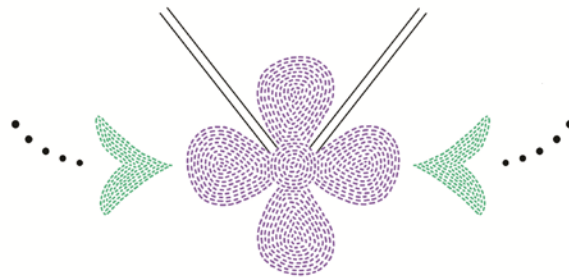


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Sheraton Four Points
Moncton, New Brunswick**



PUBLIC

Wednesday February 14, 2018

Statement - Volume 253

**Jolene Googoo,
In relation to her Mother & Mellissa Dawn Marshall**

Statement gathered by Debbie Bodkin

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NOTE

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

NOTE

The use of square brackets [] in this transcript indicates that amendments have been made to the certified transcript in order to replace information deemed inaudible or indecipherable by the original transcriptionist. Maryiam Khoury, Public Inquiry Clerk with the National Inquiry, completed all amendments by listening to the source audio recording of the proceeding. Ms. Khoury made the amendments on August 1st, 2018 at Ottawa, Ontario.

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Statement - Public
Jolene Googoo
(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1

1 Moncton, New Brunswick
2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at
3 11:55 a.m.

4 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. The time is
5 11:52 a.m. and it is still February 14th.

6 (Off-the-record housekeeping)

7 And so I'm going to let you introduce
8 yourself, and tell us whatever it is you're comfortable
9 sharing today.

10 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Okay. My name is
11 Jolene Googoo, and I'm from We'kogma'q, Nova Scotia. Um,
12 well, there's so much to say. So, when I don't really know
13 where to start, I usually just start from the beginning.

14 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Perfect.

15 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: So, so I'll just say,
16 make a little bit -- I'll tell you how, maybe how it all
17 started. How I grew up a little bit. I grew up in a,
18 like, an alcoholic, um, home, kind of abusive. My, my
19 father was abusive with my mother and, um, they drank and
20 stuff. And it, I have, there's me and there's my -- I have
21 two sisters: one is, she's a year older than me; and the
22 other one was, or it, or was five or six years older than
23 me. She's passed away, now, in 2009.

24 But, um, but me and my mother we were
25 really close growing up and stuff. She was a good, she was

Jolene Googoo

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1 a good person. Like, um, she, she did drink. She did have
2 a problem drinking and stuff and it's because I think she -
3 - her mother walked out on her and her seven sisters when
4 she was young. So I think that, kind of, she had a hard
5 time with that.

6 She, so, um, so that left my older sister,
7 Mellissa, to kind of take care of us. She took care of us.
8 I remember she took me to my first day of kindergarten, and
9 I cried for her. I was so attached to her, and, um, so,
10 yeah.

11 And, um, like, I, I don't really remember,
12 like, a whole lot of good things, I would say about my, my
13 childhood. No, no a lot of good things. Like, I remember,
14 the first thing I remember, I think my very first memory
15 was waking up in the middle of the night and I heard my
16 mother yelling, and she was saying, "No, [M]." That's my
17 dad's name. "No." And then we ran out to the, to the
18 hallway, and I seen my dad and he pushed her down the
19 stairs from, from behind, like, we had, like, 12 flights of
20 stairs going down. And I was probably four or five because
21 I didn't really, like, register what was going on. And she
22 fell down the stairs, and she was at the bottom, and she
23 was crying. And then he ran down and I, I remember
24 thinking he was going to go help her, but when he got to
25 the bottom of the stairs, he started, um, like choking her.

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(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 And I was like, "Oh my God," you know. So me and my sisters
2 ran down and my, my, my mother told my older sister to go
3 get my grandfather - my dad's dad - because, you can, so I
4 didn't -- they didn't really call the cops a lot. They
5 just got my grandfather, and he would come over, and he
6 would take my dad away for a few hours, and he'd come back,
7 like, sober and sorry and whatever. So --

8 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And where was that?
9 Where were you growing up when this happened?

