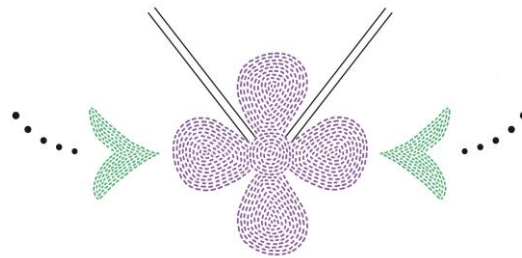


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Membertou First Nation
Unama'ki (Cape Breton Island), Nova Scotia**



PUBLIC

Monday October 30, 2017

Statement - Volume 60

**Paula McDonald,
In relation to Loretta Saunders**

Statement gathered by Marie-Audrey Girard

Coast Reporting Services Inc.

II

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statement Volume 60

October 30, 2017

Witness: Paula McDonald

PAGE

Testimony of Paula McDonald. 1

Reporter's Certification 25

Statement gatherer: Marie-Audrey Girard

Documents submitted with testimony: None

Statement - Public
Paula MacDonald
Loretta Saunders

1

1 (October 30th, 2017, 7:10 p.m.)

2 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: This is Marie-Audrey Girard with the
3 National Inquiry. We are in Membertou. This is
4 Monday, October 30th and I am in the room with?

5 PAULA MACDONALD: Paula McDonald.

6 [K.S.]: [K.S.].

7 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Thank you so much for being with us
8 tonight. It is 7:10 p.m. and we are starting the
9 interview.

10 So, again, thank you very much for being with
11 us tonight. And then as I said at the beginning,
12 we would like to know what -- my first question
13 will be what would you like the Commission and the
14 Commissioners to know, what story you would like
15 to share with us.

16 PAULA MACDONALD: I have a few different stories I would like
17 to share. The first would be about my
18 sister-in-law, Loretta Saunders. I am Loretta Saunder's
19 brother's ex-wife. And I was one of the people on
20 scene searching for Loretta when she went missing.

21 And I want to add to what Delilah said in her
22 testimony earlier about the way the reporting
23 happened. In the beginning Loretta was reported as
24 being a white woman from Saint John's and the
25 media were all over that. Um, and it seemed like

1 the more people learned about Loretta and the more
2 it came out, you know, about her history and the
3 fact that she was an Inuk woman and from Labrador
4 rather than -- you know Goose Bay, Labrador rather
5 than Saint John's, Newfoundland I noticed the
6 changes in the help we got. Not so much -- you
7 know, we still had lots of support, but we had
8 less community support, um, and less media
9 coverage and it didn't seem to be as important
10 when people realized that she wasn't white. I
11 noticed that for one. And I don't understand
12 that. Like I don't understand.

13 I remember us talking about it and planning
14 like how we were going to release the news,
15 because we -- we tried in the beginning like not
16 to let anyone know because we were afraid she
17 would get lost or slip between the cracks because
18 we thought we wouldn't have any help, because, you
19 know, her family was -- had gone through so much
20 discrimination and stuff.

21 Um, sorry, I forgot where I was going with
22 this for a second.

23 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: That's okay.

24 PAULA MACDONALD: Also, I wanted to add to what the family
25 mentioned earlier about the way things were

1 released to us as a family. Um, I experienced the
2 same thing Miriam experienced with talking to
3 police officers. Um, I -- it seemed to get a lot
4 more difficult to get a hold of someone or to find
5 someone willing to talk once it was released that
6 Loretta was Inuk. Um, oh, goodness, I am forgetting
7 again. Sorry.

8 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: It's all right. Yeah. And if you
9 want, I can jump in and maybe ask some questions
10 and --

11 PAULA MACDONALD: I was about to say something and I am
12 forgetting it. Oh, my goodness I can't believe.

13 KARINA SMILEY: It is okay. Just take some deep breaths.

14 PAULA MACDONALD: I think when I talk about Loretta and her
15 being missing it brings me right back to looking
16 for her. And that's extremely difficult.

17 I remember being on the New Brunswick Highway
18 and that day we felt exceptionally well. We
19 thought it was going to be the day, myself and
20 [Ex-Husband] and [Ex-Brother-in-Law] it was going to be the
21 day we were going to find her. We were driving up the
22 highway and we saw all these inukshuks in various
23 spots. We were convinced that somebody had Loretta
24 and she was managing to get them to pull over long
25 enough just so she could run up that mountain and

1 build an inukshuk just to let her know -- to let
2 us know we were on the right track. And I am not
3 sure why we thought that, but those inukshuks kept
4 the hope in our minds and kept us searching and
5 kept us looking.

