- it's up to
counsel.

MS. DIANE REDSKY: Of no form of anything
is going to make sexual exploitation safe. It's violence.
It's a human rights violation, and certainly when it's
forced it is the most extreme form of violence. And it's
targeted to victimise Indigenous women. We experience way
more violence under sexual exploitation than anybody else
does. So nothing can ever be done. And, in fact, it
would be 10 steps backwards, as Rachel was saying, in that
we have -- again, there's just -- I don't want to take up too much time, but there is absolutely no way that it would make it safer.

**MS. ELIZABETH ZARPA:** Thank you.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you.

Next we would like to invite up the Eastern Door Indigenous Woman's Association. Ms. Natalie Clifford will have three and a half minutes.

--- **CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD:**

**MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD:** Thank you. Natalie Clifford, Eastern Door Indigenous Women's Association. Thank you all for your evidence today. Going to be a little bit abrupt.

Ms. Redsky, I just wanted to start with you and say thank you so much for offering such a level-headed and informed explanation about walking us through exploitation and trafficking. And I think personally, from your explanation, I have come to better understand it and actually now see where it's happening around me in places that I didn't see it before.

So in light of this, I wonder whether you would support a recommendation to the Commissioners that education in the way you've brought it to us, I mean, of course trauma-informed and age appropriate, be offered with respect to exploitation and trafficking for children
across the country from a young age?

MS. DIANE REDSKY: Absolutely. And I would only add to that that there would be the safety net in place prior to that education and awareness being done. So, teachers are trained, there's a place to call, there's a place to go when disclosures happen, because they ultimately will. And, again, I've been -- done lots of presentations in schools and every single time there's at least one disclosure that comes out of it -- out of those presentations.

MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD: Thank you. Okay. Chief Smyth, I -- or actually, I'd like to start with Staff Sergeant Ramkissoon.

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:

RS. NATALIE CLIFFORD: Thank you. We heard Chief Smyth's apology this morning and it was -- I thank you, Chief Smyth, for that apology on behalf of the Winnipeg Police Service. And I understand that you've been with the Police Service since 1991. So I'm guessing that the admitted not so good reputation and then the work toward a better future has spanned your career; is that accurate?

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON: Absolutely.
MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD: Okay. So then I noted your specialised training and your work on anti-exploitation and child abuse and I just wonder then, do you recognise, just for the record, that Indigenous women, children and individuals generally often require sort of specialised treatment and understanding ---

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:

Absolutely.

MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD: --- in your work?

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:

Absolutely.

MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD: Okay. So is this something that you learned in your specialised training?

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON: Yes, it's like a wraparound learning process. It's working with partners and stuff, understanding the trauma informed and becoming more aware of that.

MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD: So it's been also in your journey of your work experience and your own initiative that you've been able to come to that understanding?

STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:

Absolutely.

MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD: Okay.

So, Chief Smyth, with that in mind, and
again, thank you for your apology, I'm wondering if you
can offer us some, like, insight into what you do about
members who might be stuck in that old frame of mind,
because I'm going to assume you do come across them from
time to time; correct?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD: And so what's your
policy on when you do find that, I mean, I'm going to call
it racism within your police force?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: A couple of things that
we've done and certainly we have both respectful workplace
conduct and fair and impartial policies that we would
treat everybody with dignity and respect, but we also
brought in a program that systematically put all our
members through that kind of training so that (a) they
recognised implicit bias in themselves and were in a
position to take steps to try to avoid that. So that
program was originally out of Florida. We were -- we
brought the folks up here to Canada to teach us, sort of
train the trainer. It's an ongoing program so that we
introduce it to our recruits and systematically throughout
our ranking file.

MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD: Thank you.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That's just one of the
things that go on.
MS. NATALIE CLIFFORD: Thank you. That's my time. Thank you.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: The next party with three and a half minutes is the Aboriginal Women's Society with Carly Teillet.

--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. CARLY TEILLET:

MS. CARLY TEILLET: Tashi, bonjour and good afternoon. I'd like to begin by acknowledging our presence on the ancestral territory of the Beothuk and the territory of the Mi'kmaw and on lands that the Inuit and Innu call home, and to acknowledge the spirits of our women and girls, their families, survivors, the Elders and the medicines and the sacred items that are here with us today.

I have the privilege of acting as counsel for the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society and they serve the Kaska Nation, which is in the northern B.C., southern Yukon.

Chief Smyth, my questions are for you this afternoon. And due to the shortness of time I'll ask yes or no answer, please.

So I want to start by applauding you, because this morning you are a chief of police and your primary recommendation was not for more police ---

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: No.
MS. CARLY TEILLET: --- or more money for the police, but was to support Indigenous women's organisations. And that is wonderful, so thank you for that.

(APPLAUSE)

MS. CARLY TEILLET: Now, you showed startling statistics that showed a direct link between children in care and missing children in Manitoba, in Winnipeg specifically.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Certainly there appears to be a correlation, yes.

MS. CARLY TEILLET: Okay. I'm going to push you a little bit farther on that and say ---

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Okay.

MS. CARLY TEILLET: --- that through that correlation do you recognise that the child protection system is directly contributing to the murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That's a strong statement, but you won't get an argument from me.

MS. CARLY TEILLET: So is that a yes?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That's a yes.

(APPLAUSE)

MS. CARLY TEILLET: So you've spoken about the need for partnerships and to move forward and protect
Indigenous women. And Ms. Redsky spoke about the need to
have a survivor at the table as critical to any movement
forward. So would you agree that excluding Indigenous
women's organisations and survivors from participating in
decision making, in policies and plans has directly
contributed to the murdered and missing women?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I don't know if I will
look backwards, but certainly I don't think we should do
anything without Indigenous women being at the table, the
Indigenous community being at the table.

MS. CARLY TEILLET: So you see it as part
of a solution and if it's not there it's a problem?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. CARLY TEILLET: So all too often
Indigenous communities build relationships with people
like yourself and invest in people. They train, they
build trust and then those people leave, so would you
agree that police departments institutionalize, hold, and
we would say probably hold sacred, some of those
relationships and those commitments to Indigenous
organizations and to communities so that they survive that
change in leadership?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. CARLY TEILLET: Thank you. Ms.
Willan, I have a quick question for you. This afternoon,
you talked about a wraparound service of OPK, and my clients have talked about building healing centres, a safe place in their community based on the land, culture and community where someone could go and get everything they might need service-wise, health-wise, a safe place, an elder, food in one place, so they didn’t have to knock on multiple doors and maybe get lost on that path in between.

Would you support a recommendation that services that address the whole person need to be funded and sourced within Indigenous communities across Canada?

**Ms. Rachel Willan:** Yes, I do. And, when I say yes, I also don’t just say plop one in each province, because each province has their numbers and their numbers are climbing in Indigenous population, and we need to look at how many numbers we have. So, some provinces may need two or three, some may need one. Our time is running out, we must enforce and put them in place immediately or our numbers are never going to go down. We’re going to continue to see violence and we’re going to continue to experience violence as women.

So, our shelters need to start going up and, you know, in the next -- after our recommendations are up, we need to push Canadians to make sure that us women, and inclusive to all women, are safe. You know, no
more violence. It’s that simple. Thank you.

**MS. CARLY TEILLET:** Thank you for your truth and thank you to the panel. Meegwetch. Merci.

**MS. CHRISSA BIG CANOE:** The next party with seven minutes is the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Manitoba Coalition represented by Catherine Dunn.

--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. CATHERINE DUNN:

**MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** Good afternoon.

As this is the last day for my appearance, I would like to take a moment to directly thank the co-chairs of the Manitoba Coalition of Murdered and Missing Women and Girls being Hilda Anderson-Pyrz and Sandra DeLaronde who have provided me, as counsel to that organization, an ability to have shared knowledge and to engage directly with the families and survivors with respect to this very important issue. They have provided me direction and they have provided me guidance, and I thank them.

My first question is for Chief Smyth. Chief Smyth, you have indicated that you have a number of partners, in fact, on Exhibit, I believe it’s 76 [sic], you’ve listed a number, perhaps 50 or more organizations that are involved in providing the Winnipeg Police Services with assistance in terms of dealing with sexual exploitation, is that fair?
CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Which document are you referring to?

MS. CATHERINE DUNN: The -- I believe it’s Exhibit 78.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I don’t want to cut your time. Is it the Sexually Exploited Youth Coalition you’re referring to?

MS. CATHERINE DUNN: Yes. It looks like this.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes, I wouldn’t have quite put it that way, but we’re a partner with them. Yes.

