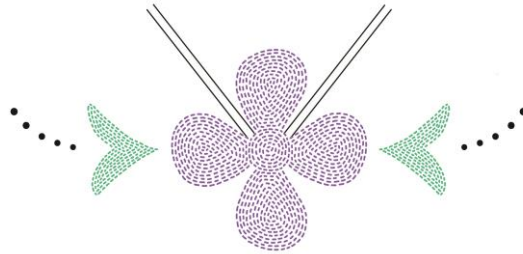


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre
Edmonton, Alberta**



PUBLIC

Wednesday November 8, 2017

Statement - Volume 88

**Karen Brower-Butler,
In relation to Delores Dawn Brower**

Statement gathered by Frank Hope

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II
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statement - Volume 88

November 8, 2017

Witness: Karen Brower-Butler

PAGE

Testimony of Karen Brower-Butler 1

Reporter's certification 27

Statement gathered by Frank Hope

Documents submitted with testimony: none.

**Statement - Public
Karen Brower-Butler
(Delores Brower)**

1

Edmonton, Alberta

1
2
3
4
5
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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 METCHOORYAH: 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 --

1 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** M'hm.

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

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

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

21 And so she went to go find herself, and in
22 that she got caught in the streets of Edmonton. And so it
23 didn't take very long before Delores got addicted to
24 cocaine, and -- and that she then needed to supply her
25 habit and started life on the streets of -- as a sex trade

Statement - Public
Karen Brower-Butler
(Delores Brower)

3

1 worker.

2 Delores always was connected with her family.
3 She would always come back to reach for us and felt caught
4 between the two worlds. Her loss of culture and the
5 language is I think what hurt her the most.

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

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

24 So I -- we made connection a little later in
25 our adult life. In our late 20s. And we spent most of the

Statement - Public
Karen Brower-Butler
(Delores Brower)

4

1 time together, and it just felt like old times again, and
2 Delores would come weekly to our home, and she was very
3 connected to my children. I had three boys, or I have
4 three boys. And she would come and spend time and we'd go
5 bike riding and we'd go hiking and camping, while she
6 still had very much a family on the streets, but she would
7 come.

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

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

15 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** No rush.

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

18 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** Thank you.

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

22 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** I just want to encourage
23 you, yeah, just take your time. There's no rush. This --
24 this is your opportunity to -- to say what you need to
25 say.

1 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** So I want to talk a
2 little bit about kind of the last few months of her life --
3 last few months. So my mom and dad were celebrating their
4 40th wedding anniversary and we were going to do a family
5 photo, and Delores -- some of the family had not seen her
6 in 15 years and it was really important. And I knew
7 Delores's lifestyle, and I knew where I could find her when
8 I needed to. And so I went to where she would -- where she
9 would go and crash. And I picked her up and I took her to
10 our family function. And we had family photos done. And
11 then our family was a bit -- it's a large family. There
12 were seven kids, and many of us -- five of us are
13 adopted.

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

23 Because was a couple of weeks had passed, I
24 hadn't heard from her, and then Rachel (ph) went missing,
25 or maybe her body had been found, I can't remember. And I

Statement - Public
Karen Brower-Butler
(Delores Brower)

6

1 felt that was really weird that Delores hadn't come by
2 because Rachel is another girl on the street, Rachel
3 Quinney (ph), and Delores and her kind of had each other's
4 back and they kind of sister teamed on the street. And
5 that was like in April, I think, or June. And I felt
6 that's really weird that you know, but maybe she's out
7 camping or doing something. It was starting to get warmer
8 and it could happen that she's just out.

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

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

24 So finally, after continuing to pursue it
25 was, I think in October when the police finally took my --

Statement - Public
Karen Brower-Butler
(Delores Brower)

7

1 bodies were starting to pop up more and more, and I
2 contacted somebody at that time -- Project KARE had
3 been just starting. And that's when they took a
4 statement.

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

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

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

1 that it's something that could have been shared.

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

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

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

16 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** And as I listen to
17 other people's testimonies I sit there and I think I -- I
18 have questions because I think was my sister there at
19 the -- but it's so closed that -- that area just seems to
20 be the dumping ground, and those are the things that media
21 has been hurtful in -- like, our sisters were -- were
22 nothing. The headlines: Sex Trade Worker Found. Sex
23 Trade Worker Missing. I think that -- I think that -- that
24 our media can do a better job at treating these people more
25 human.

Statement - Public
Karen Brower-Butler
(Delores Brower)

9

1 I think that -- as I even listen to people --
2 their testimonies I think that even the families are not
3 even educated, and some of the things that they talk about,
4 or comment to are -- are outdated. I think of all the
5 children in foster care, and that that's where our story
6 really kind of fell apart. Things around mental health.

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

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

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

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

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

16 I believe that our police force in Edmonton
17 are making a real effort. I believe that in Edmonton we
18 have -- Canada should look to some of the things that are
19 happening here in Edmonton. Instead of reinventing the
20 wheel. Instead of making some of those same mistakes that,
21 that Edmonton has made in that process. But that these
22 detectives and these sergeants, they come to our support
23 group because we've asked them to come. And they sit there
24 and they ask us questions, we teach them, they teach us.
25 And there's been lots of understanding of why holdback

1 evidence is -- and so for me that has been very beneficial
2 in my healing.

