National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
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Statement - Volume 88
Karen Brower-Butler,
In relation to Delores Dawn Brower
Statement gathered by Frank Hope

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--- Upon commencing on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at 12:20 p.m.

MR. FRANK HOPE: My name is Frank Hope, statement gatherer. Today is Wednesday, November 8th. We're in Edmonton, Alberta, Edmonton Inn. In the room we have statement providers, mental health supports. And if you could introduce yourself.

MR. LESLIE METCHOOYAH: I’m Leslie Metchooyah.

MS. DOREEN MOSAWICH-ROSA: I’m Doreen Mosawich-Rosa.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: And Karen Brower-Butler.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Okay, (speaking in Dene) thank you. And the time 12:20 p.m.

And so we'll start, Karen. What -- what brings you in today, and what -- what is it that you want to share with the Commissioners?

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: My sister is what brings me in. I've done it kind of in a -- to help really just kind of keep organized, I've brought in some pictures, and just some stuff. My sister is Delores Dawn Brower, and she went missing in 2014 [sic], and in 2015 her remains were found. I wanted to share a bit about what I feel --
MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: -- lead Delores to this place in her life that ended it.

Delores and I were adopted from very young. And I know that we were loved by our family because even though after we were adopted this was a picture of Delores with our auntie in Fort Chip. And our granny looked after us. My mom is an alcoholic, and that is what led us to be in and out of foster care.

We were then adopted, and our time in childcare was not a happy time. And there was much abuse there; mental, physical, sexual. And although mine and Delores's experiences are very similar, Delores never seemed to be able to rise above that, and she became a very sad child, where young in her life she attempt -- she would do cutting, and then she would do -- attempt alcohol. And then -- and then she -- when she was 14 she left home and she just wanted to feel music -- but I believe it was just -- now that I'm older, and that I've connected more with our culture and I believe that she was just lost.

And so she went to go find herself, and in that she got caught in the streets of Edmonton. And so it didn't take very long before Delores got addicted to cocaine, and -- and that she then needed to supply her habit and started life on the streets of -- as a sex trade
Delores always was connected with her family. She would always come back to reach for us and felt caught between the two worlds. Her loss of culture and the language is I think what hurt her the most.

And as adults we lost connection for the first little while in our early 20s because it was just hard for her to be around normal. She said it was too quiet, too -- too normal. She couldn't handle -- after she'd lived so long on the streets. As a child Delores was very good at science. And because of her experiences on the streets she wanted to then pursue to become a social worker. And every time she'd go to treatment she'd get just a little bit closer to that dream, but she just never made it.

Personally, myself, that of being adopted to a non-Indigenous family has been very painful in this process. As Delores had returned to her spiritual -- Native spiritual, and always -- always encouraged me to go to a sweat, and to -- but there was -- the religion that our parents taught us wasn't the only way, and that she found comfort and healing in ceremony. Those were the times she was most at peace.

So I -- we made connection a little later in our adult life. In our late 20s. And we spent most of the
time together, and it just felt like old times again, and
Delores would come weekly to our home, and she was very
connected to my children. I had three boys, or I have
three boys. And she would come and spend time and we'd go
bike riding and we'd go hiking and camping, while she
still had very much a family on the streets, but she would
come.

Delores had a son, his name is [Delores’
Son]. He's now [age], he’s almost [age] in a couple of
weeks.

Although my other children don't know Auntie
Delores, they do know they have connection with her. I'm
thankful to Creator for that because that is His doing.
Just need to...

MR. FRANK HOPE: No rush.

MS. DOREEN MOSAWICH-ROSA: Don't forget to
breathe.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: Thank you.

MS. DOREEN MOSAWICH-ROSA: Take some deep
breaths. That will help ground you. I'll breathe with
you, okay. One more time.