MS. CATHERINE DUNN: All right. Is there a federal government partner that you can look to in terms of your dealing with this issue? Either as a person on the partnership committees such as they are or through a direct funding link?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Well, again, we’re just a member of that coalition. That’s not something that we lead.

MS. CATHERINE DUNN: All right. And, in terms of that coalition, is there a federal government member in the coalition?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: That one might be best directed to Diane.
MS. CATHERINE DUNN: Ms. Redsky, perhaps you can ---

MS. DIANE REDSKY: No, not yet.

MS. CATHERINE DUNN: All right. Ms. Redsky, I have a question for you in terms of Indigenous led community based organizations. In Winnipeg, I am aware that there are a number of Indigenous led community based organizations and there are a number of non-Indigenous community based organizations. Could you tell me what the Indigenous led organizations can bring to the table that the non-Indigenous community based organizations cannot?

MS. DIANE REDSKY: When it comes to services to Indigenous people?

MS. CATHERINE DUNN: Exactly.

MS. DIANE REDSKY: Well, the Indigenous knowledge and how we care for one another and how that rolls out into service delivery that meets the needs of our people versus non-Indigenous organizations who -- and again, there is varying degrees of non-Indigenous organizations. Some of them will be a non-Indigenous organization, but employ and have a board of Indigenous people and they are able to have a service delivery model that works. And then you have non-Indigenous organizations who employ no Indigenous people,
no Indigenous people on the board, and are delivering service to Indigenous people and they do it poorly.

**MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** And so, when it comes to making funding decisions, one of the integral decision should be around the issue of whether funding goes directly to Indigenously led organizations?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** That should be a requirement of all funding partners to ensure that if you’re delivering service to Indigenous people, it’s an Indigenous organization doing it.

**MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** And, that you are at the table as a partner and not a receiver of money, that you direct money to the programs that you say as an Indigenous led organization should receive that money?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Absolutely. All forms of decision making should be available and provided to us.

**MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** All right. And, in terms of -- this question next is for Chief Smyth. Chief Smyth, you -- this is a series of questions dealing with missing person incidents in Winnipeg, which I think is on page 7 of Exhibit 78. It’s not numbered. But, in any event, in terms of missing person incidents in Winnipeg, I believe the number, I’m not sure if this is 2018 or in general, is 2,079. I wasn’t sure if that was
in the year 2018 or...

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I’ll take your word for it. You’re looking at the document, I don’t have it open with me.

MS. CATHERINE DUNN: No, that’s fine. We’ve heard evidence that a significant number of missing children and youth come from the child welfare system. So, if there were indeed 2,079 children or young people missing in Winnipeg last year, a great deal of those 2,000 children or young people would be coming from the child welfare system, is that fair?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: The only thing that I would clarify, that’s 2,000 reports of missing persons. So, it could include some of the same children.

MS. CATHERINE DUNN: Okay. So, some of these children are being reported missing over, and over and over again?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes. Either way, it’s an alarming figure.

MS. CATHERINE DUNN: Right. And, people who traffic in children are not dumb, they know where to find their victims, do they not?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I would agree.

MS. CATHERINE DUNN: And, they know that the easiest place to find a victim and to induce them
into the sexually exploited world in which they are forced
to live would be through child welfare?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** That would be one possibility, yes.

**MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** And, does child welfare have an individual that comes to you as a police force and say, what can we do specifically to protect our children in care?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** We certainly work with the agencies that are working in Winnipeg. You talked about -- we talked about earlier, sort of, the high risk assessment that’s done.

**MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** Okay. Is part of that high risk, does that come from child welfare itself to say, what can we do to protect the children in our system? Is that their responsibility or is it a police responsibility?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I’m going to defer that to Darryl because he works with that on a day-to-day basis.

**MS. CATHERINE DUNN:** Certainly.

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:**
We’ve had many meetings with the Executive Director, Lorna Hanson, of Child and Family Services in Manitoba, and it’s a work in progress. Again, I’m not sure exactly what
decision they’re going to make, but they are aware of it and they’re taking steps -- I talked earlier about the safety plan and stuff that they’re starting to put in place.

MS. CATHERINE DUNN: My time is out. Thank you very much.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you. Next, we would like to invite up the Native Women’s Association of the Northwest Territories. Ms. Amanda Thibodeau has three-and-a-half minutes.

--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU:

MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU: Thank you. I echo the sentiments and acknowledgements of my friends today, and I thank all of you so much for sharing your knowledge and your truths with us today. It’s appreciated by everyone here. I’m going to jump right into the questions.

Chief Smyth, your slide show featured a video from the Heart Medicine Lodge.

CHIEF DANNY Smyth: Yes.

MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU: I’m wondering how long that has been in operation?

CHIEF DANNY Smyth: Heart Medicine Lodge?

MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU: Yes.

CHIEF DANNY Smyth: It’s been several years
MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU: And, since that has been in operation, has there been an increase in reporting of sexual offences?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I don’t know.

MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU: Okay. My next question is for Rachel Willan. May I call you Rachel?

Thank you.

Drawing from your experience, in your opinion, what is the one most important thing that could be implemented in the child welfare system that would promote the safety and well being of children that are in care? I know it’s a big question.

MS. RACHEL WILLAN: It’s a good question. There’s so many. If I can have one safety is that each of our -- what we deem is -- all of our children are vulnerable. It doesn’t matter if you’re a chronic runaway or not. To me, children in care are vulnerable and children are vulnerable. So, at the end of the day, I know that -- I do work with child welfare agencies, and I have built great relationships with the social workers that I work with.

And, at the end of the day, our ultimate goal is to ensure that our children are safe, and I know that with my work that I do, I am up literally from -- you
know, when I open my eyes, whether it be 6:00 till
midnight, I run like that for five, six, seven solid days
to ensure that the girls on my case, including other
girls, are not at harm. And, it takes once.
One that I just had two weeks ago was
harmed simply going to school, simply coming home on her
curfew time, and it really, really woke me, because we
like to think that they’re getting to age of majority, but
they’re not. So, if I could change one way is to ensure
that each of our children in child welfare are attached to
a mentor-like support, and their day doesn’t end at 4:00.
It ends when she lays her head to go to sleep. That’s
what the role of a mentor or a support person should be.

**MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU:** Thank you. I think
that’s a wonderful idea.

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Thank you.

**MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU:** So, I have a
question for Ms. Redsky. Drawing from your experience,
can you advise what strategies and policies could be
implemented to avoid triggering or unnecessarily
traumatizing employees that are engaged in frontline work,
especially in the context of small remote communities such
as the Northwest Territories where these workers are
likely to be familiar with many of the clients they are
serving and their families? This is in the context of
Indigenous persons that may have a background of trauma for themselves.

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Well, I think coming from an Indigenous organization, we already care for one another in the work that we do. And so, there is -- and you have to be responsible, particularly if you’re having experiential or survivors that are working within a -- with other sexually-exploited youth. You have to show some responsibility as an employer to be able to create the environment that is supportive.

And so, we do a whole bunch of things in terms of debriefing, making sure women have time off, doing the schedule, double shifting, like, two staff on. There is trauma-informed training that is done monthly. Vicarious trauma is yearly. And so, all of those -- there’s ceremonies built in. There’s family fun days. There’s a lot of mental health type of opportunities that exist to make sure that you’re helping the helper, because you need those helpers to be able to do the work and to do the leadership. And so, that is really critically important to build those in.

And, I think Indigenous organizations, and there’s many in this room here that I’m aware of, do it naturally. It just comes natural to care for the people that are doing the heart medicine work.
MS. AMANDA THIBODEAU: Thank you all so very much.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you. Next, we’ll invite up, and it looks slightly different as I’m calling it than it says on the list, I’m going to invite up Mishkeegogamang, because they are represented also by Ms. Bellegham, and it’s just an administrative error on this list. It should be Mishkeegogamang and not the other five First Nations. And, Ms. Van Bellegham will have 2 -- should be 3.5 minutes.

--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. WHITNEY VAN BELLEGHAM:

MS. WHITNEY VAN BELLEGHAM: I would like to take a moment to give a special thank you to the families, survivors and elders here with us. I’d also really like to thank the Commissioners and Inquiry staff who have been and will continue to work very hard. I’d also like to acknowledge the ancestral territory we are on here today.

Ms. Redsky, my questions are for you. This morning, you mentioned that it’s very common to have exploitation occur where there are transient men with money. You gave the example of where there are sporting events, and you also gave the example where there’s resource extraction worker camps.

The Ring of Fire is an enormous resource extraction project that’s proposed for northern Ontario.
It would bring a huge influx of workers in the area. Concerningly, the majority of vehicles travelling to and from the Ring of Fire would pass directly through Mishkeegogamang’s reserve community.

