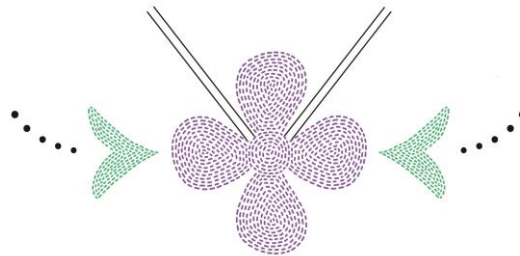


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



Enquête nationale
sur les femmes et les filles
autochtones disparues et assassinées

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Radisson Hotel
Winnipeg, Manitoba**



PUBLIC

Tuesday October 17, 2017

Statement - Volume 40(b)

**Brenda Baptiste, Phyllis Racette & Jennifer Spence,
In Relation to Donna Kristen Baptiste
& Women of Ebb and Flow First Nation**

Statement gathered by Frank Hope

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II

NOTE

Where not required by other statute, redactions to this public transcript have been made pursuant to Rule 55 of the Commission's *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*, which provides for "the discretion to redact private information of a sensitive nature where it is not material to the evidence to be given before distributing the information to the Parties. The National Inquiry will consider the public interest in releasing this type of information against the potential harmful impact on the individual whose personal information is at issue."

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Statement Gatherer: Frank Hope

Documents submitted with testimony: none.

1 --- Upon commencing at 14:00

2 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** My name is Frank Hope,
3 a statement gatherer today. We're in Winnipeg,
4 Manitoba, the Radisson Hotel. The time is 2:00. This
5 is a joint submission. And, we have in the room?

6 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Phyllis Racette.

7 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Brenda Baptiste
8 (phon).

9 **MS. JENNIFER SPENCE:** Jennifer Spence.

10 **MS. GLENDA MALCOLM:** Glenda Malcolm
11 (phon).

12 **MS. JACKIE MALLARD:** Jackie Mallard
13 (phon).

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Alana Lee (phon).

15 **MS. JANET ROUSSEAU:** Janet Rousseau
16 (phon).

17 **MS. DEBRA GRANDE:** Debra Grande (phon).

18 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** Thank you. Thank you.
19 So, we'll just start with Phyllis. What brings you in
20 today in regards to your joint submission today?

21 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** I'm here at the
22 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
23 Inquiry. And, we decided, my cousin Brenda and I,
24 that we need to make a joint submission in regards to
25 our community, and the women that we have lost in our

1 community due to domestic violence.

2 And, it seems our community, there
3 should have been more of us here. And, there was only
4 my mom, and Brenda and I that came from Ebb and Flow
5 First Nation to come here. And, it seems like we need
6 to find a way so that other people have a voice in our
7 community. And, that's why we needed this, because
8 there is still so much pain in the community with the
9 women that we have lost.

10 And, I want to -- I don't know if I can
11 mention their name, but there is at least ---

12 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Seven, eight,
13 maybe.

14 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** --- eight women
15 that we've lost in our community in the last 20 to 30
16 years. I really feel that's a high number, especially
17 in the last few years. That's a very high number,
18 because traditionally, our women were very honoured,
19 and life-givers, and were treated with high respect.
20 And, also, even our elders have lost their place; our
21 women have lost their place in our communities.

22 We were a matriarchal society where
23 women were given that honouring place. It's no longer
24 like that, and it's due to colonization and
25 patriarchy, and that's what I want to address. That's

1 why I'm here. That's why we have so much domestic
2 violence, because of the internally-generational
3 impacts of the residential school system.

4 My parents were both in residential
5 schools for nine years. And, I witnessed the violence
6 after they came out of there. I grew up in that home.
7 And, I always say if I grew up in that home where I
8 witnessed violence, then how did you not when our
9 stories are so similar? How did you not?

10 So, we're doing this publicly because
11 we want other people to be able to find that voice, to
12 share what is it that's still there that's keeping our
13 community in drug addiction and alcoholism, and
14 domestic violence, you know? I guess I want to name
15 those women because, you know, those were -- those
16 were beautiful women.