6 And that last day that we searched we were
7 just headed to the New Brunswick Highway, that was
8 our next -- our next thing we were going to check
9 was -- was the sides of the road on the highway.
10 And I can't remember if it was [Ex-Husband] or his
11 brother, but one of them needed to stop for a pack
12 of cigarettes and we were going to revamp and, you
13 know, give ourselves a minute before we took the
14 next journey. And we stopped in the store and
15 [Ex-Husband] was going through his phone and he saw
16 something on his phone about a body being found.
17 And before he had the words completely out of his
18 mouth we were heard it on the radio that a body
19 was found and that they were -- and that
20 it -- you know, it was Loretta. And, um, it -- um,
21 it nearly destroyed my ex-husband.

22 Um, and myself and [Ex-Husband] have a very shady
23 past. You know, our marriage wasn't a good
24 marriage. You know, he was once an abusive man.
25 I won't talk about details of him or what happened

1 in our marriage, because I truly believe he is no
2 longer that man. And I don't think it is fair of
3 me to talk about things that -- that describe a
4 person that he isn't anymore.

5 But at that time I saw him and his brother
6 fall apart and I think I had -- [Ex-Brother-in-Law]
7 actually fell to his knees and -- I don't know, but I
8 lost a piece of myself on that highway and -- that I
9 don't think I would ever get back. And after that
10 it was, you know, just going straight back to the
11 hotel and -- and we had to -- we had to call our
12 children. And we knew it was released on the news
13 it was only a matter of time before it was going
14 to be on Facebook. And I had to tell my daughter
15 and my son over the phone that their aunt was
16 murdered and that never should have happened. It
17 never should have been released, the family should
18 have known. And I don't understand how.

19 It near destroyed my daughter. She hasn't
20 been able to go in to a public place since any of
21 this happened. She is -- slowly she is doing well
22 now, thank god. But we have been -- myself and
23 her have been through three years -- almost three
24 years of counselling now. And we do equine
25 therapy, which I want to commend Nova Scotia

1 Victim Services for, because Newfoundland
2 completely turned their back on me and wanted to
3 stick me on a two-year waiting list as well as my
4 daughter. But --

5 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And how old is your daughter?

6 PAULA MACDONALD: But [Victim Services Worker] of Nova Scotia
7 has been very -- extremely helpful and I want
8 to -- I do want to say that my experience with
9 victim services is unlike the rest of the family,
10 because once I got the right contact in Nova
11 Scotia we did get the help. And not only did we
12 get a private counsellor, but you know once our
13 counsellor wrote a letter they agreed to give
14 equine therapy. So we were able to have non --
15 you know, non-traditional counselling --

16 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: M'hm.

17 PAULA MACDONALD: -- and horse therapy which is just something
18 myself and [Daughter] connect to more anyway, because
19 animals are kind of our thing. Um, ...

20 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And how old is your daughter? Sorry.

21 PAULA MACDONALD: She is now 21 years old.

22 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Twenty-one. So she was 18 years old
23 when --

24 PAULA MACDONALD: She was in her last year of high school, 17.

1 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Seventeen years old.

2 PAULA MACDONALD: She was 17 when Loretta was killed and my son
3 was 14. Yes, he had just turned 14.

4 Um, I don't think it is acceptable the
5 families hear about things like this on the news
6 or on the radio or on Facebook. I don't think it
7 is acceptable the way the legal system handles
8 things, the way the police handle things. The
9 family should be the first people called. There
10 should be nothing released to the media until the
11 family knows what happened.

12 I mean, recently a woman went missing in
13 Newfoundland and it wasn't that way for her. Her
14 family knew before it was released, because she is
15 not Aboriginal.

16 And me being someone that, you know, is --
17 although I have recently discovered I have
18 Indigenous ancestry I am -- both sides of my
19 family I still grew up with a white privileged
20 life, you know, 100 percent. So I experienced the
21 difference between having that white privileged
22 life and coming back after Loretta was found, after
23 having my face plastered on the news now all of a
24 sudden people see me as maybe she is Aboriginal.

25 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: M'hm.