MR. FRANK HOPE: I just want to encourage
you, yeah, just take your time. There's no rush. This --
this is your opportunity to -- to say what you need to
say.
MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: So I want to talk a little bit about kind of the last few months of her life -- last few months. So my mom and dad were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary and we were going to do a family photo, and Delores -- some of the family had not seen her in 15 years and it was really important. And I knew Delores's lifestyle, and I knew where I could find her when I needed to. And so I went to where she would -- where she would go and crash. And I picked her up and I took her to our family function. And we had family photos done. And then our family was a bit -- it's a large family. There were seven kids, and many of us -- five of us are adopted.

It was odd that Delores -- she'd -- last called me at Mother's Day, and -- and left a voice mail. I wasn't home. And that's the last time that I had heard from her. But the last time I had seen her was when I dropped her off at my mom and dad's, or from my mom and dad's wedding anniversary, and she just needed to go and get her fix. And then Mother's -- so that's April, Mother's Day rolls around, I get that phone call. And then nothing, and I thought that was weird.

Because was a couple of weeks had passed, I hadn't heard from her, and then Rachel (ph) went missing, or maybe her body had been found, I can't remember. And I
felt that was really weird that Delores hadn't come by
because Rachel is another girl on the street, Rachel
Quinney (ph), and Delores and her kind of had each other's
back and they kind of sister teamed on the street. And
that was like in April, I think, or June. And I felt
that's really weird that you know, but maybe she's out
camping or doing something. It was starting to get warmer
and it could happen that she's just out.

Then the end of June came, and then it was
going into summer and I -- I tried to report her missing
then, but they didn't take my statement at the time, was
the same thing that she lives a transient life and maybe
she's just out camping, doing whatever, and that was a
possibility.

Then my brother passed away that August and I
went looking for her, and people on the street really
hadn't seen her, so then I just kept on -- I phoned around
to some different agencies that I knew that she had been a
part of, of course, they couldn't talk to me. And time
goes on, time goes on. Then it's the end of summer, and
she wouldn't miss our back to school barbecue, spending
time with the nephews, she just wouldn't do that. And
that's when I knew something was really -- really wrong.

So finally, after continuing to pursue it
was, I think in October when the police finally took my --
bodies were starting to pop up more and more, and I contacted somebody at that time -- Project KARE had been just starting. And that's when they took a statement.

So I've just waited quietly for many -- many years, and then in April of 2015 my doorbell rings, two detectives and a support worker come in and they tell you that they found the remains, and of course, the initial shock is they must be wrong. So then we start that journey. That journey was difficult. I had made contact with my biological family, and my adoptive family didn't want to have with my biological family. And I had a white man's system that took us to begin with.

And just -- but in my sister's death I've been connected to my culture. I know my sister's wishes were to be buried traditionally. But we only had -- I don't even know how much of a body that we had. We were never given the medical examiner's report. And I understand now that's because of holdback evidence. But there's nothing that they can tell you.

It's hurtful to go to a support group and people in your group know more. It's where I found out that my sister had actually been found [location]. And if people in a support group know that because of their connections of their jobs, and were sharing it, I think
that it's something that could have been shared.

I find it hard to believe that there's absolutely nothing with her. No clothes, no zipper, no rubber from shoes or anything. I just find that hard to believe, and that's some of the stuff that's troubling for me.

Because where she was found there's no way that my sister would walk that far out. She wouldn't just walk there. It's a long ways. And she surely wouldn't lay down in [location]. And it just feels like things are closed, and that there's not a lot of closure, but I understand why some of that closure can't happen, so I ask Creator for the strength and the healing just to close it off for me.

**MS. DOREEN MOSAWICH-ROSE:** Do some breathing.

**MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** And as I listen to other people's testimonies I sit there and I think I -- I have questions because I think was my sister there at the -- but it's so closed that -- that area just seems to be the dumping ground, and those are the things that media has been hurtful in -- like, our sisters were -- were nothing. The headlines: Sex Trade Worker Found. Sex Trade Worker Missing. I think that -- I think that -- that our media can do a better job at treating these people more human.
I think that -- as I even listen to people -- their testimonies I think that even the families are not even educated, and some of the things that they talk about, or comment to are -- are outdated. I think of all the children in foster care, and that that's where our story really kind of fell apart. Things around mental health.