Now, in response to a question asked by another party about how generally to protect individuals and prevent sexual exploitation, you gave the examples, for example, of raising boys strong, and education on the dangers of online use. What recommendations might you have for First Nation communities in terms of education, awareness, and other supports to prepare them to deal for -- sorry, to deal with the risks of sexual exploitation and trafficking associated with being near these resource-development camps?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Thank you, and good question. The really important starting point is to build the relationship with the resource company that is coming in, in the first place, and to map out a plan that is proactive. And so, not only are people in the community have access to training, education and awareness, and have the resources to build the systems in advance, because it’s going to happen.

So, being proactive and being prepared is the way to go. And so, then there is the -- the company has a social responsibility in training and educating the
workers that are going to be in these communities. And so, it is a very much of a dual track rooted in the relationships. And so, I would recommend that doing whatever you can to have that relationship so that you can be as proactive as possible.

**MS. WHITNEY VAN BELLEGHAM:** Do you have any recommendations specifically, then, as to how to start building that relationship?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** And, you know, very much as what we do, it’s reaching out, and I would maybe even go through Chief and Council to set up a meeting with the resource provider, that company that is going to be in there, and start the discussions that way. And, failing to do that, I would ask for help, and I would ask the provincial and federal government, or anybody that has anything to do with the resource development coming in that you’re trying to be proactive, and you’re trying to reduce and minimize the violence and the exploitation that is ultimately going to happen as a result of transient men with money.

**MS. WHITNEY VAN BELLEGHAM:** Thank you. And, just as my last second here ---

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** No, I’m sorry.

**MS. WHITNEY VAN BELLEGHAM:** Sorry, it’s not a question.
MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Okay.

MS. WHITNEY VAN BELLEGHAM: I just wanted to thank my clients for giving me the opportunity to represent them here, and again, to thank the Commission and the Inquiry staff. Thank you so, so much.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you. Next, we would like to invite up, please, Ms. Diane Matte, will have six minutes.

--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. DIANE MATTE:

MS. DIANE MATTE: Since we thought that it would be gone, we didn’t know that it was going to be short like that, rapid without a break. I have asked her to stand with me, because we prepared the questions together.

Premièrement, merci beaucoup aux commissaires, merci aux femmes autochtones qui continuent à tous les jours, depuis fort longtemps à lutter contre toutes les formes de violence envers les femmes. Je sais tous les hauts et les bas qu’il y a eu et ça a été... et à chaque fois que je suis venue et que je vous ai entendues, un honneur de participer à ce processus-là qui, pour nous à tout le moins comme organisation féministe qui travaille au quotidien auprès des femmes qui ont un vécu en lien avec la prostitution, d’une importance capitale pour la suite des choses. On attend votre rapport et vos
recommandations avec énormément d’attentes.

So I'm going to continue in English. We know that there's a lot of myths about what it means to work towards the abolition of the institute -- what I call the institution of prostitution.

We were very glad to hear you this morning, Diane, so with clarity, explain what we do. We also have heard yesterday, more specifically, what it means very often, these myths, and what we are facing in a multitude of places where we are, whether as activists, as students, as frontline workers, as survivors, as professors.

Yesterday, we heard Professor Bourgeois clearly state -- say how she has been ostracized in her work -- in her place of work for the position she is -- she hold on prostitution. I would like you to, in a short period, give what are these myths that should be clarified, especially for the Commissioner, and clear the way?

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** In terms of being -- of

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**MS. DIANE MATTE:** Of believing that attacking the demand is the -- is of -- of is -- is of the essence, and as you said this morning, the sex industry, attacking the sex industry.

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** I'm sorry. You're going
to -- you got to lead me a little bit more. I'm not sure what the question is. What kind of ---

**MS. DIANE MATTE:** Well, let's say because of the time, especially around the question of safety. Very often it is perceived as if being for the abolition of prostitution or the sex industry don't care for the safety of women who are in prostitution right now, and who are there -- and they want to stay there. So I would like to hear you about that.

**MS. DIANE REDSKY:** Okay. The -- understanding sexual exploitation and sex trafficking and how it's rooted in violence and how it's rooted in -- particularly targeted towards a vulnerable group, there are a number of myths around that, you know, as you said, improving if it was decriminalized everybody is going to be safe. It's -- it doesn't-- it's inherently violent. Like it doesn't matter where you are.

If we make any form of, in my opinion, decriminalization, you've just made the pimp an entrepreneur. And that's a very dangerous world to me. It's a very dangerous world to me to think about how that will impact vulnerable people.

And at what point do we say that we're going to just stop talking about it and stop the abuse from happening? Like let's focus in on what it is that we
need to do in order to ensure that we are protecting the safety of very vulnerable Indigenous women.

MS. DIANE MATTE: Thank you.

The other question would be for you, Rachel, if you don't mind calling you Rachel.

MS. RACHEL WILLAN: No, I'm okay.

MS. DIANE MATTE: You spoke very eloquently about the notion of safe space, and a safe place for women to go. It resonated with me with the women we work with on a day-to-day basis when they come to -- they say clearly to us, "I didn't know there was a place for me".

So I would like to hear you about the importance of having a place where you can have peer support, where you can have access to women to help you in the way you wish to be helped.

MS. RACHEL WILLAN: To me, I know that it's so important to have a safe place because an event, you know, you could be -- you don't even have to be -- it could be violence, you know, it could be violence in any form. But for me, I know that being surrounded by other survivors is where I learned to find my love and my heart. And my spirit and my identity is -- through all the madness, I managed to find my way and still be alive today. Through all that madness, I found it in a safe space. What we identify, regardless of all of the others
hurt and pain, I've managed to find myself within that.  

And for me, I function by loving others and feeling their pain as well, and just understanding that, you know, the most important thing is somebody meeting you where you're at is important. And there's nothing greater than organizations that simply love you to death and just are grateful and show you, physically show you and appreciate the little things that nobody's ever appreciated in your life. And it's really uplifting to walk into a -- you know, like organizations.

I know our shelter here has recently changed, and I walked in a few weeks ago and I was not looked at, I was not acknowledged. But I went in. But all the survivors said, "Hi", but none of the staff did. And I thought, hmmm. "You colonized. All you, you, you, you. But I love all of you girls, just know that, and I walked out."

You know, another great feeling is to walk in a Mameweh, any one of their sites you could walk in, trust me. You could walk in. If it was open that day I would have took you guys inside. The drivers, I took. But we showcased a different place.

At any given time you can walk in, and you could walk in hungry, you can walk in -- but you're acknowledged with love. Anytime you walk in any one of
their sites, and there's a lot of sites, you're never
turned away or you're never not acknowledged as a person,
as a human being.

So for me, that's very deep, and no matter
what space you're in, what planet you're on, how you're
feeling, there's always somebody to acknowledge you, and
that's so important. And we need to have spaces like that
for people.

And you know, when we're managing our
people that are in a crisis or in a psychosis state, it's
important to remember that our survivors and our people
that are struggling in that moment of psychosis, they look
for language. They don't look for -- there's certain
things that they don't look -- they're actually scared for
you to touch them. So sometimes, a little F-bomb here and
there, they look for language.

And you know, I've never encountered
somebody threaten me in any way because you just love them
'til they're -- they calm down. And I've been able
de-escalate -- and I mean the highest of the high. So
just those wraparound approaches of love, kindness, and
our whole medicine wheel teachings are instilled in our
moral compass. So we need to really, really move forward
in a nice kind way.

And we need to work together, our
governments, regardless. Unfortunately, we got a provincial government that doesn't want to do nothing. So it's important for us to go out and vote. And we have a federal government, you know, that -- that's why we're here, but at the same time, we must work together regardless of how we feel, because we need to get things rolling. And that's what I could say. Thank you.

**MS. DIANE MATTE:** Thank you very much.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Chief Commissioner and Commissioners, there's been a request on the panel to have a short break. We have been going for a couple of hours. I know there's only a couple more parties left to go, but if we could please have, you know, a 5 or 6-minute break in order to have a quick health break that would be appreciated.

**CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Okay.

Five-and-a-half.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Five-and-a-half. Okay. So we have a five-and-a-half minute break.

--- Upon recessing at 4:05 p.m.

--- Upon resuming at 4:14 p.m.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Commissioners if we could begin again, I would like to invite up next the Vancouver Sex Rights -- sorry, let me try this one more time. Vancouver Sex Workers Rights Collective, Ms.
Carly Teillet will have three-and-a-half minutes.