1 PAULA MACDONALD: And I noticed a difference in how I was
2 treated in my own community where I was born and
3 raised. You know, many, many people have walked
4 out of my life just because I stand by this
5 inquiry or just because I stand by Indigenous
6 rights. And why? I am still the same person I
7 was 20 years ago. But if they knew 20 years ago
8 who I was they wouldn't have been in my life I
9 guess.

10 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: So when --

11 PAULA MACDONALD: When I came back from Nova Scotia after
12 Loretta was killed I met my boyfriend at the time, I
13 met him and my mother at the airport. It was only
14 a matter of couple of days, you know, before he
15 started complaining about the news and what he was
16 seeing on the news and what he was reading on the
17 news. And his favorite words became Indian bitch
18 and Indian whore. And that's what he used to
19 describe me the minute he saw there was Indigenous
20 ancestry.

21 And one night he was making negative
22 comments. I can't remember the exact context of
23 his negative comments, but he was talking about
24 the Indigenous people and saying a lot of terrible
25 things about them. And it was really hurtful to

1 me and I couldn't handle hearing him say that and
2 I was defending it and asking him to stop. And
3 for asking him to stop I got beat in the head with
4 a golf club and thrown on the floor and then he
5 stomped on my chest. And then threw my clothes
6 out the door and told me to go back to the other
7 Indian bitches if I love them that much.

8 And, you know, my mom -- my own mother came
9 to collect me off his step and even she wasn't a
10 hundred percent sure that I didn't do something
11 wrong, because I guess my mental health was fading
12 at the time in a sense because of what happened
13 and because of the trauma. And I didn't -- I
14 didn't report that he had -- he did anything like
15 that. It hadn't been the first time. I have been
16 abused by 14 different people in my life
17 actually.

18 And the only one that changed, the only one
19 that made any changes at all is [Ex-Husband]. And the
20 only reason that happened is because he had a
21 swarm of support from Indigenous communities, you
22 know. He had a wrap around support. He had
23 counselling, he had healing circles, he had
24 smudging bud. Nobody else that entered my life
25 had any of that. And, um, I forget where I am

1 going back.

2 If, um, if those support -- supportive
3 services were provided to us in our marriage it
4 wouldn't have failed, it would have had the help
5 we needed. But instead of help and support we
6 had -- I don't know -- I believe I had one
7 counsellor that flirted with me. I had another
8 one who did drugs with my ex-husband. I guess it
9 wasn't -- it wasn't taken seriously. It wasn't
10 seen as a problem. It was always, what are you
11 doing now to get him going, Paula? It was never,
12 you know, let's punish him or let's heal you. It
13 was never about that.

14 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And can you tell us more a little bit
15 about the investigation, Loretta's investigation,
16 the police investigation? It is my understanding
17 that you were doing your own investigation, but
18 the police as well was doing it at the same time.

19 PAULA MACDONALD: Yeah.

20 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: So if you could describe a little bit
21 about the police investigation in this case. I
22 know you talk a little bit about it, but if you
23 have more details about it.

24 PAULA MACDONALD: I felt like we were lied to. I was told by
25 a police officer that they didn't see the need for

1 a ground search at this time. And when he told me
2 he didn't see the need for a ground search at this
3 time, I took that as she not dead, they have no
4 evidence that she is dead. She is alive, we are
5 still looking for her alive. And that gave me the
6 hope that I needed to keep searching, but at the
7 same time they had already looked through her
8 apartment. They knew already. How could they let
9 us believe that we could find her? How could they
10 put us through all those days of looking for her
11 when they already knew she was dead? They had to
12 knew. They at least knew she was hurt.

13 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And what did they found exactly? I
14 know many of the information that was disclosed
15 today, but I will still be asking them because --

16 PAULA MACDONALD: I don't know what they found, but I -- they
17 had to find something. And she was ... It was a
18 struggle involved in her death, you know. They
19 tried to smother her with a couple of plastic bags
20 that failed. And if there was that big of a
21 struggle -- their skin was under her fingernails.
22 She had taken chunks out of the girl's face.
23 There had to be some kind of evidence. Her head
24 was smashed. There had to be blood in the
25 apartment. I know there was blood in the

1 apartment, because family members cleaned it
2 afterwards. So the police knew that, they knew
3 all that and they didn't tell us.