And this -- when Delores was trying to get out of the streets, this is some of her -- some of her stuff they would given her this: Everyone's Guide to Working with Social Services; The Inside Track.

Delores has a grade nine education. Not even, because she quit in grade nine. They hand this to you and say, “Work on it.” She can barely read this. Everything that they'll -- that they give her is workbooks to -- to read and read and read, and they think that they're going to help people. You don't hand them booklets of stuff they need to read. You come out of a crack house to civilization that says, you're going to do this, you're going to this. I need ID. Well, what is ID? ID is the crack house she belonged to. The girls you hang out with on the street. Your corner. That becomes your ID.

Those are things that were very overwhelming for Delores. And she would give up in that process because she would feel so defeated. Those are the things that she might have had a better chance of succeeding had some of
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those things been better in place.

And another thing is that along with our Social Services many of our children are still caught in that world. And after hearing testimonies I think we're doing the same thing for years and years and years, but we need to change. But our people need to change too.

Because of the secrets and lies that happen very early in our lives, in our communities. Our children are forced to have to leave or they're just shuffled onto family, and we just keep the secrets. And I think as people in our communities, we need to start speaking the truth, and we need to start accepting responsibility for our part in this. Because when I was placed in foster care, no family came for me. Nobody came to say, “I want them.” Until we were adopted out, and found out years later then, but it was too late. And then something happens to our children and we say, “Well, the white man took them, it's their fault.”

But our families need to stand up, and they need to -- they need to be a family. And I understand that there's long -- long history because I am a product of that history. I know that it's not an easy change, but I know that those changes have to happen. And I know that Delores wanted to become a social worker to make those changes.

However, I do think that there are some
things in our Edmonton area that are done, that are done well, and changes that have happened, we have an inner city group is called the Inner Circle (ph). We work with the historical homicide unit, and we've made those relations to help build and help make changes in Edmonton. That group has also helped in educating media in their reporting. And that IDs for transient lifestyle is in the works to becoming more centralized and easier to access.

And that if people want to start building relationship and healing, even today here in the City of Edmonton there's a new program starting, that's called: Coffee with a Cop. There are coffee shops all over. That they can reach out and ask the questions that are going on in the community, or any questions that they have about stuff.

I believe that our police force in Edmonton are making a real effort. I believe that in Edmonton we have -- Canada should look to some of the things that are happening here in Edmonton. Instead of reinventing the wheel. Instead of making some of those same mistakes that, that Edmonton has made in that process. But that these detectives and these sergeants, they come to our support group because we've asked them to come. And they sit there and they ask us questions, we teach them, they teach us. And there's been lots of understanding of why holdback
evidence is -- and so for me that has been very beneficial in my healing.

And I come today because I just don't want Delores to be forgotten. And that she wasn't just a sex trade worker. That she was my sister. She is a daughter. And she was a mom. That my -- the Inner Circle gives me a space to talk. That ceremony gives me the opportunity to heal. Not just from Delores's death. From my life experiences. From intergenerational trauma. That's all.

Do you have some questions?

MR. FRANK HOPE: Yeah -- yeah, I got some questions. So let's just go back in regards to your childhood and upbringing with Delores. So that was in Fort Chipewayan? Is that where you...

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: That's where --

MR. FRANK HOPE: -- were in this -- a child with Delores?

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: Yes, we did. Fort Chipewayan and Fort McMurray.

MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: When we were bouncing between biological mom and granny's house.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Okay. So tell me about granny's -- granny's place.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: Okay. It was a two
storey. You could walk through the front door and you could just drink this water out of this little ladle. And I remember there being dances, and there was always people around. I remember rolling down the hill and it just was -- seemed to be a happy place. There were just lots of people. I remember that. I remember dancing.

MR. FRANK HOPE: How was Delores during those times?

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: Delores loved it there. It was some freedom. As long as there was a space to run, a blue sky, and a tree to climb, life was good. Delores was very connected to me. I think just because of our early childhood it was just her and I against the world.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Was she younger, or...