17 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** Again, can you tell me
18 also if they were solved?

19 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Some and some
20 were not. So, maybe we could say them?

21 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Maybe -- maybe,
22 like, for instance, like, your sister passed.

23 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Yeah.

24 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Who died in 19 --

25 -

1 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** '88.

2 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** --- 88, I think.

3 And, you know, they said it was a suicide, meanwhile
4 even the way the gun was located, and even how she --
5 how she lay there -- which we didn't see, but somebody
6 else saw it.

7 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Our uncle went
8 there to -- to -- to ---

9 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Identify.

10 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** --- identify the
11 body. And, right away, he had a gut feeling that it
12 was not what they were proposing, the police. So,
13 that is unsolved, you know. I was just a young woman
14 that time with a new baby, four months' old, my
15 eldest, and I never even knew, like, how she died.
16 They said she committed suicide, but it didn't seem
17 like that, the way the body was situated and...

18 And then there was even questions
19 later. Like, my niece found out somebody was
20 mentioning my sister's name, Alicia Malcolm (phon),
21 and that that was not what happened to her, that she
22 was murdered, they said. So, you know, it hasn't been
23 solved. And, nobody's ever going to go back and look
24 at how that happened. She was only 17 also. That was
25 unsolved.

1 As well as Valerie Racette. She's my
2 husband's cousin. She was just a young girl, too.
3 She left a home that was very violent. [One line
4 redacted pursuant to Rule 55]. So, she ended up
5 living with an old man. He was, like, probably in his
6 seventies or eighties. And then she had a gunshot
7 wound that killed her. And then there was questions
8 about how she died, too. And then they said it was
9 suicide, but it didn't add up.

10 And then afterwards, there were stories
11 about who did that to her. So, that was unsolved.
12 And, it's like at least 30 years ago or more. She was
13 only young, too, at that time, that girl. I don't
14 know how old she would have been. Maybe around 12 or
15 14.

16 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** I don't even
17 remember.

18 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** I can't remember,
19 but...

20 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Maybe 16, or...

21 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Oh, yeah. But,
22 she was just a young girl, too.

23 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** But, I remember
24 seeing her laying in the casket, and that
25 (indiscernible).

1 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Mm-hmm.

2 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** I don't know how
3 she could have reached that. That's why it was
4 questionable.

5 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Yeah. Yeah, then
6 there had been...

7 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Quite a few
8 after, but...

9 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** A mom and a
10 daughter passed away, Mabel and Shirley Houle (phon).

11 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Sharon. Mabel
12 and Sharon.

13 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Sharon.

14 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Yeah.

15 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Sharon Houle.

16 Both those -- that mom and daughter were shot by the -
17 - the -- her partner, the daughter's partner. And,
18 there was young children in that home that time. Some
19 were as young as two or three years old. And, you
20 know, that's one thing we want to bring up, is that
21 these -- there was no support to these families that
22 experienced those traumatic experiences. And, today,
23 these young people are adults now, some of them, and
24 they're troubled. They're troubled.

25 And then there was Susan

1 (indiscernible) there. That was in 2004.

2 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** What about Ivy?
3 Eileen?

4 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Eileen Houle; my
5 cousin Eileen Houle, she was burned. The guy did go
6 to jail, but he was only given manslaughter. But, he
7 burnt her body. He raped her and burnt her, and then
8 left her there. And, the family went looking for her;
9 couldn't find her, because she was supposed to be on
10 her way home. And then I think they seen the smoke
11 where he had burned her. And then they found her
12 body. He was -- he's not allowed to come back on the
13 reserve, that guy. But, you know, his mom just passed
14 away. Is that that same one? Okay. I'm thinking of
15 ---

16 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** No, no, no. Not
17 that one, no.

18 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** It's a different
19 one. I'm confusing ---

20 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** This one is the
21 other one. The other one is living here in Winnipeg,
22 I think, now.

23 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Yeah.

24 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** That guy lives
25 here. Both of them live in Winnipeg.

1 MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE: Yeah.

2 MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE: Right.

3 MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE: They're not
4 allowed to come back to the reservation.

5 MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE: I don't know if
6 they are not allowed, or if they just don't come. I
7 don't know.