4 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: So you --

5 PAULA MACDONALD: How can they be so cruel? Like myself and
6 [Ex-Husband] and his brother went to the building where
7 Loretta lived and we pried the manhole in the back
8 of the parking lot opened and, um, looked, looked
9 in there for her. We walked -- walked through
10 woods, we climbed in to dumpsters. I mean, who
11 should ever have to do that? All we knew is what
12 she was wearing when she went missing. And we
13 found coats that we thought were hers in the
14 woods, we found boots that we thought were hers.
15 We found evidence of people hurt that we thought
16 was about her. We found a broken rail by her
17 apartment that we thought, okay, she had a
18 struggle out here, maybe she fell, maybe something
19 happened to her. And there was no need of us to
20 have to go through any of that.

21 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: M'hm.

22 PAULA MACDONALD: All those days of searching, all those
23 climbing in to garbage cans and looking in to
24 manholes none of that had to happen. They could
25 have saved Loretta's family all that pain by telling

1 them the truth at the beginning. And I understand
2 they couldn't release much, because they --
3 because it would effect the investigation. That I
4 understand. I understand the law and I understand
5 the way it works, because I took criminology. I
6 studied, you know, different aspects of the law
7 most of my life so I know what they had to hold
8 back. But they could have gave us enough.

9 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: M'hm.

10 PAULA MACDONALD: They could have told us right from the
11 beginning that they thought there was a
12 possibility she was dead. They could have told us
13 that, because I know they knew it.

14 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And how exactly -- you mentioned that
15 when you were on this highway that your life
16 totally changed. What exactly were the
17 consequences that Loretta's death had on your life?
18 How did you -- like maybe the next months, what
19 happened in your life in the next months --

20 PAULA MACDONALD: It is almost four years later and I can't
21 drive on the highway. I have to get someone else
22 to do the driving if I am on certain highways now,
23 because I get panic attacks if it resembles that
24 highway.

25 I have been back to New Brunswick three times

1 looking for her memorial and I had a meltdown on
2 the New Brunswick Highway with my children with me
3 that near destroyed my daughter. I upset her so
4 much, because I couldn't find Loretta's memorial. I
5 got so upset that she got out of my car and took
6 off running with no phone and no nothing. And I
7 spent hours looking for my daughter in New
8 Brunswick as a result of how upset I got looking
9 for that memorial because I couldn't let it go. I
10 have let it go now, because I have been back twice
11 since looking for it and I have come -- I have
12 come to accept the fact that Loretta was never
13 there. There was a lifeless body found in that
14 place and that wasn't her. And that's not the
15 place that I want to remember her.

16 And, um, this past summer I drove the New
17 Brunswick highway and I was the driver for the
18 first time and I know I can do it now. And I am
19 starting to heal and get over it. Um, but I will
20 never be the same again. I have always -- I mean,
21 [K.S.] has known me for a lot of years, she has
22 known me for a lot of years and I have always been
23 an outgoing person. I have always been able to go
24 out and have fun. And now my life is hiding and
25 going in the woods and just be away from people,

1 because I am afraid of people for the most part.
2 It's -- I am able to put on a happy face at work
3 and I have always been able to pick myself up when
4 other people need me. You know, I have always had
5 that ability. So I am able to do that for
6 clients. But, you know, when midnight comes and
7 my day at work is over I sit in my car for hours
8 or I drive for hours. And I haven't had a good
9 night's sleep in years. My health has gone
10 downhill, because I haven't slept or eaten
11 properly. I am unable to walk in to a crowded
12 room anymore. I am -- because it is similar
13 reactions of family members after Loretta was
14 killed. I am unable to be in a room with anyone
15 drinking, it scares me. And, um, I have always
16 been one of these people that trusted the police
17 and trusted the justice system. I wanted to be a
18 correctional officer and I wanted to be a person
19 that made a change, you know. But I -- I can't
20 trust them anymore.

21 I can't remember the officer's name, but one
22 of the officers I spoke to when we were looking
23 for Loretta I recently seen him on a news report on
24 Facebook on something unrelated. And it was
25 something he himself -- I don't want to mention

1 the officer's name, but I will mention the
2 situation. It was a sexual assault or sexual
3 harassment that this officer was being charged
4 with. And when I saw that and I saw that face and
5 I thought back to speaking to him at that moment.
6 I don't -- I don't understand why they don't have
7 people that are a little bit more sensitive to
8 talk to family members.