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: Yes, she's younger.

MR. FRANK HOPE: By how much?

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: A year and two weeks. And I have another sister that was adopted with me, but she's -- by blood she's a step-sister. And although I don't see it that way, I know my sister, [Sister], does. And so Delores was my closest living relative.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Was there any relationship with your father?

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: No. All I know
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from my reports is that he had brought us to Children
Services because he knew that he couldn't raise us, and we
were kind of -- like, here you go.

MR. FRANK HOPE: And he was from Fort
Chipewayan?

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: I don't know where
he was from. No, he's not from Fort Chipewayan, I don't
think. He just -- we worked for the Hudson's Bay Company,
and so that's what put him in that area.

MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: (Indiscernible).

MR. FRANK HOPE: And your grandparents --
your biological family --

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: M'hm.

MR. FRANK HOPE: -- were -- they were in the
residential school also? Your grandparents in that...

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: I know that my
grandma was. And I don't know if my grandpa was. He was
an RCMP officer in Fort Chip. My mom says she didn't have
to go to -- she attended in the daytime, but because her
dad was an RCMP officer she got to come home every night.

MR. FRANK HOPE: M’hm.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: I believe it was
the Holy Cross Angels [sic], or something, whatever it was
up there.
MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm. Tell me about Delores's early -- early childhood, going to school. What -- what kind of student was she?

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: Delores was -- she was a -- in the younger years she was a pretty good student. She often got awards. This is an achievement award. It's from her favorite teacher.

MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: And she --

MR. FRANK HOPE: How old was she then?

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: She's in grade two. And -- and she would get happy face awards, and seal of approval, and when Delores was in grade, maybe grade five, grade six, she took first place in the science fair. And after that she always just really liked science.

MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: And then we moved lots, my adoptive parents, my dad was a minister, and so we moved -- we moved around. And when we moved from Claresholm, that kind of, I don't know what it was, but Delores just changed after that.

MR. FRANK HOPE: About how old was she?


MR. FRANK HOPE: In Fort McMurray?
MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: No, we were already adopted by that time.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Oh.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: We were adopted -- Delores was just turning five and I was just turning six.

MR. FRANK HOPE: And where -- where was that? What community or...

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: So we were adopted and then we lived in Innisfail, and...

MR. FRANK HOPE: And -- and how was that transition like with school and...

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: I was in kindergarten and I did not finish the kindergarten because I couldn't get in. So Delores then started kindergarten in the fall. I guess it was an okay transition.

MR. FRANK HOPE: So as you -- as you and Delores were growing up and going through the school system, do you recall any incidents of discrimination, or racism, or being bullied? That type of...

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: Sorry.

(indiscernible) Delores and I were both born left-handed and our kindergarten -- well, no, my grade one teacher would tie my hand behind my back. Delores became right-handed but could write with both. That was the first time
that I really felt that I was different. Or that -- not
gf felt because I probably had feelings long before that, but
I knew -- I knew I was different, and I always got to play
the Indian in school plays. I remember children saying
things -- Delores and I could still speak our language at
that time.

When we first came to the Brower's, but
eventually we lost that. It was not okay to be Indigenous
in our family. Because of my dad and mom's religious views
one of the church mandates is we were not allowed to dance.
And so dance was gone with a stroke of a pen. Delores
would come -- I'd find her, she would dance, if we'd ever
go out clubbing. She would just come alive.

And when we moved from Innisfail area, when
we moved to Claresholm, which is very close to Fort
MacLeod, and my parents would let us go to the trading --
they'd take us down to the trading post.

And Delores and I'd talk about walking into
that trading post and it just smelt like granny's. It
smelt -- you could smell the hide, would have been tanned.
You could smell -- you could smell the sage, but we didn't
know that's what it was. And we'd ask to go all the time,
but we weren't allowed to -- I don't know if we weren't
allowed to, but it was strongly frowned upon -- the
Indigenous kids would be bused in, it was about a half an
hour 45-minute drive and they would be bused into
Claresholm, to the community school, and we would be drawn
to those kids.