10 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: In We'kogma'q, in the
11 same house. He lives in, he's still there. So. Yeah.
12 And so, um, like, even though my, my parents they both
13 worked, um, we still, we weren't very, we were kind of
14 poor. Like, um, like, we didn't really have, like, a lot
15 of breakfasts, and sometimes we didn't have any breakfast
16 stuff and, you know, or lunches and stuff like that, and,
17 like, that we needed. So when my sister -- and, like, um,
18 the music would always be so loud. Like, in the middle of
19 night when we were going to sleep. Like, we used to all
20 sleep together - me and my sisters - and, um, so I could
21 kind of, like, sleep through stuff. I think that's having
22 to sleep through stuff from when I was younger.

23 And so, my sister, I think she always felt
24 like she was taking care of us. She wasn't much older, but
25 she always kept an eye on us and got us to school and took

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(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 care of us, and when she got a little bit older, she
2 (~~inaudible~~) [went and] got a part-time job when she was 15
3 at the store and made sure we had lunch for the next day
4 and, um, you know, sandwich stuff and food, you know, just
5 stuff like that.

6 And, um, my mom, she was always, my
7 parents, both of them were always, they always juggled with
8 rehab and stuff like that. They always went back and forth
9 and then they'd do good for a little while and then they
10 wouldn't and then they'd go back and -- we went to a lot of
11 graduations.

12 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And just to interrupt
13 you there, do you know -- was there a cause in your
14 parents' background that caused the alcoholism?

15 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Um, like -

16 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Were either of them in
17 residential school or anything like that that you know of?

18 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: I don't know. I don't
19 think so. I think they're a little bit young for that.

20 Um. I know my dad, his, um, his dad was, had alcohol
21 problems, and was abusive to his mother. And with my mother
22 her, her dad was, um, had alcohol problems as he grew up.

23 MS. PAULA FOLEY: And then you said your
24 mother's mother left.

25 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Yeah. And went, and

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(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 things got kind of worse when my mom's mom, my grandmother
2 -- she wouldn't really let us call her Grammy when we grew
3 up, she was really (*inaudible*) [grinchy] and, um, she, so,
4 because when she ran away to Boston, when they went to go
5 and find her and bring her back, and she wouldn't come
6 back. So they weren't really too happy about that. So I
7 think that's where it all kind of happened, yeah. And, um,
8 (*inaudible*) [beyond that] I'm pretty sure that my great-
9 grandfather was also an alcoholic, too. So I think it just
10 kind of runs in the family.

11 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Yeah.

12 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: And, um, yep, so, um.
13 So my sister, yeah. She always took on that role and she
14 was, um, really, really great with us, and then it got, she
15 got a little bit older and then like a teenager, she wanted
16 to keep going to school, but she was having a hard time,
17 and she wanted to work and, you know, take care of us at
18 the same time. And, um, so when I was 11, she moved to
19 Truro. I was so devastated, I cried so hard when she left.
20 But she would come back on the weekends and stuff like
21 that, and, um, um, shared -- my aunt's husband [Uncle 1],
22 he's [*identifying information redacted*]. Um, he, he paid
23 for the motel and bought her clothes and stuff like that
24 for --

25 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: For her move to Truro?

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 To look after her in Truro.

2 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Yeah, yeah.

3 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

4 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: But, um, like, she
5 later on talked about it, and it wasn't really, like,
6 somebody doing something nice for a person without, you
7 know, expecting other things. And that must have been
8 really hard for her, too, because at that time because that
9 she, that she didn't do, like, any drugs and that she
10 didn't drink and she didn't do, like, none of that stuff.
11 So she -- that must have been really difficult for, to kind
12 of have to --

13 MS. PAULA FOLEY: Live through that.

14 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Yeah. So I think
15 that's were things kind of started going really, kind of,
16 going wrong for her at that time.

17 And then, um, so ever since that, she
18 ended up with a Mohawk guy from Kahnawake and, um, she got
19 pregnant with, with his son, and then she moved to
20 Kahnawake with him until she was, um, six months pregnant,
21 and then she moved back home with us, and she stayed, and
22 she stayed with us, I think it was, like, three or four
23 years after that.