--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. CARLY TEILLET:


Good afternoon again. And, because it’s important to do so, it’s one of our laws, I need to acknowledge our presence on the ancestral territory of the Beothuk and the Mi’kmaw, on lands that the Inuit, Innu and Southern Inuit call home. And, the reason that we’re here, the spirits of our women and girls, their families, the survivors, the elders, the medicines and the sacred items that are here with us, we can do our work in a good way.

I have the honour and the responsibility of acting as counsel for a collective of Indigenous women, LGBTQ, two-spirit and gender fluid individuals who engage in sex work or trade in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. But, I am here today because my clients have a right to be safe, and the voice of folks in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside who sell or trade sex needs to be heard.

And, my clients are strong, they are beautiful Indigenous women and LGBTQ, two-spirit and gender fluid folks, and they have also experienced tremendous violence, and they have had friends and family members killed and some who are still missing. Now, one of my clients when sending me here said, we are not
silent. We are not believed about what happens to us.

So, Chief Smyth, my clients are over
surveiled and underserved. They have shared stories of
police being called by a witness when they are being
assaulted and then they are arrested. They have called
the police with no response or very slow response. And,
in one instance, the police were called as one of my
clients, an Indigenous trans sex worker, was being
threatened with a knife, and it was two days before the
police arrived. One of the women said, I don’t get to be
safe. I don’t get to call the police. That’s why I’m
here.

Thank you for your apology and for
your efforts to making change in your department. And so,
would you agree with me that police departments need to be
accountable for failing to respond in a timely manner when
violence is reported?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Yes.

MS. CARLY TEILLET: Thank you.

Indigenous women are being assaulted and they’re being
killed, and it’s a violation of our human rights and it’s
against the law. It’s written in black and white in the
Criminal Code, it is 100 percent illegal and yet there are
few charges and even fewer convictions for these crimes.
And so, you would agree that there needs to be a real
mechanism under which we can hold the justice system, of which the police are a critical part, to account?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I agree with that.
I’m not familiar with what B.C. does.

MS. CARLY TEILLET: And, you would agree that it is the duty of the police to meaningfully investigate crimes, and if they are not fulfilling their duty, their needs to be real accountability?

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: I would agree.

MS. CARLY TEILLET: Those are my questions. Thank you very much. Meegwetch.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Thank you.

Next, we are inviting up Commission Counsel, Thomas Barnett. Mr. Barnett, because he represents Commission Counsel and we led two witnesses, is only entitled today to cross the Winnipeg Police Service. He will have three-and-a-half minutes.

--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. THOMAS BARNETT:

MR. THOMAS BARNETT: So, I would also like to acknowledge the territorial acknowledgments that my friends have made before me today. My questions are for Chief Danny Smyth.

It is important to see the partnerships with Indigenous women and the Winnipeg Police Service. We have heard how essential this is and how
vital the attitude towards these relationships are. How is your police service sharing and educating police services from other jurisdictions about this approach?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** Well, certainly there are a number of avenues for us to be able to share information with our colleagues. I remember that the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, most of Darryl and other members of our service also have colleagues that are working in similar areas, so there is that ability to share, practice that information.

**MR. THOMAS BARNETT:** If that ability is there, is it being shared with other police services from different jurisdictions?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I would say it’s inconsistently shared. Certainly, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, Winnipeg probably has the biggest Indigenous concentration of peoples in Canada for a major city, other jurisdictions don’t have as many and haven’t expressed as much interest, but certainly we are prepared to share what we do.

**MR. THOMAS BARNETT:** Thank you. Also, Chief Danny Smyth, you have testified out of 1,400 missing Indigenous girls in Manitoba, approximately 1,200 are from group homes. We have also heard that the average age of these missing girls is around the age of 12. We have also
heard from other witnesses today that the grooming for
sexual exploitation begins around this age of 12 as well.
You have also told us that through your partnership with
CFS, the 12 highest risk girls from this group out of
1,200 are assigned a member of the Counter Exploitation
unit to work directly with them. What do you need to
significantly and substantially up the number of high risk
youth that have members assigned to work with them, and
will this happen?

**CHIEF DANNY SMYTH:** I mean, that’s an
assessment that changes every week. It’s an ongoing
assessment based on the criteria that Darryl mentioned
earlier. Certainly the numbers are -- they are
unbelievable in our jurisdiction. I think there needs to
be a real reform in our family services.

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** If
I could just clarify those numbers. We actually have
about 80 girls or missing kids who are designated as high
risk, and of those 80, we choose the top 12.

**MR. THOMAS BARNETT:** Are there plans
to increase the number from 12, and if so, how is that
going to happen?

**STAFF SERGEANT DARRYL RAMKISSOON:** The
capacity of the 12 -- the reason we reach that number is
because of the number of investigators we have in the
unit, sadly to say. If we had more members in the unit, we can definitely increase it.

MR. THOMAS BARNETT: Thank you. Staff Sergeant Ramkissoon, this question is also for you, I understand that you have worked on the -- or the viclass (phonetic) implementation unit; that’s correct?

STAFF SERGEANT Darryl Ramkissoon: Oh, ViCLAS.

MR. THOMAS BARNETT: ViCLAS, sorry.

STAFF SERGEANT Darryl Ramkissoon: I haven’t worked in it. I supervise the member that’s in it.

MR. THOMAS BARNETT: Can you tell us how ---

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Sorry, Mr. Barnett, you are out of time.

MR. THOMAS BARNETT: Thank you.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: This actually concludes the cross-examination period. Normally, what would happen here is obviously I’d ask the Commissioners if they have questions, but I understand the Commissioners have come to an agreement in terms of maybe writing -- or putting your questions...

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Well, first of all, re-examination by other counsel.
MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Oh, yes. I’m sorry. Commission Counsel will be waiving their portion. But, would you like six-and-a-half minutes? And, I’m sorry, thank you for reminding me to put on the record that all three counsel are waiving their right to redirect and have no questions of re-examination.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:
Okay. Just to state on the record, in order for parties with standing to have more time for cross-examination, we have waived our opportunity to ask questions on the record and we will be submitting questions, if any, in writing through Commission Counsel.

MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Yes. But, then, I would offer the opportunity for any comments to the panel at this point from the Commissioners.

--- REMARKS BY COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:

COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON: Thank you. Thank you very much. First of all, I just want to thank all the panellists for coming and spending the day with us and sharing your evidence. It’s been a long four days for us and I think you all did an awesome job in rounding out the evidence that we heard this week, so I want to thank each and every one of you for being here.

And, Rachel, I want to thank you for being brave enough to come back and share some more of
your truth with us about your journey.

**MS. RACHEL WILLAN:** Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** And,

it’s been very helpful. And, I want to acknowledge Matt for coming back as well, and for playing that role of support. Thanks for being here as well.

So, since we’re not asking any questions, I will pass the mic onto my colleagues. Thanks.

--- **REMARKS BY COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:**

**COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Merci beaucoup, Brian. I'll speak English, what's left in my brain or my translation device. See, even then it's hard for many reason, but I have to learn that here and now. We say in French, ici et maintenant. And very impressed again to hear you, Rachel, and you too, I heard so much about you, Madam Redsky. We did a tour in Winnipeg one night and another and another night and each time your name came, how amazing you are and how involved you are. So, you know, sometimes lateral love it's nice to receive.

And also it's about time. I have to be frank that we hear more and more some initiative where we see a police force or an organisation that works with the police that extend a hand or is showing to us that it does work with the community. We need to have that everywhere.
We need to have that in every place across Canada it's missing.

So, if you're truthful, if you're sincere in this willingness of working with Indigenous women and organisation, of course, I think it's important and it need to be acknowledged.

It was Winnipeg, we can feel the taste and the expertise. And I'm from Quebec, you can tell, and Labrador also. And what we've learned in Winnipeg, also politically, I never saw that before. With my grandmothers, few weeks ago, we went to a pipe ceremony inside the Parliament. I never saw that before. A few years before, we saw a premiere wearing a ribbon shirt. We don't have that in Quebec yet, so there's a challenge for the Quebec government now. I made it public.

(LAUGHTER)

COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: And there's a new government today.

So, thank you, from the bottom of my heart. And, Rachel, and all the women who were before you here, you're their expert and I'm impressed by you. Merci, all of you. Merci.

--- REMARKS BY COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:

COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Hello, hi. I have so many questions and I will write them, but I too
want to express my gratitude, Diane, Danny, Darryl, Rachel and Matt. I have to tell you I'm having total, like, hashtag relationship goals, feelings. Just I just -- tu comprends?