3 And I come today because I just don't want
4 Delores to be forgotten. And that she wasn't just a sex
5 trade worker. That she was my sister. She is a daughter.
6 And she was a mom. That my -- the Inner Circle gives me a
7 space to talk. That ceremony gives me the opportunity to
8 heal. Not just from Delores's death. From my life
9 experiences. From intergenerational trauma. That's all.
10 Do you have some questions?

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

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

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

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

20 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** M'hm.

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

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

25 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** Okay. It was a two

1 storey. You could walk through the front door and you
2 could just drink this water out of this little ladle. And
3 I remember there being dances, and there was always people
4 around. I remember rolling down the hill and it just
5 was -- seemed to be a happy place. There were just lots of
6 people. I remember that. I remember dancing.

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

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

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

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

17 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** By how much?

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

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

25 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** No. All I know

1 from my reports is that he had brought us to Children
2 Services because he knew that he couldn't raise us, and we
3 were kind of -- like, here you go.

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

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

10 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** M'hm.

11 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** (Indiscernible).

12 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** And your grandparents --
13 your biological family --

14 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** M'hm.

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

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

22 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** I believe it was
24 the Holy Cross Angels [sic], or something, whatever it was
25 up there.

1 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** No, we were already
2 adopted by that time.

3 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** Oh.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** Sorry.
22 (indiscernible) Delores and I were both born left-handed
23 and our kindergarten -- well, no, my grade one teacher
24 would tie my hand behind my back. Delores became right-
25 handed but could write with both. That was the first time

Statement - Public
Karen Brower-Butler
(Delores Brower)

17

1 that I really felt that I was different. Or that -- not
2 felt because I probably had feelings long before that, but
3 I knew -- I knew I was different, and I always got to play
4 the Indian in school plays. I remember children saying
5 things -- Delores and I could still speak our language at
6 that time.

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

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

18 And Delores and I'd talk about walking into
19 that trading post and it just smelt like granny's. It
20 smelt -- you could smell the hide, would have been tanned.
21 You could smell -- you could smell the sage, but we didn't
22 know that's what it was. And we'd ask to go all the time,
23 but we weren't allowed to -- I don't know if we weren't
24 allowed to, but it was strongly frowned upon -- the
25 Indigenous kids would be bused in, it was about a half an

1 hour 45-minute drive and they would be bused into
2 Claresholm, to the community school, and we would be drawn
3 to those kids.

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

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

15 There's so much more knowledge now when
16 children are adopted. My parents didn't know anything
17 except that they had three beautiful little girls. But
18 those three beautiful girls came with a lot of baggage.
19 And to this day because of my traditional beliefs it is
20 hard for my adoptive parents to connect with me. Because
21 of my mom's alcoholism it is hard for her to connect with
22 me. And I feel very much alone in the world with no
23 family, and so my husband and I, we have six children, and
24 we are starting a new family. We've made the choice to
25 teach them -- to learn ourselves to teach them their

1 culture, to be proud of who they are. And I know that I'm
2 not bound by my past, but it still hurts.

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

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

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

21 And it was just a reminder, I think for
22 Delores that you can just be easily replaced, discarded,
23 set aside. And that's when she started using drugs, or
24 experimenting with alcohol and drugs to just numb that
25 pain, I think. Alter the reality.

1 I think when -- and it's nice that family
2 members can be placed together. The three girls that we
3 have in our home, they are my nieces, but we have legally
4 adopted them. And like that, our family doubled in size.

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

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

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

19 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** No.

20 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** No.

21 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** I made contact with
22 our biological family after Delores had disappeared. We
23 had -- she had never had the opportunity to go back. She
24 loved the mountains. As often as she could get to Jasper
25 or Banff or Canmore area she was -- she was good for that.

1 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** M'hm. So you -- you live
2 here?

3 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** I do.

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

6 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** Yeah.

7 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** -- here?

8 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** Yeah.

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

12 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** It was.

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

15 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** Yeah.

16 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** Yeah. Okay.

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

22 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** Right.

23 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** Delores actually --
24 after she'd done her treatment she'd come to live with us,
25 and we were trying to help her get set up on her own.

1 And that's one of the things that I
2 appreciate most about her is her honesty. And that's one
3 thing that I've -- since I've gotten to know some of the
4 RCMP involved in it say that Delores was very honest.

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

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

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

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

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

21 **MS. CHAMPAGNE:** M'hm.

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

25 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** 2004.

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

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

7 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** M'hm.

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

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

12 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** Yeah.

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

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

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

20 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** Yeah.

21 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** Yeah.

22 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** I'd just gone to
23 the Kensington detachment, that's where we had lived, in
24 that area and, yeah, they just -- "Well, she could be off
25 doing," or "She -- she lives the transient lifestyle," so

1 they didn't take it at first.

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** So in closing is there any

1 other last comment that you want to make?

2 **MS. KAREN BROWER-BUTLER:** Yeah.

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

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

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

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

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

24 Our people need to get to ceremonies. We
25 need to make that available in our communities. Because

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

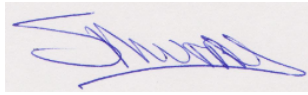
3 Creator has given us everything to do that,
4 and we are creative. We are intuitive. And we know how to
5 do that ourselves. If we would be given the opportunity to
6 do that, and not so many mandates put on us on how that can
7 happen or can't because of red tape and bureaucracy.

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

14 **MR. FRANK HOPE:** Okay, ay-ay, awesome. We
15 can end right there. Okay. This concludes the statement.
16 The time now is 1:28 p.m.
17 --- 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.



Shannon Munro

March 7, 2018