9 The court process that was something else.
10 Anyone that was in the room had to notice, but
11 nobody spoke up and said anything. But the
12 slimeball lawyer that one of the -- one of the
13 people that killed Loretta, her lawyer was very
14 inappropriate in the way he addressed his client.
15 That really bothered me. I don't understand
16 why -- why nothing was said about that. How do
17 you get close enough to a client that you sit them
18 near between your legs to talk to them? How do
19 you do that? It just -- I know, my mind is all
20 over the place. I am so sorry for that, but I
21 keep getting these flashes of everything.

22 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: You mentioned a little bit earlier
23 that you have been -- and, again, if those
24 questions are too difficult, just let me know.

25 PAULA MACDONALD: M'hm.

1 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: You mentioned that 14 different people
2 abused you in your life, is that something that
3 you would like to share with us or that was just
4 some references or is there anything that you
5 would like to share?

6 PAULA MACDONALD: I don't know why it has been that way for
7 me. I know my mother before me had had abuse in
8 her life. Um, but I don't know what about me
9 makes that happen. I don't know what is inside me
10 that stops me from seeing the reality of it I
11 guess. I -- for some reason I am attracted to men
12 that are abusive, because it is -- really it is
13 the only way I know. I am -- oh, goodness, my
14 mind again is all over the place. I did have
15 something that I wrote when I was on the airplane
16 that may sound a little clearer, because my head
17 was clearer at the time and I didn't have this
18 splitting headache and thousands of tears. Is it
19 okay if I read to you what I wrote?

20 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Of course.

21 PAULA MACDONALD: Because I -- that was again from the heart.
22 Um, how do I find notebook stuff to read. Here
23 this. This was -- I didn't know how the inquiry
24 was going to go down so I thought it was just --
25 kind of all us getting up and having a little --

1 having a little thing to say.

2 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: M'hm.

3 PAULA MACDONALD: So I wrote something thinking, um, -- and
4 this might be -- I might be repeating myself on
5 some things here, but I think there might be
6 something in here I am missing. And I just said,
7 I am here today for two reasons. One is because
8 my children's aunt is one of the many missing and
9 murdered Indigenous women and I was one of the
10 people on scene in Halifax to search for her when
11 she went missing.

12 Loretta was a student at Saint Mary's doing her
13 thesis on missing and murdered Indigenous women at
14 the time of her death. When Loretta went missing I
15 was a student myself with little funds. When my
16 ex-husband called me I knew I had to head to
17 Halifax to help look for Loretta. And at the time I
18 didn't have the money to get here. And my son had
19 some savings and he gave me his money and he said,
20 mommy, I want you to take my money and go help
21 look for Loretta.

22 My -- my love and my understanding for
23 [Ex-Husband]'s family goes deep. I really think a lot
24 about them. I divorced [Ex-Husband] over 13 years ago,
25 but I didn't divorce his family and I still think

1 a lot of them. We lost contact from time to time
2 over the years due to conflict, which kind of
3 brings me to the next reason and that's I am a
4 survivor. I did, as I mentioned earlier, suffer
5 abuse. But I mentioned about -- I didn't want to
6 speak of the abuse that has to do with my mine and
7 [Ex-Husband]'s marriage. [Ex-Husband]'s mother and I
8 used to be close, but it was difficult on both of us
9 to remain that way, because she -- you know, she is a
10 very supportive mother and he needed her so
11 understandably so she had to be there for him.
12 And I am sure she gets sick of being peace maker
13 between us, because, you know, she has been that
14 on many, many occasions.

15 So Loretta and her sisters kind of took on the
16 role of my confidante in my conflict with their
17 brother after -- after we split up. This is --
18 they were kind of like go betweens to keep things
19 on a level with us so we could still manage to
20 communicate for the sake of the children. [Ex-Husband]
21 tells me that he began to change when Loretta moved
22 in with him and his wife -- his now wife. And I
23 believe that, because Loretta is such a peaceful
24 soul. She just had that impact on anyone that had
25 the privilege of knowing her and were blessed to

1 have loved her.

2 And the change in [Ex-Husband] became most evident
3 to me when he and [Ex-Brother-in-Law] and I became our
4 search together. [Ex-Husband] and I made peace. And he
5 told me after all these years and everything we have
6 been through he knew he could count on me. And it
7 was then that he admitted to me, you know, his
8 mistakes of the past and he apologized and he gave
9 me my closure I needed in order to let that part
10 of my life go. And I truly forgive him, I do,
11 finally. And I am proud of him for how far he has
12 come and for the changes he has made in this
13 life. And I just wish that it had have been
14 available to us sooner, you know. Why did it have
15 to happen, you know, 13 years after the fact?