COMMISSIONER Michèle Audette: No, everybody's laughing at me.

COMMISSIONER QAJAQ Robinson: I'll tweet you about it.

No, just -- I just -- just I'm -- you taught me so much, and not only here, but in Winnipeg and I wasn't there, but -- sounds creepy, but I watched you on TV.

(LAUGHTER)

COMMISSIONER QAJAQ Robinson: And just about that support, that support and love and faith and family and community and, yeah, so relationship goals.

I have to tell you all that what you have shared with us about what you're doing is what I've heard from so many communities that they wish they could do, that they so wish that they had a seat at the table, a place, a capacity. And I think Ms. Teillet quoted her client yesterday about, you know, we're telling you what we need. Let us do it.

And thank you so much for sharing with us how that's done and in what spirit.
I want to give a little recommendation to you, Chief, because I suspect that you're in a position to do this more than anyone else.

One of the biggest problems, and it was alluded to, is good will that is dependent on people, a good person in the position of power. And if there is a way that you can advocate to change, whether it's the governance system or somehow entrench in legislation, whatever it can be to maintain and create what -- entrench what you created into the bones of your institution, that will be what the grandchildren and great-great grandchildren, all of our great-great grandchildren are going to need.

Enough of it being a pilot project or a fringe exercise. It has to go into the bones of the beast of policing.

And so I'm not going to make you wait until April for this recommendation. I think that in my mind that is something that can make this good work live in perpetuity.

So, thank you all again so much for sharing with us and I wish you safe travels home.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Thank you.

CHIEF DANNY SMYTH: Okay, thank you.
COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Meegwetch.

--- REMARKS BY CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: Yes, I just want to quickly add to what my dear colleagues have said and that's to thank you very much for sharing today, for being with us a very long day. I know for you as well.

Thank you for your honesty, for telling it like it is and being very blunt, because all of Canada needs to know what the truth is. And you've done a lot today to educate Canada, not only about what the problems are, but that there are solutions. And there are solutions that are working right now.

When I think of you and I see you I see courage in ways that people might never imagine. Because of what you've given us, you've shared your courage, your truth and your stories and your encouragement with us, we have very small gifts to give you in return. They're eagle feathers.

We know there are days that are tough and you don't know if you're going to get the job done. So hopefully these eagle feathers will help you on those days that are very, very hard. I know all of you have those days, maybe too often.

Also, those days when you can reach a
little higher and do a little more than you thought you
could, these eagle feathers I hope fill hold you up that
little bit higher and help you go a little bit further.

So on behalf of all of us, thank you so
much for what you do and what you've told us today has
made a huge difference to our work, so thank you all very
much.

And thank you. This is the last time I'm
going to say this hearing is adjourned. Thank you.

**MS. TERELLYN FEAM:** So we're going to
move right into our closing ceremony. And at this time I
would like to ask Odelle Pike and Paul Pike to join me.
Yeah, I got it. And, we’ve had a request from our elders
that as this is the last hearing of the truth-gathering
process, which is the Phase I, Phase II and Phase III, and
we still have two closing submission hearings, so you’re
not off the hook yet, but this does wind down our ceremony
for the truth-gathering process of those three phases.

The elders have asked that we form a
circle. And so, we’re going to have that circle start
from the qulliq, all the way around the room, and we’re
inviting you, everyone, to participate, because this is
the circle of life. And, regardless of what your role has
been at a hearing, whether you’ve been legal counsel, a
party with standing, a grassroots organization, a
Closing Ceremony

grandmother, an elder, a cultural support, a health support, a family member, survivor, an interpreter, a camera person, an audio-visual person, or a chauffeur, we would like to ask everyone to form a circle here.

This is the test to see how Indigenous we are. A circle. We can cross in the middle through the chairs if you need to. And, I just want to acknowledge our elders for guiding us in this way, and directing us with their words and their guidance on how to close this in a good way. So, thank you for that thoughtful advice.

While we’re formulating a circle, I will hand this over to Paul and Odelle. I believe we’re going to sing a couple of gathering songs, or some songs, as we formulate a circle. Looking good, everyone.

(SINGING AND DRUMMING BY PAUL AND ODELLE PIKE)

MS. TERRELYN FEARN: No one wanted to stand beside me. They said, “Be careful, she’ll make you row.” It’s called dancing. Okay, at this time, I would like to ask our beautiful family members of our National Family Advisory Circle. We have some that are here have been supporting us. I would like to ask Pauline Muskego to come forward. I can bring you the mic or we have a stand, regardless, how you would like to share and say a few words. Okay. Oh, you have your own mic.
MS. PAULINE MUSKEGO: As a survivor of residential schools and the mother of a missing and murdered daughter, I am thankful to be standing here, and I’m thankful to Commissioner Michèle Audette who called me, I think it was two years ago, to ask me to sit as a member of the National Family Advisory Circle. And, I’m honoured to be here to represent the families.

And, I’d also like to thank our Commissioners for all the hard work that they’ve done. It wasn’t easy, all the stories that they’ve heard, all the opposition, and everything that took place over these past few years. I’m very thankful for what has happened and is going to happen in the future. And, we’ve almost come full circle now. We’re coming to the close of this historic National Inquiry which I believe I will tell my grandchildren what happened here and what took place, because of my daughter. That would be their auntie, my son’s sister.

Now the hard work begins for the Commissioners and the staff, all the staff that have been faithfully working so hard all this time. They have to go through all the documents, all the testimonies, the expert hearings and the recommendations, and this is not a small task. Even for me to give my testimony, it took a lot out of me, and for them to hear hundreds and thousands of
testimonies and to read all the documents that they’ve started to read already.

I look forward to the end of violence against all women and girls, men and boys, and all. Thank you.

MS. TERRELLYN FEARN: Many thanks, Pauline, for your beautiful words and for your courage. And, to the NFAC families and survivors for being at the foundation of this process and guiding us in a good way. We love you and we will continue to love you.

At this time, I would like to ask Commissioner Michèle Audette to say a few closing remarks for us.

--- REMARKS BY COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:

COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: I hear myself, a double Michèle. That’s not good. It depends for who. Bon. I want to start. Thank you for the people of this land who welcomed us in a beautiful way all week, making sure that the ancestors, the spirit of the people who live here and very proud of being from here, made sure that the protocol, the ceremony, the songs, that everything was there. For me, almost everything. I couldn’t attend the sweat last night. And, thank you also for helping me, a good friend of Penelope, a colleague for me, she was a fighter. She put in place the first Native
Women Shelter Network in Quebec where we included and invited the Inuit women when we were young -- we’re not that old, but she was too young to go and left behind a husband and two beautiful boys who are men now. I met them when they were few hours old.

And, the legacy is that we have to continue. We don’t want shelter in the reality, we want places where we can live instead of surviving. We want places where we can laugh instead always, for me, that keeping anger or frustration. And, this journey, this Inquiry, believe me, I will remember for the rest of my life for many good reason. Many, many good reason.

I was guided -- we were guided by grandmothers at the beginning. Strong grandmothers. You remember you and me the first connection? What a beading. Beading, beading. And, I love her so much. And then came Blue, and then came Penelope, Bernie, I play with the language, it’s Français English, so didn’t mind. And, all the other grandmothers. Wow.

NFAC. What a debate, who should we invite, why and how come. And, they were saying every time we call them or they were approached, yes. You have all my respect. And, if we were able, it would have been everybody across Canada. Everybody had a space in those hearings, preparation of those hearing.
To the witness who came, who had the
courage, I have to say thank you. Thank you so much for
sharing your truth. It’s more than a story. It’s a fact, it’s a truth, it’s part of the history of Canada, and it’s
telling us that we have collectively the responsibility to
make sure that her, and her children, and grandchildren
and great grandchildren won’t have to go through that --
through that same truth. We have that responsibility.

The health support. We had to create a
fund or a pot to make sure that we have a trauma-informed
-- yes, it is nice to see it in the paper, but the budget
wasn’t attached to it. We were bald enough to create one.
It wasn’t perfect, but it’s there.

Thank you for your staff. Thank you to --
for your people who were at the frontline of the crisis or
the love of everything, your staff were amazing and still
today. Same thing with the legal staff. To sit before
they arrive here -- oh, there they are -- and receive the
truth. Very hard. You made magic. To be able to bring a
part of 500 history of oppression in few minutes and bring
that truth so Canada hear it, I say thank you, Christa,
and to your staff. Thank you. You might be a judge one
day. Supreme Court. Forget Federal. I’ll make some
phone calls -- no, just kidding. No, no, no, no, no, no.
That’s my Innu in me.
Party with standing, my God, you’re tough cookies. Many days and many time. But, wow, you were so brilliant, so passionate. I remember the first hug, it didn’t work well. And, now you’re grabbing me to get a hug. Wow. It’s telling me a lot. That we’re all human being. And, there’s babies, eh, that pop during the Inquiry or pretty soon come. So, thank you so much.