8 MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE: Not sure.

9 MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE: Probably they --
10 they would be -- they would be kind of fighting
11 anyway.

12 MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE: But, the mother
13 just passed away; the one that killed Susan. Yeah.
14 Susan's children are -- she had four children and, you
15 know, they weren't that old when that happened. He
16 mutilated her body, too. And, you know, so the one
17 thing that we -- what I see after being in frontline
18 work the past years is we have a lot of mental health
19 issues in our community, and some are very undiagnosed
20 mental health issues. And, I think this is what is
21 happening with our women. And...

22 MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE: The drug
23 addiction.

24 MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE: Drug addictions,
25 yeah. And so, these mental health issues are not

1 being -- they are falling through the cracks, because
2 there's no system in our community where ---

3 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Services.

4 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Yeah, services.

5 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** There's no
6 services in the community when that happens.

7 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

8 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** That's why I said
9 it's kind of like from 9:00 to 4:35.

10 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Uh-huh.

11 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Then, after that
12 there's nothing.

13 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Uh-huh.

14 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** There's no
15 services. And, there's no safe houses in our
16 community. There's no crisis -- there's no -- I don't
17 know if there's crisis things in that community. If
18 you -- when you go to Dauphin, it has, like, emergency
19 crisis unit there. But, we don't have emergency
20 crisis.

21 But, from that time, like when my
22 daughter died in 2000; another one died in 2001, then
23 2004, then Sandi-Lynn.

24 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** 2010.

25 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Mm-hmm.

1 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Yeah.

2 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** So, it's kind of
3 like from 2000 to 2010, what that's -- that's about
4 four?

5 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Mm-hmm.

6 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Right?

7 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Yeah.

8 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** And then that --
9 those two ladies -- those two ladies, right, was in
10 1987.

11 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Yeah.

12 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Because I
13 remember discussing that, and that feeling that there
14 is a lot of mental health. And, you know, like --
15 like, post traumatic -- like a lot of post traumatic.
16 Is there anybody dealing with post trauma, you know?
17 Or, is it just going to be something that, you know,
18 until another violence happens, because there is a lot
19 of violence in the First Nation, right?

20 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Mm-hmm. Yeah. I
21 witnessed a young man pulling his girlfriend's hair
22 right on the road where we lived. And then, of
23 course, back -- you know that's a number of years ago,
24 maybe five years ago or less. And then I posted it on
25 Facebook, and did I ever get a backlash for trying to

1 help this young woman. That really was upsetting, you
2 know, because, you know, I was thinking, like, this
3 woman was being beaten up on a road. And, instead,
4 they got mad at me for saying that. Although, yeah,
5 maybe it was, you know, call it media. But still, was
6 I going to go run out over there and -- or do I phone
7 the cops, or -- you know? That's -- all those
8 questions.

9 Like, is there -- in our community, I
10 don't think we even have a one, two, three plan for
11 things like that. Something like that, you know?
12 What do we do when we see a woman getting beaten up on
13 the road? Like, [Family member 1] went through that.
14 She was being beaten up on the road by this -- this
15 guy that she loved. It's been almost three years ago
16 now. And then they phoned me and said that that guy
17 was beating her up on the road, so...

18 Of course, you know, like I was
19 mentioning earlier about the police system that's in
20 place which needs to change still. And, you know,
21 because of -- being fueled by that -- not anger, but
22 that justice, I aggressively -- my husband and I
23 aggressively tackled that, my [Family member 1] to
24 leave that abusive partner. And, I handed her all
25 kinds of pamphlets to help her see that this is not

1 right, this is not right, this is -- and I even gave
2 her positive affirmations of who she is as a woman,
3 and things like that. I did that till she finally
4 someday, one day clicked in her head; okay, this isn't
5 right.

6 And then a couple days ago, maybe like
7 three, four days ago, she says to me, "[family
8 member]," she had a bad dream about that guy. She
9 said, "You know what he did to me? In the wash -- in
10 the laundry room?" She said he took a knife and he
11 put it right here. And, if I didn't listen he was
12 going to...