16 And that's getting to him being one of 14
17 people who has abused me. And like I said to my
18 knowledge the only one that has changed -- and
19 then I went on to speak about my last relationship
20 that ended after Loretta was killed. And I already
21 mentioned that abuse to you.

22 What I didn't mention was during that
23 assault -- this part I forgot -- I kicked him in
24 the genitals in defense and he fell to the floor
25 at one point. And after my mother came and

1 retrieved me from his front step I am told by his
2 friend that he went to the hospital and filed a
3 report with claims that I abused him. And put
4 that on record to make sure that if I picked up
5 the phone that there would already be something on
6 record I guess. And that word from his friend is
7 probably one the reasons I was afraid to speak as
8 it was assumed that it wasn't going to be taken
9 seriously.

10 I have been starting to think that -- I hear
11 a lot of people talk about inter-generational
12 trauma and I have been starting to think that
13 maybe inter-generational trauma is the reason that
14 I have been in 14 abusive relationships. But can
15 I be effected my inter-generational trauma if I
16 didn't even know that generations of Indigenous
17 ancestors existed. Like can my problems still be
18 a result of what happened to them? I don't know.
19 I don't know if anyone has the answer to that for
20 me.

21 And I would like to know why I survived for
22 14 abusive relationships and not many people do.
23 Through tracing my family history I have come to
24 the conclusion that many family's hidden past or
25 my ancestors' hidden past which resulted in me

1 having white privilege is the reason I am here
2 today and they aren't. I have had a very
3 supportive mom who has always stood by me. I
4 guess that privilege gave me access to the
5 resources I needed, because I was able to fight
6 for the resources because people would listen to
7 me. And if they didn't listen to me, they would
8 listen to my mother. It's -- I fear how things
9 are going to be for my daughter if changes aren't
10 made. I fear that a lot.

11 Today when I was listening to Audrey talk
12 about her life and the abuse she has experienced
13 and how she lost her children I realized that --
14 how hard it had to have been for her and I
15 couldn't understand why she lost them. Audrey was
16 a good mother. She was a good mother that chose
17 the wrong man that abused her. But so was I. So
18 am I. Fourteen abusive relationships. Many, many
19 times child protection walked in to my house, many
20 times they found me bleeding and the floor. But
21 yet they didn't give me or my ex-husband help to
22 fix it. They made us sign the same kind of
23 agreement that other family members once had to
24 sign promising to stay apart. And we didn't. We
25 snuck around. We got back together. I phoned

1 child protection myself one day and told them, I
2 still didn't lose my kids. Because every time I
3 had an interview my white mother was sitting next
4 to me and that's why. Why have I -- my kids have
5 been exposed to so much more than my
6 sister-in-law's kids, but yet she lost hers. And
7 if this happens to my daughter, if she makes the
8 wrong choice in her life the same thing will
9 happen to her. I can see the same thing is going
10 to happen to her, because she holds a card. She
11 holds a card that says she don't get to get
12 listened to. That she doesn't get to get help. I
13 thought, wow, how great, my children have cards.
14 They never have to worry about medical care, you
15 know, this is so wonderful. If they get sick,
16 then they have this help. Yeah. But it also puts
17 a target on their frickin' heads.

18 Someone said to me today when I talked about
19 my ancestry and a lot of people don't realize that
20 parts of it are close enough that if I investigate
21 it and I proved it I could get benefits. But I
22 don't want them. I don't. I don't want that
23 card. But I want the benefits. I don't want to
24 be labelled.

25 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And how do you think your daughter

1 reacted?

2 PAULA MACDONALD: I want to hang on to that -- I want to hang

3 on to enough whiteness to keep my children safe.

4 Does that sound stupid?

5 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: I don't know. I don't know.

6 PAULA MACDONALD: But yet I am not that person inside. I

7 don't know. I guess as a mother you do what you

8 have to do to keep your kids safe. And I guess

9 now -- now I need to talk about something that I

10 need to keep off record.

11 (PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED)

12

13 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 8:14 P.M.)

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

I, Michelle Eng, Official Reporter in the Province of British Columbia, Canada, do hereby certify: That this is a true and accurate transcript of these proceedings recorded on sound-recording apparatus, transcribed to the best of my skill and ability in accordance with applicable standards. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 25th day of April, 2018.

Michelle Eng
Official Reporter