I will see you again. Yes, the public hearing are at the en, and I’m not a broken record because I glue it this morning, but the message is the same. All of us here in Canada, all of us family members and survivors, we deserve to have more time to do it in the right way, where we’re not burning ourself, where we’re not forgetting or things falling in the cracks.

Close to 2,000 people spoke to us and we were close to maybe 170 emerging -- not emerging, but causes, systemic causes. That’s a lot. And, we had to make a choice of six to ten to respect a political decision that, for me, wasn’t acceptable, but free moccasin I will be soon, I’ll remind them that there’s so much to do. And, I’ll walk beside my sisters and brother who believe that justice needs to happen very soon or today.

So, I say thank you. Be ready for the next little exercise that we will have soon. What do we say in
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Closing arguments.

COMMISSIONER MICHELE AUDETTE: Come with an open mind. I’m asking you this, come with an open spirit like you did with passion, with determination, because your words, your closing remarks, your closing submission will be part of a chapter that I say all the time of this history that we’re making today. Canadian and women, Indigenous women, all of us, are making history. For Lanna, for you, for all the women that came here and the men.

So, I’m anxious to hear from you. And, what we’ll do -- it’s not over. We will travel, maybe you know that us, yes, and we’ll say hello and we’ll fly on top of you, we will travel and listen other people that we need to hear from. We made that commitment and we will do it until the last second, when we’ll have to make sure that we give everything to the research -- yes, they are already writing and working on it, but there is other people I want to hear from, and listen and receive their truth.

So, I will pray, I will pray for France, our friend France, and all the women and the men, and I will send love to my family -- I miss my family. And, believe me, yes, I might be tired this week, but it’s not
a real one. I’ll be tired in 2019, I told you.

But, let’s remember this process wasn’t
easy, still not easy. But, for me, my dream is that in 20
years or 10 years, what’s important, it’s not how many
people resign or left or slam the door, or the hustle --
how do you say in English? Or the negative thing. What’s
important is many people contribute to something
historical that will change legislation, laws. Make sure
that our daughters are protected, safe. That’s the goal.
Come on. That’s the goal. And, let’s be proud of what we
were capable to do with the amount of time that we had. I
am. I am. And, I’m proud that you were in that journey
with us. So, yes, I love you very much. Oh, there’s a
rule, the men after me. He’s after me.

COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON: Thank you,
Michèle. Wow. What a full four days we’ve had. I want
to say wela’lin. Chi-meegwetch. Thank you. Merci. I
just want to acknowledge again the lands we’ve been
gathered on this week, the traditional lands of the
Beothuk and the Mi’kmaw, and also I’d like to recognize
the lands of the Innu and the Inuit whose traditional
lands are in what we now know as Labrador.

And, I want to acknowledge and respect our
elders that have been here with us this week, helping us
get started in a good way and close our days in a good way
with prayer and with song, Odelle Pike, Michael Denny, Sarah Ponniuk for helping us with the qulliq, keeping it lit for us.

And I especially want to thank our grandmothers that have been doing this work with us from almost the beginning, Blu Waters, Bernie Williams, Louise Haulli, Kathy Louis, Penelope Gway (ph). They've always been with us, travelling with us, providing us with guidance and support. Thank you. And they're here with us today.

I really want to thank members of our National Family Advisory Circle as well, Gladys Radek, Barbara Manitowabi, Norma Jacobs and Pauline Muskego, who have been here with us this week as well, for their commitment to walk with us, doing this difficult work together and guiding us and providing advice along the way.

And I want to acknowledge all the members, all those that aren't here as well of the National Family Advisory Circle, who have been incredibly strong warriors. They're individuals who have stood up for the voices of Indigenous women and girls who have gone missing or been murdered and they've been doing -- many of them have been doing this work for a very long time and have come to continue their work along with us and walk with us and I
I just -- I also want to thank and acknowledge the many family members and survivors of violence, for their courage and their trust that so many have put in the Inquiry and coming and sharing their very important but difficult truths with us and for contributing to this work.

So a few other people I'd like to say thank you to. I'd like to thank Gerri Lee Pangman and Coralee McPherson for offering their support with self-care through the beadwork, and I'm looking forward to completing my first beaded redress very shortly, so thank you very much.

And thanks, Terrellyn Fearn, for being our MC this week and getting us started, keeping us on track. Thanks, Terrellyn.

And I especially want to acknowledge and recognise the important contributions made by all the witnesses this week who have shared their knowledge, their expertise, their recommendations with us. In some cases it was not easy this week, but your courage to speak the truth has really helped us with our work here. It's helped us more fully understand the social, the economic, the cultural, institution, historical causes that contribute to the ongoing systemic violence, the violence
experienced by Indigenous women, girls and trans and two-spirit people in our country.

Thank you again to the parties with standing for your questions, which has helped us uncover and gain further insight into the evidence that was provided this week.

And I want to thank everybody that's joined us to learn, whether in person or by webcast.

And, you know, at the beginning of the this week I acknowledged that this was our fourth public knowledge-keeper expert and institutional hearing in the space of about six weeks, and it's also our last hearing of this nature, of course, before we move on to mostly focussing on -- or finding some recommendations and putting together the final report.

So, again, I want to thank everybody for their very valuable contributions this week and I look forward to seeing many of you at final submissions in either Calgary or Ottawa. And I just want to wish you all a safe journey home to your home fires.

Thank you, chi-meegwetch, merci.

---Closing Remarks Qajaq Robinson:

COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Thank you. I want to, of course, acknowledge the ancestral territories of the Beothuk, Mi'kmaw, Inuit and Innu. It's been
absolutely wonderful to be welcomed in your land again, to 
feel the wind from the ocean, to smell the salt in the air 
and all the rocks. I'm from the north where there's no 
trees, so I love it when we're in a land where there are 
rocks. So it was very, very wonderful to be here.

I want to acknowledge those that kept this 
space safe, and particularly, Sarah, your prayers, your 
wise words, your guidance and, of course, the light and 
the warmth of your qulliq, which is made of Labradorite, 
your rock, your land, your place. And it's so powerful.

Odelle, thank you, Paul, Michael, for your 
songs. I thank you for your prayers, your presence, the 
medicines you brought through the room.

I also want to acknowledge Andre, who, 
whether it's a piece of cedar, a ribbon, a hint of 
peppermint behind the ears to keep you going that final 
stretch of the day, or a laugh, or a hug, or a song, or a 
smile. Thank you so much. I love you.

Our grandmothers, Louise, Kathy, Bernie, 
and Blu, thank you all so much for all you do, all the 
time, kicking my butt, passing me a tissue, laughing with 
me. It seems to go in that cycle. And I love it. I've 
learned so much, so much. And every step of the way 
you've been here to help us. There was no right way; 
okay? We had no manual. There was no right way. There
was just the way. And every step of the way required
thought and love and kindness and compassion and
togetherness and tough questions to be addressed together
and you helped us so much with that.

That leads me to the National Family
Advisory Circle, those here today, Barb, Norma, Pauline,
Gladys and those at home who I know are watching because I
get texts. Thank you so much for walking with us, the
trust and the confidence that you've given us, and for
lifting us up when so many people were trying to take us
down on very personal levels sometimes too.

We did not know what this was going to look
like. No one could have known what this was going to look
like, but there was always a feeling that was understood,
a space that is safe. And it's been really hard to
maintain that space. And we've fumbled, but it's always
been the goal for truth to come out in a safe space with
the light, with the fire there burning and leading us the
way.

Those teachings about not what it's going
to look like, but what it had to feel like came from NFAC,
the families, the survivors, you amazing women and our
grandmothers.

I want to thank all the communities that
welcomed us and helped us create that space along the way.
There were so many community partners and relationships that were built along the way. There was no way to do this like a circuit court. And I remember Marion and I talking about that. We both suffered that experience for years. This wasn't going to be that way. We did not land in a community and impose. We knew that we had a basic legal foundation, the checkbox that Michèle talked about. The rest we wanted to find by the land and the people who welcomed us.

And I'm proud of what we've been able to accomplish. It hasn't been perfect, but the space has been created and people have come and truths have been shared. So I thank you so much for that.

I want to thank our team, our super kick ass team. I want to start with legal, because let's -- we all know that the biggest criticism has been, oh, it's so legalistic. It's so legalistic. And then the other side of it was, well, it needs to be more legalistic. You need to do this, this and this and follow these rules and powers you have.