13 And, you know, like I mentioned earlier
14 about phoning the police to try and get her some help
15 to get her out of there, like. And, oh, I got so
16 upset, because it's her that has to phone; that's what
17 they said. And, I'm the [family member]. I'm trying
18 to, you know, make sure that [Family member 1] doesn't
19 get killed. And I said, what are you guys waiting
20 for? I said, why don't -- I said, "Why don't you go
21 there?" I said, "Are you waiting till like what
22 happened to my niece, Sandi-Lynn Malcolm?" And then
23 that policeman says to me, "Don't you talk to me about
24 Sandi-Lynn Malcolm," he says. "I don't want to hear
25 that about Sandi-Lynn Malcolm."

1 I was so -- I phone his head boss
2 again, complained about that. But, nothing changed.
3 So, yeah.

4 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** I don't think
5 we're the only community that's going through this.

6 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** That's the point
7 I was saying. We live close to First Nation
8 communities in Ebb and Flow. Like maybe about half an
9 hour, right Phyllis?

10 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Yeah.

11 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** So, we -- I said
12 within those First Nations, they've lost women and
13 girls too. The same -- I think the same situation,
14 like murdered -- murdered and killed, or whatever,
15 (indiscernible). Homicide and killed, but even for my
16 case, like my daughter, like, the police never really
17 -- like, it's been 17 and a half years since my
18 daughter died. And, they just told me that she's in
19 cold case files, and that's how it's going to be until
20 we have more evidence. And, yet, people saw
21 something. They just don't want to know. So, I don't
22 know.

23 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** So, there's been no
24 resolution for anything?

25 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** No, it's

1 know? I see all these families here. That's what I
2 do. That's what I told in my story. I see all these
3 families. Every time I go on my missing and murdered
4 women marches and rallies, I see all the same
5 families. All the same families. I come here -- we
6 even come here like without nothing. And, we just
7 travel here, we do our stuff, and you know.

8 And, it's very difficult to get support
9 in your First Nation community, from your leadership
10 or anybody, because it's very -- there's too much
11 close relations, right? Everybody is related to
12 everybody, and they're scared that this one is going
13 to -- you know?

14 It's not -- there needs to be some kind
15 of -- how would you say it? Like, you know, to have
16 some kind of a circle and say like, you know. I could
17 understand how those families feel, the other side.
18 And then I could understand how I felt, you know,
19 because I see the families. I see the father. I
20 always think, "I wonder what he goes through, what his
21 son did to my daughter," right? You think of stuff
22 like that. How do you help the community heal if
23 there's nothing there? And, the bitterness and anger
24 and all that is still going to be there, because
25 there's absolutely no healing.

1 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Yeah, because
2 even the -- even like my -- my cousin, Eileen, so
3 there's like animosity, bitterness and unforgiveness
4 that's sitting there. So, how can we reach out to the
5 others when we have that thing sitting right there?
6 It's very difficult.

7 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** Just so I can get a
8 better understanding of the shelter, you say there's
9 no shelter in your community, but there's one in
10 Dauphin you said, right?

11 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Dauphin, yeah.

12 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** And, have the women
13 from your community accessed that resource?

14 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Some.

15 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** Or how does that work?

16 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Sometimes they
17 will. Sometimes they will go there, but it's like an
18 hour from our community, and it's for them to get
19 there. There's no way for them to get there. If
20 there's more services maybe, I don't know if the
21 police would take them there. But, there needs to be
22 some kind of a unit there that's going to be able to
23 see, you know, like, a safe place for them to phone
24 and say, you know what? I need to be able to get
25 there because this is what's happening, or -- you

1 know. But, it's hard for them to get there.

2 Because what happens is -- and this is
3 what I talked about the police about the RCMP. They
4 don't -- we don't have any RCMP in Ebb and Flow First
5 Nation. There's no police service there. We have a
6 police detachment in Ste. Rose that comes to Ebb and
7 Flow. So, there's really nothing, right? There's no
8 RCMP; there's no police policing. Only if there is an
9 urgency or an urgent call, or something, then they'll
10 come, right?