24 And, um, I would help her with her son,
25 and, you know my nephew and, like, I always felt like I

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(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 needed to help her back, kind of, for helping us when we
2 were growing up. So I always felt like I, kind of, like I
3 owed it to her and stuff. And then, um, but I was also
4 close with my mother, too. Like, um, when -- let's see. So
5 my sister ended up going out with this guy who she ended up
6 marrying, [Mellissa's Husband]. And she ended up going out
7 with him, and, um, and then that's when she moved to Truro
8 and she got pregnant with her second kid.

9 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. Moved to Truro
10 for a second time.

11 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Um hum.

12 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

13 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: And then, um, and then
14 she moved to Halifax when she got pregnant with her third
15 child.

16 And then I was 17 at the time and, um, my
17 other sister, [Sister], she, she was going out with a guy
18 in the Marines and, um, she got pregnant when she was 16
19 and then she -- with his kid. And then she dropped out of
20 school, and then, so, um, he was -- I think he was about
21 four months old when Mellissa started having problems. Not
22 really so much her, but, um, like, child services started
23 being called on her because her, um, boyfriend was in the
24 drugs and stuff.

25 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 MS. BARBARA JOHNSON: She wasn't at that
2 time, but he was. So they were watching her and stuff and
3 she was struggling to like take care of them and stuff, so
4 --

5 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And where were they
6 living then?

7 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Um, they moved to
8 Halifax and she was pregnant with her daughter, [Niece],
9 and, um, yeah.

10 So, so I would go out and visit her, and
11 then I realized she really needed help so I decided to move
12 up there and finish my grade 12 at QVH. So, um, I told my
13 mother about it in the summer and she was devastated, and
14 she was like, "Oh, I can't stay here without you and if you
15 move, I'm gonna move and stuff like that." She was like,
16 "You can't leave me with your sister and your father." And
17 I was like, I was like, um, I said -- well, you know, my
18 other sister, too, she just had a son and stuff, and but
19 they, but her and my mother always butt heads and stuff and
20 they had a hard time getting along. And I was like, "Well,
21 you can stay here for her and all that." And she's like,
22 "No." And she was crying.

23 So I didn't really think she would. I
24 thought she would stay, but, um, I moved anyways, and I
25 moved in the middle - well, not middle of the -- it was

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(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 around 11 or 12 at night and I didn't have much stuff. So
2 at the time, Morly (ph) Googoo was the Chief and he had a
3 truck, so I asked him if he could, um, move us, well, move
4 me into Halifax because he was traveling back and forth.
5 So he said, "Yeah." So I packed up all my stuff and my mom
6 stayed in her room the whole time. She wouldn't come out.
7 She was really upset. So just figured I'd give her a few
8 days and then, um, so I went to Halifax and then. Oh, it
9 was, maybe, like, two weeks -- and I enrolled in school, I
10 started going to school, and helped my sister and stuff.

11 And, um, it was probably about two weeks
12 later my mother calls and she's like, "Guess where I am."
13 And I was, like, "I don't know. Where?" And she was, like,
14 "In Shube, in Indian Brook. I moved." She was, like, "And I
15 moved all my stuff." And all this, and I was, like, "Oh my
16 God. You did?" And she was, like, "Yeah." She said, "I
17 told you I wasn't going to stay here if you left." And I
18 felt so bad. Well, I felt bad for my other sister and her,
19 right? So I was, like, oh. So, but at the same time, I
20 was kind of happy because I did miss her. So it didn't
21 take her long. She got a job right away, pretty much, at
22 the daycare and she came down the weekends and we spent
23 weekends together and stuff and, um, we'd get our hair done
24 and all that, and, um. So my mother started going out with
25 her old, her old boyfriend from when she was a teenager,

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1 and, um, so -- yeah. So they started going out. And I
2 kind of, I heard a lot of really bad things about him that
3 he didn't treat his other girlfriends very nicely and he's
4 abusive and stuff, but I didn't meet him. And then, um,
5 um, we talked every night.

6 And then she would, she called me up and
7 she told me that, um, he - or not that he - but she fell
8 down the stairs and she, um, sprained her, she fractured,
9 broke her arm, or, in, like, three places or something.
10 She had a cast on and stuff. And I started getting
11 suspicions at that time.