But our parents wouldn't drive us to go visit
with them. We weren't allowed to be friends outside the
school. And so I knew then that it was not okay to be
Indigenous, and I was embarrassed for a long time. But my
mom would say, “You have beautiful high cheekbones.”

Because I was so -- I was six when I was
adopted. I had very real pictures of family, and I knew
that I looked like my mom. But that she could tell me I
was beautiful, but that beauty was a specific trademark of
my Indigenous heritage. It denied me of that -- was
hurtful.

There's so much more knowledge now when
children are adopted. My parents didn't know anything
except that they had three beautiful little girls. But
those three beautiful girls came with a lot of baggage.
And to this day because of my traditional beliefs it is
hard for my adoptive parents to connect with me. Because
of my mom's alcoholism it is hard for her to connect with
me. And I feel very much alone in the world with no
family, and so my husband and I, we have six children, and
we are starting a new family. We've made the choice to
teach them -- to learn ourselves to teach them their
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culture, to be proud of who they are. And I know that I'm not bound by my past, but it still hurts.

MR. FRANK HOPE: You mentioned Delores. When she was in about grade seven you noticed a change in her. Can you tell me what happened that may have caused that?

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: M'hm. Delores was touched inappropriately by a family member. We'd had so much of that as younger children, and when -- she had come to me for help and I had tried to seek help from the adults. It was just kind of dismissed. And so a family that was supposed to keep us safe was no longer a safe place to be. And I think where I suppressed lots I don't think Delores ever suppressed. I think she lived every day with the memories of early childhood, and I think it was one touch too much.

We also -- we moved to Winnipeg around that time. My brother, [Brother], was very -- became very sick. He was a very sick little boy. And his -- it was muscular dystrophy -- what it is, and it flared up and the world became about [Brother].

And it was just a reminder, I think for Delores that you can just be easily replaced, discarded, set aside. And that's when she started using drugs, or experimenting with alcohol and drugs to just numb that pain, I think. Alter the reality.
I think when -- and it's nice that family members can be placed together. The three girls that we have in our home, they are my nieces, but we have legally adopted them. And like that, our family doubled in size.

I think for my mom and dad, when three little girls came to them and their family doubled in size, they were so overwhelmed, and I think that that was unfair of Children Services, because I know my journey with our -- the girls and I know at times how overwhelmed I was.

And instead of just trying find placement and homes to be adopted we need to be looking at how a family can sustain that. Not everybody can. And you do the best you can at the time, and that's a line we heard lots, “We're doing the best we can.” Yeah.

MR. FRANK HOPE: And you also mentioned Delores would often come visit and -- in regards to the family reunion, did that happen back in Fort Chip, and did she re-visit Fort Chip?

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: No.

MR. FRANK HOPE: No.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: I made contact with our biological family after Delores had disappeared. We had -- she had never had the opportunity to go back. She loved the mountains. As often as she could get to Jasper or Banff or Canmore area she was -- she was good for that.
MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm. So you -- you live here?

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: I do.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Okay, so she would visit you here and your family --

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: Yeah.

MR. FRANK HOPE: -- here?

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: Yeah.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Okay, okay. And so it sounds like it's a relationship that was very -- very close.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: It was.

MR. FRANK HOPE: You were always keeping in touch with her and...

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: Yeah.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Yeah. Okay.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: Delores was very honest about her lifestyle that she lived and her addictions. And so there are times she'd say, “I don't want the kids -- I won't be around because of -- I'm intoxicated now,” or...

MR. FRANK HOPE: Right.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: Delores actually -- after she'd done her treatment she'd come to live with us, and we were trying to help her get set up on her own.
And that's one of the things that I appreciate most about her is her honesty. And that's one thing that I've -- since I've gotten to know some of the RCMP involved in it say that Delores was very honest.