11 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** How far -- how long is
12 that?

13 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** It's about 30
14 minutes, right, Phyllis? And, that depends where
15 they're coming from, because if you see Ebb and Flow
16 is here, then there's another community here,
17 (indiscernible), and there's another community here,
18 Sandy Bay, that needs that service. Amran (phon),
19 McCreary, you know? It's like I know what the radius
20 is of those RCMP officers, but I know McCreary, Ste.
21 Rose, Amran; all those RCMP officers -- and Amran,
22 that's where Sandy Bay First Nation is also located.
23 So, we have all that -- we need all those. Those RCMP
24 don't only serve Ebb and Flow; they serve all the
25 other community areas within I don't know how many

1 miles. Maybe a 50-mile radius, I guess.

2 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** And then how many in
3 the detachment? How many -- do you know how many ---

4 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** I don't.

5 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** --- officers?

6 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** I don't know.

7 But, you know what? Sometimes -- if you phone them,
8 sometimes you won't hear from the police for two or
9 three days. Like, maybe that next week they'll come
10 and say, you know what, did you get vandalized? Like,
11 that was like two weeks ago, right? So, they
12 (indiscernible).

13 There needs to be a team of people
14 that's just going to deal with these -- these women,
15 and you know like women and girls that are being --
16 there needs to be more stronger -- stronger laws that
17 protect -- that protect our women and girls. Like,
18 there needs to be more.

19 There's something missing in our -- in
20 our -- there's something really missing. I don't know
21 if the jail system is also helpful either, because
22 they go to jail but there's no services for those, and
23 they come back to the same thing, you know what I
24 mean? There needs to be something else put in place
25 for -- for the families to heal. Because probably

1 about 98 percent of the time, the families will get
2 back together again, right, because they have
3 children. That's the thing. I don't know what there
4 is to do, but something needs to be put in place for
5 all these, because there's a lot of dynamics that play
6 in, in everything.

7 And, in our home (indiscernible)
8 Anishinaabe. There's the residential schools, and
9 there's assistance, and there's that. You know, I
10 have absolutely nothing against CFS. I think they
11 have -- I think they have a role to play in the
12 protection of our children. But, I also think that
13 there should have been something in place from the
14 Indian residential schools, for me, as a one that
15 survived -- you know, not a survivor but an
16 internally-generational child.

17 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** I think they
18 totally forgot about us, you know? They put -- they
19 have totally forgot about us. They made the apology
20 and everything for my parents. My dad, who died like
21 three weeks before that apology, never got to see --
22 see it or hear his story. And then -- and then all of
23 sudden now it's the Sixties Scoop; right? And, us
24 here. I suffer from DFT.

25 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Yeah.

1 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** I suffer from
2 watching my dad being violent. And, my daughter, and
3 my grandchildren are still suffering from the way I
4 raised them, because that's the way I see, that I seen
5 in my parents' home. So -- and then -- so it's --
6 it's all these in our community still that we're
7 suffering from. We need some healing lodges. We need
8 some ways to heal our women and men. Skills and ---

9 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Yeah. You know,
10 the way that it was a long time ago, because a lot of
11 these guys, you could call them and (indiscernible).
12 Like, there was a role everybody played in the
13 community at that time; it's gone, right? A lot of
14 the stuff that you see now is all on social media, and
15 you know this is what's doing. And then I said,
16 "Don't put your stuff on social media." But, they
17 probably have. You know, we have no counsellors and
18 everything, right? We have nobody to turn to, unless
19 you were suddenly -- you want to go on a Wednesday
20 because you've already -- this issue was from the past
21 week, and you have to do it on Wednesday. So, by that
22 time, things have mended, those four days, and you
23 don't want to talk anymore.

24 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** There's only one
25 counsellor that comes here to service our community,

1 and she only comes on Wednesday.

2 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** And, I don't know
3 if the school has any.

4 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** I think there is
5 one counsellor that goes there.