12 And then so I was, um, and then a couple
13 more weeks went by - and I remember this really well
14 because it was around middle of November and my sister was
15 about eight months pregnant, Mellissa, the one I was
16 staying with - and it just started snowing that day, and I
17 promised my other sister back home, [Sister] and my dad,
18 that I'd go home for the weekend and so my mother called
19 and she's like, "I'm coming down this weekend." She told me
20 and I was like, "Oh. But I already got a ride and I
21 promised [Sister] and dad I'd go see them." And, um --

22 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: What year is this?

23 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: This is in 2002. And,
24 um, so she's like, "Oh, but I said wanted to see you." And
25 I was, "Well, we can spend next weekend together, you know,

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(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 and we'll make up for it, (~~inaudible~~) [but they're really
2 lonesome] and stuff."

3 So, I end up going back to We'kogma'q and,
4 but it was like bad snowstorm all the way. So we stopped
5 in Truro because it was so bad for the night, and my cousin
6 drove me. And it was kind of like a sign. And so I even
7 called my sister Mellissa, and I was I, kind of, got a bad
8 feeling in Truro. I was like, "I don't know. I feel like
9 taking the bus back to, um, Halifax." I said. I didn't. "I
10 feel like things are keeping me here, like, you know, bad
11 weather and stuff like that." I just didn't feel right
12 about it. And she was like, "Well," she goes, "We're all
13 right." And I was, like, I asked her how she was doing.
14 She was like, "We're okay." She was, like, "You should
15 keep going." And I was, like, "All right." So I kept going
16 and then the wipers stopped working and then the rain
17 started and then we, we couldn't make it any further than
18 Afton. So we stopped in Afton. And then somebody from
19 We'kogma'q came to pick us up. So it was just really a
20 struggle getting home. And so, I got home. And then when
21 I got home, my dad and my sister weren't even there. There
22 was nobody even there. It was, like, oh my God. Why did I
23 even come back here? So I went to, um, my friend's house
24 and, um, so I just dropped off my duffle bag and I went to
25 his house. And I wasn't -- I was there maybe an hour, and

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(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 anybody who knew, they knew where to find me. So they --
2 my cousin did end up coming over and she's like, um, she
3 says "Jolene, Jolene." She's like, "Um, you have to come
4 over Grammy's." She's like "It's your mother. She, um, she
5 fell down the stairs and she's, um, she's not really doing
6 too good." I was like, "She fell down the stairs? Like,
7 that's kind of weird. Like. Why wouldn't she be doing too
8 good," right? "It can't be that bad." And she was, like,
9 "No, it's really bad and she's getting, um, air-lifted from
10 Shube to Halifax. " And I was, like, "Air-lifted? Oh my
11 God." So I went up to my, my grandmother's and we were
12 calling the hospital and stuff and the, um, news wasn't
13 good. She had to go to surgery to relieve some of the
14 pressure from her brain, and um, so -- and my, my sister
15 was pregnant. She was there. So she signed the consent
16 forms, kind of, to buy us more time to get there, too.

17 So, um, we all traveled, and it was a
18 really emotional trip. And we traveled to get there, and
19 then we got there and, um, she was just getting out of
20 surgery when we got there and, um, my, my sister was trying
21 to prepare us for what we would see, but there was no words
22 that could ever prepare you for what you were going to see.
23 I'll never forget. But she was in the ICU and when we
24 walked in, she, um, there was a lot of fluid built up,
25 like, from the surgery and stuff, right? And they shaved

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(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 her head and she had, like, a band-aid on and stuff, and
2 she was um, they put her on life support, like, you know.
3 It was just an awful, awful, like, sight. Like, and, um --

4 MS. PAULA FOLEY: Just breathe. Yeah.

5 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: -- and so. So we were
6 all, like, you know, we were all there. There was? There
7 was two sides of the family, like, my sister -- my mom had
8 a big family. And my dad had a big family, too. So they
9 were kind of clashing, right? Like, um, and we were, it
10 was, like, like, probably, like 20 something, 23, I think,
11 first cousins on one side, and I think 24 first cousins on
12 the other side and, like, 5 on the side of my dad's side
13 and then there's, like, 6 on my mom's side. And, you know,
14 so there was a lot.