And I think when you live with that kind of -- of a characteristic, so ingrained to who you are. I think she couldn't live -- I think that that's why she left because she had to be honest with herself, true to herself, and not just stay and pretend that everything was okay. When she knew there was more that she could be, or needed to be, or she knew long before I did that our identity and our culture and our language.

And in her death that is a gift that she has given me. Through dreams, through the ceremony. While I don't have a person to hold I feel her all the time.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Can you -- oh, sorry.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: So that gives me hope.

MR. FRANK HOPE: And your -- and your people are -- come from -- are Chipewyan, right?

MS. CHAMPAGNE: M'hm.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Yes. So I'm just coming down to couple last questions. So you said her -- Delores was found 2015. What -- what year did she disappear?

MR. FRANK HOPE: 2004. So that was about 11 years, yeah. And then 2004, so that's -- and she wasn't reported missing initially right away, you mentioned?

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: No. The media’s report that she wasn't reported missing until 2005, but that's not accurate.

MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: It's only when -- that's finally when they took my statement.

MR. FRANK HOPE: When Project KARE came into effect?

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: Yeah.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Okay. And before Project KARE you mentioned you did go out to the, the police to report.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: So, yes, I'd gone to the police to report.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Is that the Edmonton Police, or...

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: Yeah.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Yeah.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: I'd just gone to the Kensington detachment, that's where we had lived, in that area and, yeah, they just -- “Well, she could be off doing,” or “She -- she lives the transient lifestyle,” so
they didn't take it at first.

MR. FRANK HOPE: And so where -- where is it at today? Where are things at today?

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: So Delores's file sits with historical homicide unit here in Edmonton, and there is -- it's ongoing, and every once in a while -- twice, I've heard from the constable that's in charge of the -- one to tell me about the pre-inquiry, and the other to tell me that there was a new set of eyes looking at her file. So that's where that sits.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Okay. So my -- my last question is, how would you like Delores's memory honoured?

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: If money was no object. I would like to make a scholarship in the social worker field in memory of her.

From the moment Delores took her first breath, I don't understand why, but she was just destined -- just seemed like hard times always. And then Delores would even reassure us that she would die on the streets. But that was okay because it was a choice she'd made. Not that that's how she wanted it, but she -- she knew that her choices had led her there.

That's how I would honour her. A scholarship fund for social worker.

MR. FRANK HOPE: So in closing is there any
other last comment that you want to make?

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: Yeah.

MR. FRANK HOPE: And if you want to directly speak to the Commissioners you can look right into that camera.

MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER: That the consensus is that the people wanted this Inquiry I think is not correct. I think there are a few people who were the loudest. I think the majority of people would prefer it to go to single moms, children to get off the street.

Help with issues now that could be -- because let's not kid ourselves, you look in on our pain yet again, and we've already -- how many recommendations from the TRC and you do not honour that. And you still would take you to trial and you stand in contempt of what is already been put in place in a mandate.

Help our children. Because those children 15 years from now will be our adults, and in 15 years from now we are still burying our daughters, and our children, our men and our young boys, then what was all this for?

We could have used the money so much better. And I know that people will find some healing, but not enough for the amount that could have been used elsewhere.

Our people need to get to ceremonies. We need to make that available in our communities. Because
Karen Brower-Butler
(Delores Brower)

with Creator we can heal ourselves, and we don't need non-
Indigenous people to tell us how to live. How to feel.

Creator has given us everything to do that, and we are creative. We are intuitive. And we know how to
do that ourselves. If we would be given the opportunity to
do that, and not so many mandates put on us on how that can
happen or can't because of red tape and bureaucracy.

And that I'm one of the many that do not
agree with this. But if we're here, then I want to be part
of the change, and part of the solution. So that is why
I've come today to tell my story and to keep Delores's
memory and so that those experiences don't go forgotten.
Ay-ay.

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** Okay, ay-ay, awesome. We
can end right there. Okay. This concludes the statement.
The time now is 1:28 p.m.

--- Upon adjourning at 1:28 p.m.
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Shannon Munro, 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.

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Shannon Munro

March 7, 2018