6 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** And, we have 800
7 kids almost, (indiscernible) in our First Nation,
8 right? So, you know. And then the -- yes, the school
9 rarely has counsellors, because of all of these
10 services are mainly in the urban areas, right? The
11 urban areas have a lot of services, but the First
12 Nations are lacking those services. So, there's not
13 really very many. There's not much where we could go
14 in our community.

15 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Yeah.
16 Something's really missing. Like you always say about
17 silos; they're all working in silos in our community.
18 They're just taking care of this, and this, and this.
19 And then we -- in my community, when I worked -- where
20 I had worked, I developed a program to deal with anger
21 -- anger management. And then -- so in our programs,
22 we did that with Brenda and myself. And then this one
23 time we decided, okay, well we'll use the one for
24 Corrections, the one that Corrections use.

25 And then the P.O. officer that comes

1 there, he mentioned that maybe we could get together
2 with Corrections and bring those programs to our
3 community, to do them our own community. Because,
4 otherwise, these people who are -- need to access
5 these programs and get them under their belt, so they
6 can, you know, get that. They're being mandated to
7 take them, so some of them willingly come, but some
8 are not. They didn't come, most of them, on that day.

9 So, all of a sudden, the big head
10 honcho often decides that we're not good enough to do
11 those programs that Corrections built. So, we finally
12 got our applied counselling certificate, so they can't
13 say we can't do them, because we -- we have the
14 education to do that.

15 And, we tried the Corrections program.
16 And out of the -- out of the 16 that applied, that
17 were screened in and got into our program, all of them
18 all left. And, I think there was only three or four
19 that graduated from that 16, because that program was
20 something that they already heard when they were in
21 jail. And, it's all -- it's got nothing to do with
22 cultural, nothing. It's all the way the white man
23 wants you to take.

24 So, I told my colleagues -- I said
25 we're not going to do that Corrections program. I

1 said we're losing our people. So, I developed that
2 program on anger management. And, that time we worked
3 together, we graduated all of our (indiscernible).
4 And then ---

5 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** And, there was
6 some of them that were also mandated, right? Like to
7 CFS and Corrections, and we developed it ourselves.
8 It was called (indiscernible). They were very good.
9 They were -- even today when I meet them, and then
10 they say I never forget that program that we did,
11 right? They were just nice about it, and you know,
12 they were -- were very, like, you know. And, I know
13 it's not the same the way we do it, and then the way
14 it stuck. So, I think Corrections need to change a
15 little bit, because it's -- it's not the same.

16 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** And then when
17 they were -- when they were doing their program, and
18 then they had to go to Dauphin, it was our Native
19 worker had to drive these people all the way to
20 Dauphin every -- every week. And, like, what is their
21 thinking, you know? We could just have it right here.
22 People are, like, minutes away. We could pick them
23 up. Most of them don't have vehicles; pick them up
24 and bring them here, which is what we did the last
25 time we had our anger management program.

1 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** And, mind you,
2 we're going to start doing stuff like that, because
3 we're trying to develop our own program where we could
4 (indiscernible). We have to have a business plan
5 (indiscernible); do all that stuff, because we're both
6 certified counsellors and we're both life skills
7 coaches. We've experienced, and that's the best
8 teaching there is, is experiential. There's
9 absolutely nothing you're going to learn from a book.
10 There might be, because you know what? That's the
11 way, but as Anishinaabe people, we were taught a lot
12 of things. That's how we do, right?

13 One time, an elder told me -- quite a
14 few years ago. He said, "Don't ever get intimidated
15 by somebody (indiscernible), because you're just as
16 good as they are, so. And, I'm not trying to do that
17 in a way to be better than anybody, but I've
18 experienced a lot of stuff in my life. That's why I
19 think this missing and murdered women leaves out the
20 First Nation communities because a lot of stuff
21 happens in those communities, the grassroots. And,
22 those are the ones. And, that's why we said -- me and
23 Phyllis said that I wish one of the Commissioners
24 would come to my community. And, you will open a
25 place where you could talk to the families. That's

1 what I said. Come to my community. We'll show you
2 around in our community. You will see what our First
3 Nation is like, what's -- you know, happening in here,
4 and what's, you know?