15 And then so the, the, the doctor kept
16 coming out and giving us all updates on how she was and,
17 you know, she wasn't doing very good at all. And they said
18 -- so she started having, like, strokes on, like, the
19 second day and this -- by that time, my whole family was,
20 like, really arguing with each other so we had to, like --
21 I kind of had to say, you know, we've got to bring somebody
22 in, like, to mediate, and, um, from now on, doctors are
23 going to talk to me and my sisters and my dad. And then
24 we'll tell, you know, the mediator, and then he'll tell my
25 family members, right? And then because my aunts were,

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(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 like, already arguing about, like, like, the wake the
2 funeral, and, like, she wasn't even gone, yet. And it was
3 really upsetting.

4 But, what was really the most upsetting
5 thing, I'd say, what upset me, really, the most was one of
6 my aunts, um, snuck in her, her boyfriend at the, you know,
7 she was staying with.

8 MS. PAULA FOLEY: Your mother's boyfriend?

9 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Yeah. And to the ICU
10 when we were gone and when my sister's getting washed up or
11 something. One of my cousins told me, and I was really
12 upset about it, and I was, like, he's probably, he's
13 probably trying to make sure that she's, you know, gone and
14 that she can't tell on him. And I, like, suspected him
15 right away, right from the beginning, I had a really bad
16 feeling that he, you know, pushed her. And, um, so I asked
17 about, I asked about the cops and if they were
18 investigating it, and they said they weren't because they
19 said that, um, that they weren't investigating it because
20 she was still alive and that they weren't going to
21 investigate it until she died. And then, I was, like, I
22 wasn't happy about that because I was, like, all the
23 evidence will be gone and stuff, you know. And, um --

24 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: How did the police get
25 there? Like, how did they get involved? Like, did one of

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 you call them? Or do you remember?

2 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Well, I think they
3 were involved from the beginning.

4 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. So you think.

5 MS. PAULA FOLEY: Like, and 9-1-1 call?

6 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Yeah. Well, my aunt
7 did call 9-1-1. When, when she went looking for my mother
8 that day, she said she walked in, and, um, [Mother's
9 Boyfriend] - his name was - he was sitting there having a
10 bologna sandwich, sitting at the table with his brothers,
11 and she said, "Where is my, um, sister?" and all that. And
12 then, he was, like, "Oh. She went downstairs to do laundry
13 a long time ago, and she never came back up." And when they
14 went down, she was already laying down at the bottom of the
15 stairs and the blood was really thick, they said. So
16 nobody has really any idea how long she was even laying
17 down there. And it wasn't even that many stairs. There
18 was probably, maybe, like, six or seven stairs. And
19 there's no railings going down, but, you know, she wasn't
20 really that clumsy. But, anyways, um --

21 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And sorry. Before you
22 go on. What's [Mother's Boyfriend] full name?

23 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Um, [first name] --

24 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: It's okay that you
25 don't remember right now.

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1 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: -- [last name].

2 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: [Mother's Boyfriend].

3 Okay. Thank you.

4 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: And um, so, yeah, so,
5 um, back at the hospital --

6 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And the police, you
7 mentioned.

8 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: -- so I'll get back to
9 that part. But then at the hospital she started having all
10 these strokes and stuff and then all those good parts of
11 her brain were gone, like the personality and that humor
12 and all that good stuff, right? But her heart was really
13 strong. Like, her body was strong. She never smoked or
14 nothing. She was in good shape, right? And so, um, the --
15 I remember, I remember I was crying, um, and I was hugging
16 her and stuff and, um, she kind of, like, I don't know, she
17 coughed, but she -- the way I felt when I was hugging her,
18 crying, it was like she was gone already. It felt like she
19 was dead already. So I was just, kind of, crying. So when
20 she, kind of, like, jumped up like that, it felt like she
21 was coming back to life and it really scared me. And I
22 even, like, jumped back and I got scared, right? And I --
23 and then my aunt was like, "It's okay. It's okay. She's
24 just coughing." But I was still really shaken up by it,
25 and I had nightmares about it, for years after that about

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(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 her, like, sitting, coming back to life, and like, you
2 know, looking over and, you know.