So government put into terms of reference nice words like, you know, you're bound by the Inquiries Act, but you have to follow traditional laws, because those are cute words and it's really easy to do that? No. So, I want to acknowledge the work of our
legal team in recognizing how we wanted to move forward
and taking that momentous task on, working on the creation
of our rules with us, you know, and how the process was
going to go, and walking that line, that almost impossible
line.

And then also, all the work you did in
bringing forward the evidence. And, I don’t know -- if
you haven’t read the case law, the obligations of
Commission counsel is to work in the best interest of the
public, to educate, to bring the truth out. And, every
step of the way, our team has tried to be -- has been
balanced, and focused, and has had that in mind, to bring
out the truth for the ultimate goal of the Inquiry’s
purpose.

And, I’m really, really proud of what
they’ve done, and I stand behind them, and I’m proud to
stand with them. So, thank you, Jennifer Cox. Thank you,
Christa Big Canoe, and your team, and I also want to thank
and acknowledge Susan Vella for the work she did in the
early years -- in the early years. Whoa. Early months.
Thank you, Susan, very much.

Every member of our team, the health
support team, the operations, logistics, admin, security,
AV, translators -- translators. Woo! We had some
communities where there was, like, a whole wall of booths
and multiple languages, and that was powerful and that was
beautiful, because being able to speak your truth in your
language was fundamental, and that happened.

I just -- I have seen how we have all
grown and changed, and I hope that what has happened in
these rooms across the country is happening in somebody’s
living room, at somebody’s kitchen table, and that this
will spread and grow.

Parties with standing, thank you so
much for coming and being part of this. I really look
forward to your closing submissions, and hearing from you
what -- I think we all know the cause. We know the root
cause. The systemic causes is the system. That’s it, you
know.

And so, I’m really looking forward to
how we move forward and hearing from you, how you’ve
learned and how you understand all the evidence that we’ve
heard, and what direction that takes us in.

It’s been incredible, and I want to
reiterate something that I’ve said in our first hearing in
Membertou. Well, my first public hearing, community
hearing in Membertou, which seems really stupid to have to
say, but I read articles, and I read comment sections
still, and I still know it’s a pervasive attitude and
belief that somehow the root cause of the violence against
Indigenous women and girls, trans and two-spirited is inherent in Indigenous communities. That it’s an Indigenous people’s problem. And, I hope that everyone, the government, the courts, all Canadian citizens have come to understand over the last two years that there is absolutely no doubt that the problem is in the settler colonial state as it was established 151 years ago and before that, and how it continues to exclude and oppress Indigenous peoples.

I don’t think there’s any asterisks or question mark behind that statement, and we have to move on to, how do we fundamentally change our country so that this fairy tale of Confederation includes the peoples of this land as equal partners? And, I look forward to you, parties with standing, on how we get there, the fundamental, ground-breaking change that we need.

So, I’m going to end with that.

Wela’lin, merci, thank you, nakurmiik.

--- CLOSING REMARKS BY CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:

Well, you’ll be glad to know I’m going to be brief, because I know some of you are standing in uncomfortable shoes.

First of all, I want to remember, as always, and to thank the spirits of the missing and
murdered -- pardon me -- Indigenous women and girls who were with us this week, and stayed with us through some really hard times. There were moments when I was pretty sure there was at least one, if not more, tricksters in the room, because I’m sure we were very lucky the power didn’t go out earlier this week. So, thank you for those spirits for remaining with us during this week and guiding us and lifting us up.

Thank you to the Mi’kmaw and Beothuk for hosting us on your beautiful territory. And, also, I want to recognize the Inuit, the southern Inuit and Innu, and their ancestors as the original people in Labrador.

Thank you to our respected elders, Odelle and Michael for your knowledge and prayers, and nakurmiik, Sarah, for lighting the qulliq and bringing light to us all and warmth to us all this week. I’ve always been distracted by the flame and I still am.

Thank you to our special grandmothers, Kathy, Penelope, Bernie, Louise and Blu. We wouldn’t have made it this far without you.

Then there’s the National Family Advisory Circle. Wow, what forces to be reckoned with. Gladys, Barbara, Norma and Pauline, thank you for this week, and thank you for every day that you’ve walked with us. And, for the other members of the National Family
Advisory Circle who aren’t here today in person, I know you’re with us in spirit.

Honoured witnesses, thank you very much for joining us this week and sharing with us your knowledge and your time and your courage and your inspiration. I tried to distill this whole week into one or two sentences, because as my colleagues know, I speak in bullet points, and my one bullet point that I can’t get past, and it’s going to be with me a long time, was what one of the witnesses said, and I’m paraphrasing. If we as a country don’t fix the factors or the needs of our women and girls being poverty, isolation and survival, addictions, other issues, those factors that make them vulnerable, the traffickers will. I think that sums up this whole week and a lot of our work. So, thank you, witnesses, for making a difference in our work.

Parties with standing, well, like Darrin Blain said earlier, I gained, too, a whole bunch of sisters and one or two brothers, and I feel that I’m a better person for having worked with you.

Thank you to the staff of the National Inquiry. There are a lot of them here today, but I want to not only thank them for doing their magic yet again, I want to thank the staff who aren’t here that you don’t see who work behind the scenes every day, who book our
airfare, who make sure we have enough paper clips, who
make sure that all the right things are being read and
prepared and photocopied and boxed. We have people all
across Canada who are working in their homes or working in
offices who make this machine work, and I’m grateful for
each and every one of them.

That’s all I wanted to say, other than in
some respects, I’m glad we’re finished this part of the
work that we’re doing, because now we’re leading into a
very critical part of the work that we’re doing, and I’m
glad that all of you have come this far with us and I hope
you come further on this wonderful journey. This is our
opportunity. I, too, have had some losses and had some
gains during this Inquiry, but I have to say I have no
regrets. I’ll leave it at that. That’s my bullet point,
I have no regrets. Thank you. Okay. Now, they’re called
Buller points. Okay.

So, thank you all very much. And, having
said that, we just have to keep our heads down and keep
working and moving forward. And, having said that,
keeping heads down and moving forward and fun-sized, I’m
going to pass the microphone to Bernie Williams.

**GRANDMOTHER BERNIE WILLIAMS:** I just want
to say howa to all of you. We have been talking for the
last few days -- first, I want to acknowledge the land
that we’re on. We’ve been speaking the last few days, and one of the things that was brought up, how have we dreaded this day. We knew it was coming. One of the things that all the grandmothers and the staff here have really built some really great friendships here with and -- the people with standing here, and I just want to acknowledge all of you for your work.

We’ve -- I have seen -- I can’t speak for anybody else. And, I have seen some of you come in, like, heads down and -- it’s just really nice to see you really evolve and -- I can’t imagine, you know, how you must feel at the end of your day, that you’ve had to relive so many stories of our survivors and that. And, I really want to acknowledge all of you. And, to the men here too. We were speaking to a few of you lawyers and that and, you know, asking, you know, about your self-care, and some of you don’t have that. And, I just want to reiterate, you know, what we said, that we are still here for you.

And, we’ve listened to a few of you, like, you know, how you’ve broke down, how you felt broken. And, you know, like I said, I don’t know, you know, how you feel at the end of your day, to live and to relive, you know, our families’ stories and that, and to ask those questions. I really want to say howa to all of you, heck, for, you know, sticking it out and to, you know, walk on
this journey with us. And, I’m really, really happy that
our elder is Kathy as for the circle, it seems more, you
know, fitting for us to end the day like this.

I want to acknowledge our family members.
I am a family member myself, but I want to acknowledge our
warrior women, like Rachel and our other sister over here,
so many that have -- are still out on the frontlines,
Hilda, so many of you women, and howa for you women for
holding us up, because on these frontlines, it’s hard. I
was asked, like, when you leave from here, what would you
do? Well, I fly home, I drop my bag off, I go back on the
frontlines right away. Our work doesn’t end like
Commissioner Audette says, it just keeps going. You know,
just because this day is over, the work is just beginning
again for another page, another chapter.

I want to acknowledge, you know, all of you
warrior women and you warrior men for walking with us too.
My niece is not feeling well right now. She’s pretty
overwhelmed right now. It is very overwhelming. Many of
you have heard about the copper. I have spoke about the
copper. That’s the highest gift that you can ever give in
my homeland that is called Haida Gwaii. And, I think I’ve
carved over 900 copper pieces that have gone all over
Canada, to the north and to the south. And, this is what
is healing for me, is to give that gift of copper. But,
my art. I love to sit, you know, and design. I don’t
know what it’s going to be sometimes.