5 We live on all-weather road. Like, our
6 people come and live in the cities, both Brandon and
7 Dauphin. Winnipeg and then Dauphin. It's all --
8 we're kind of central, right? But, I think we need
9 to, in order for these missing and murdered women, you
10 need to also go to a First Nation community. And, I
11 was talking to one of the Commissioners, and that's
12 what they said. I'll put that out there, and say you
13 say you want them to come to your First Nation.

14 Like if we lost seven or eight women,
15 like there's something going on here. My daughter was
16 only 20 years old. She died 17 and a half years ago.
17 She would have been almost 38. December 28th, she
18 would have been 38 years old. That's the kind of
19 stuff that -- those are the stories you'll hear. But,
20 if we don't heal those children or those families that
21 have been through that, there's going to be more of
22 this happening. Something needs to be set in place.

23 I even said -- I even said in my
24 statement, I see -- I heard one of those there
25 downstairs, they were saying maybe you need to

1 commemorate these missing and murdered women somewhere
2 in the First Nations, you know? For all the missing
3 and murdered women that have -- you know, in memory of
4 all these missing and murdered women. Let the
5 children see them. Let them see them, what happened
6 to our women, our girls, you know?

7 I always even said that with the Indian
8 residential school, for all the Indian residential
9 school survivors, you know, commemorate that. It has
10 to be done. At least that's something that we -- we
11 can't always just shove it under the carpet and say,
12 you know, that's -- because it happens all over. If
13 it happens in the city, it -- it hits my heart. It
14 hits my heart, and I just, you know, just -- we can't
15 be just another missing and murdered woman or girl.

16 I could relate to those women that way,
17 those families that go through that. Your heart just
18 shattered, and you have to bring it together. That's
19 what it feels like. Like it's in a thousand pieces,
20 and (indiscernible). That's what -- you know?

21 I've travelled all over advocating.
22 I've even travelled here to this Victoria Inn last
23 May, you know? I travelled here on my own trying to
24 get noticed just for me to tell my story. But, we
25 need to go into those First Nations communities and

1 say, you know, what's going on? How can we help? You
2 know, what happened to you? Because, a lot of them
3 don't know, like the ones -- we're probably the ones
4 really closest to them in saying (indiscernible). And
5 then (indiscernible). But, if anything, you'll learn
6 from them.

7 So, I pull them in. My sister, I
8 pulled her in, and you know? And, my children are not
9 even here. My girl is 40 years old. She's not even
10 here. And you know what? She always came to these
11 marches that we gave. And, she always said, "I want
12 justice for my sister." To date, there's no justice.
13 So, these are the stuff that we need, too. Because a
14 lot of them are working and they can't leave their
15 jobs to come here, because they'll lose money if they
16 come here, you know. My husband can't come because he
17 drives the (indiscernible) bus. My sons are not here.

18 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** It would be good
19 if they would come to our community.

20 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** So, I want to ask you,
21 like, the Commissioners will be viewing this. So, if
22 you can look right into this camera, and tell them?

23 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** She said her name
24 was Penelope -- just kidding -- or no, Pamela. No,
25 no, no, no. Her name was Michèle.

1 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** Yeah, Michèle.

2 Yes.

3 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Michèle, you're
4 invited to Ebb and Flow First Nation, 270 kilometers
5 north of Winnipeg.

6 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** All-weather road.
7 And, we will even accommodate you, too.

8 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** You'll have a
9 motel room, and you'll get to eat bannock and --
10 there.

11 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** Okay. So, do you want
12 to conclude right there?

13 **MS. PHYLLIS RACETTE:** Yeah.

14 **MS. BRENDA BAPTISTE:** That's good.

15 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** I want to say in my
16 language. I want to say (speaking in Denesuline).
17 Thank you for being able to come in together like
18 this. And, I want to acknowledge you for the work
19 that you're doing, and the bravery to share your
20 truth, your story. So again, (speaking in
21 Denesuline). Thank you. And, the time, please, 2:42.
22 --- Upon adjourning at 14:42

23

24

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Shirley Chang, 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end, positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Shirley Chang

February 28, 2018