3 Um, so, then the, um, the doctor came and
4 he talked to us, and he said that, um, if, if we were going
5 to take her off life support that we would have to make
6 that decision, like, right away, because, um, because there
7 was that window was closing, and like, and she would be
8 kept like a vegetable and I know she wouldn't want that.
9 And it seemed like my sisters and my, my dad, they were
10 like, in, in shock, like, they were just, kind of, dazed,
11 like. They weren't really hearing what was being said,
12 and, um, like, they just weren't. I don't know why. She
13 just -- some people get really shocked with, I think, when
14 traumatic things happen. I can -- I don't get shocked. I,
15 kind of, skip that part. It hits me, I don't know, like,
16 right away.

17 And, um, so, so I told the doctor, um, to
18 take her off life support right away, like, as soon as you
19 can. But, I wasn't going to tell my family that because
20 they would want, like, my aunts and stuff, they would want
21 to keep her around no matter what. And, um, like, even if
22 she wasn't, like, in the hospital (inaudible) or anything
23 like that. And so, um, the doctor did do that, and he took
24 her off and she did last, she lasted 13 and a half hours
25 off life support, and it was horrible for two and a half

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(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 hours because she was, just, like, like, like struggling,
2 her every breath, like, it was so horrible to see that.
3 And I kind of felt bad about. I always felt really guilty
4 about it.

5 But, um, like, my family started arguing
6 about it after that, you know, they wanted to have an open
7 casket, they wanted her, um, to be, her wake and her
8 funeral to be in Shube, but I was, like, 100 percent sure
9 she was pushed downstairs. I didn't want her to be buried
10 in Shube, and she lived in We'kogma'q for 25 years, so she
11 kind of made that her home. So I knew we were bringing her
12 home and I, I kind of called all the shots because my
13 sisters and my dad they were too, like, like, dazed and
14 like --

15 MS. PAULA FOLEY: They weren't able?

16 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: No. They weren't able
17 to make any kind of decisions at all. And even after, too,
18 even after she died, I went to the funeral place, and I, I
19 said "It's going to be a closed casket." Even though my
20 aunts wanted it to be open, because she was really, really
21 self-conscious about her looks and stuff, and she wouldn't
22 want anybody to see her like that. She wouldn't even have
23 wanted us to see her like that, let alone everybody, right?

24 So I did feel bad for her aunts, though.
25 I mean my aunt, her sisters -- because I have sisters,

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 right? So I said, "Okay. So, I said, "Well, I'll let them
2 have the wake for two days and a night in Shube, but not at
3 the reserve. Outside of the reserve. Like, in the, on the
4 other side, at the funeral parlor." And I said, "Then
5 we'll have the wake in We'kogma'q, and then she'll be
6 buried in We'kogma'q."

7 So I went to the funeral -- we all went,
8 but, I picked out all the cards and the poems and that and,
9 you know, the separate cards for both separate places, and,
10 you know, made, picked her outfit and all that, and, um,
11 the ~~tears~~ [pictures] and stuff, and, um, I picked out of
12 casket. And, um --

13 MS. PAULA FOLEY: A lot of (inaudible),
14 eh?

15 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Yeah. But, you know.
16 So, so, well, um, we all went back to We'kogma'q after
17 that, and then, we had -- the family was really, they were
18 so mad. Her sisters were so mad about I was taking her back
19 home to be buried that, um, I think only one or two of them
20 showed up for the funeral. They were that mad. And they
21 stayed mad for years. And like, seven years after that,
22 that's how long they stayed mad for until, until, um, my
23 sister passed away. That's how long they stayed mad at us
24 for. So, just like, stubborn.

25 And, um, so a couple of months after, not

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 even -- maybe about a month after my mom passed away, um, I
2 stopped going to school and I moved back to We'kogma'q.
3 And, um, I went to Shube to go there for, um, and I stayed
4 with my aunt, but I didn't tell her what I was doing there,
5 but I told my cousin. And I got him to drive me around and
6 stuff. And I stayed there for a week and I went to the
7 police station and stuff. And, um, I looked at the
8 statements from when that was there, and I read year ago's
9 statements, and then I asked about, like, asked the cops --
10 they were really nice, and they were, like, you know,
11 friendly and stuff. They were trying to help. I think
12 they felt bad for me.