I want to acknowledge our family members of
NFAC, their resilience, and their tenacity, and their
strength and their love. And, on behalf of the
Commissioners -- and the Commissioners actually would like
to acknowledge some of these people here today. Sarah
Ponniuk. I’d like to ask the Commissioners to please come
-- come up to -- I always get mixed up with these. I have
such small little hands, so I got to figure out -- hey,
easy now. Easy. And, the Commissioners would like to
also acknowledge Odelle Pike. And then they would like to
recognize also Paul Pike. And, some of the -- as the NFAC
members have already received them, but the ones that are
coming from -- have already received them, but they would
like to acknowledge Barbara Manitowabi, but also to
recognize Norma, and Pauline and Gladys. Those were the
three that already received it, but would like to
recognize Barb too.

And, one of the -- this is a really hard
one. The Commissioners would like to acknowledge Christa
Big Canoe, Jennifer Cox, Alexandre, Maryse, and Brian and
Terrellyn. We would like to ask them to come up. We’ve
watched these incredible humans right from the -- right
from the start, and the Commissioners would like to
acknowledge -- and it’s been a really hard journey for them too, but the work that they’ve done is so incredible in that. And, I would just like all of you to please put your hands together for these, just, incredible, you know, people that are here, the work that is just so overwhelming and I just want to say hai hai and howa to you all. Thank you for your work.

(APPLAUSE)

GRANDMOTHER ELDER BERNIE WILLIAMS: You’ve got Christa’s. Oh, no. That one’s Brian’s. That’s Brian’s. Yes, that’s Brian’s. That one is Christa’s. That one is Terrellyn’s. And, this one is Alexandre’s. And, I think Michèle wanted to -- is she even here? Okay. I just wanted to acknowledge Maryse Picard, as she will be leaving us today. She is Commissioner Audette’s special advisor, too, but she’s got another job offer. She’s going to be the Chief of Cabinet Staff to the Minister D’Amour. I don’t know if I said that properly. I don’t know if I said that properly, but this is, like, her new position. So, I just want to acknowledge her for also her work in that.

Again, I just want to say howa to all of you and that, and to the elders in these communities, and really want to acknowledge our executive directors, grandmother, too, because of all the work that she’s done
to support this Inquiry. I don’t know who I’m supposed to
hand this to. If you’d like me to sing, I will. I’ll
break out in song. Okay. I guess you don’t want to hear
me sing.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER: You
don’t want to hear me sing either. I understand,
according to our agenda here, Odelle, we’re going to ask
you to lead us in a closing prayer.

MS. ODELLE PIKE: Before I do that, I want
to thank all the Commissioners, all of the staff, all of
the family members, the grandmothers, for taking us on
this long journey. And, you know, our work begins now.
And, I just want to leave you with this poem. It’s
actually a poem that was written by Nora Bernard, and I
don’t know if everybody in the room knows about Nora, but
Nora was one of the ladies that was instrumental in
bringing the class-action lawsuit for the residential
schools. And, this poem was sent to me by her
granddaughter, and I read it most every day. I may not
have the exact words, but it goes something like this.

Don’t look back, because all you’ll see are
roads and paths that took you where you are today. So,
look straight ahead to the path you’re on because this
path will lead you to the way, and you can make that path
either -- let me get the words right there, now. It can
be easy, or it can be hard. The choice will be yours, because I know, because I’ve been there in my worn moccasins. All my relations. Safe travels home. We’re going to do the travelling song. I want everybody to join hands.

**MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** While the song is happening, we have some gifts for you that Barb and members of the NFAC have made. Would you like to say a couple of words? We’re going to be handing them out.

**MS. BARBARA MANITOWABI:** Yes. So, many people contributed and helped from gathering, to making braids, to collecting rocks for me. We joke around here I voluntell you what to do. So, I’ve had many, many helpers.

What’s in the bundle are Newfoundland rocks, so that you have a little piece of what we’ve done here, and you’ll keep that with you. I hope I made enough for everyone. There’s some cedar and also the leather laces. The bundles are made in a way that you can keep them in your car, so that you’re reminded every morning that you, too, are part of sacred creation.

I use rocks in many ways. Some of the ways I use them, I’ll let you know because you can use them in the same way or add to it. These rocks, you can use them for -- bury them in a sacred place that means something
special to you. You can throw it in the ocean and get rid of your rage. Throw it at a window when you’re angry.

So, I’ll be making these rock packages for everyone, and I will continue to make them. I’ve been gifting everybody since we started -- since I started volunteering for MMIW 2013 with Gladys, and yes, her idea for the rocks this time. I was running around getting ingredients for another little gift I make, and she said, yes, the rocks -- rocks is a better idea. So, there you go.

So, keep them in a handy place, in your car; there’s a little loop on the back. The leather came from my bundle, but I carry medicines with me, and I believe everything is collecting energy as we add to it, and that leather I was working with in Alton, when we first met with the Inquiry. So, it’s a part of the medicine and -- yes. So, I hope I made enough for everybody, and I wish you well.

**MS. TERRELLYN FEARN:** And, she has a gift for Rachel and Matthew. She wanted to gift you her drum bag. So, we’ll close with the travelling song.

**ELDER ODELLE PIKE:** Before we do, I’m going to ask Sarah to extinguish the qulliq.

**ELDER SARAH PONNIUK:** (Speaking Indigenous Language). What can I say? But, I guess one of the
things, if you remember a few days ago, I believe it was, I said the qulliq was -- you know what it means. It’s crackling. I think only me hear it. But, before that, I think it’s time I share with you, I was sitting down. I usually put my tea here, and I was sitting down, and I didn’t -- that was the spirit that rested on my lap. The water. Then later on, acknowledged that they were here. I didn’t want to bring that home with me, but I had to share with you.

I guess one of the things is that I like to thank all the staff. Not just one, but the whole works, because everyone made a difference, and you work really hard, and you -- you were away from your families. Wow. Especially if you have children. So, I acknowledge you.

And, you know, as a survivor of relocation, there are people here as well that are survivors of residential school like me or survivors of foster care. Just so many survivors, you know? Survivors of sexual abuse. Survivors of violence. But, you know, they are the best teachers, better than reading out of a book.

But, I guess one of the things that I like to acknowledge, my ancestors for being with me and your ancestors being here, and their spirits, because it’s very important that we always acknowledge them.

A lot of times I don’t know what I’m going
to say, I never have nothing written down. I try
sometimes, but it don’t work. Just comes. So, I
appreciate you very, very much. You are making a
difference in this world. To all the people, no matter
where you guys went. And, you have a lot of
recommendations that you are just going to have to look
at. Wow. You know what? No matter how many
recommendations there are, I believe in you, that you are
going to put it into action, you will be the voices of so
many people.

So, one of the things that I like to say a
prayer in my own language and maybe in English as I don’t
have interpreter. I’ll say Inuktitut first. (Speaking in
Inuktitut).

God, I pray that you will be with us. Some
of us already travel and some of us will be travelling
home tomorrow, please lead -- still lead the way for us.
Lead us in the direction where we need to go and to move
forward once again. I also pray for our ancestors,
although they are not here, their spirits are here, no
matter where we are from. I also pray for the people that
are in hospital, I pray for the seniors, I pray for the
young people, I also pray for the people that are
homeless. They are still our people. Some of those
people got no help, but there’s a lot of support
sometimes. They -- sometimes professionals turn their
back on them, I know, because one of my families are
homeless. But, I pray, God, that you will take care of
everyone here. And, once again, I pray that when we
travel, protect our energy from negativity, but give us
more positive energy each day. Those things I ask in
Jesus’ name. Amen.

ELDER ODELLE PIKE: If everyone could join
hands. The travelling song we always sing at the end of
the gathering to provide safe journey for the people who
have travelling, and we also sing it when a loved one
dies, to help them safe journey to the spirit world.

(CLOSING SONG)

MS. TERRELLYN FEARN: Just before you go,
it’s important to us -- first of all, wela’lin for that
song. And, nakurmiik, Sarah, for your light and
extinguishing that qulliq and that light that has kept us
warm and bright throughout these past four days. It’s
important to us that your heart is light when you leave,
so we are going to host one final debrief in about 15
minutes in the Elder’s room for anybody that feels that
they would just like to do that check out before they go.
Okay. So, safe travels and we’ll see you when we see you.

--- Upon adjourning at 17:44
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST’S CERTIFICATE

I, Félix Larose-Chevalier, 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.

Félix Larose-Chevalier
Oct 18, 2018