13 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: What police service
14 was it.

15 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Um. Just the RCMP.

16 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: RCMP gentlemen.

17 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: In Indian Brook.

18 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: In Indian Brook?

19 Okay.

20 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Um hum. So, you know,
21 they -- I asked them if I wanted to get her case re-opened
22 or get it re-investigated, you know, what to do? And they
23 said that I should take, um, re-take their statements and,
24 um, they told me how to do it. Like, you know, either
25 write it down or get them to write it out and make sure

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 that they read it or you read it to them and they sign it
2 at the end.

3 So that's what I did. So I took
4 everybody's statement again, and it was totally different
5 from the one I read. And the last person I did was
6 [Mother's Boyfriend], because I didn't really want to meet
7 him, but I did anyways.

8 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Who were the others?
9 What you say "everybody". How many?

10 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: It was, like, I think,
11 two or three of his brothers, the neighbour that lives
12 across the road. They were all drinking that day.

13 And like, because, and she had, like, a
14 \$900 paycheck, and, like, none of her money was in her
15 account and there's, like, you know -- that's not like her.
16 She was always saving money and, like, she kept track of
17 every cent, so it was weird that that money was gone.

18 And so, I went to -- so my cousin drove
19 me. My sisters thought I was crazy for going back
20 (inaudible) and I really felt like I needed answers. I
21 needed closure, right? And so, I was so nervous before
22 going. My cousin said, "Are you sure you want to go in?"
23 "Yeah, I'm going to do this," I said. And he's like, "I'll
24 wait right here. If you need, if you need help," he said,
25 "just yell for me or something." And I said, "Okay."

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 So I went in and, um, as soon as I walked
2 in, he, he recognized me. Because I look a lot like my
3 mother, and then, so, um, as soon as he seen me, he said
4 um, he asked everybody, his brothers to leave and to talk
5 to me alone. So they left and then, so, I sat down, and I
6 was, like, kind of nice to him - well not nice to him - but
7 I was, like, you know, it was really hard for me to do
8 that.

9 So first I asked him to tell he what
10 happened that whole day, from the beginning to the end,
11 like, step-by-step, like, every little thing. And so,
12 like, he, he told me and he walked me right through it.
13 And then he told me, like, she, she fell in the, in the,
14 um, and hit her head on the corner of the entertainment
15 stand in the living room; and then she fell and she hit her
16 head on the, um, the side of the bathtub, and stuff; and
17 then her clothes got bloody; and that's why she was going
18 down to the basement to wash her clothes that were bloody.
19 And she wasn't, she wasn't, like, really even that clumsy
20 of a person, even when she was drinking, right? And then,
21 so I wasn't buying it at all. I knew, I just knew he was
22 lying. And when, even when he walked me through everything
23 and said what happened, and we went down to the basement,
24 there was even still, like, the, um, chalk outline of where
25 she was, because that's how, like, how close everything

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 happened, which was not that long ago, right?

2 And so, so then we sat down and then I got
3 him to, to tell it to me all over again, but slower, and
4 that time I wrote it down and I wrote it down, what he was
5 saying, and it was, like, so many pages, and then I read it
6 back to him, and then I got him to sign the bottom of it,
7 and then I, when I was leaving, I told him, I said, I said,
8 "[Mother's Boyfriend]." I said, "I really don't like you."
9 I said, "And I really think that you pushed my mother down
10 the stairs," and I said "I hope someday you will pay for
11 what you did to her." So, I said, "I might not be able to
12 prove it," I said. But I said, "You know, maybe somebody
13 could someday." And then so, he didn't say nothing, and I
14 just walked out and, you know, it was really kind of scary.

15 MS. PAULA FOLEY: Um hum.

16 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: So I went back and I,
17 I thought I would feel a lot better, but I didn't. I
18 didn't really feel much better, because I thought -- you
19 think you would do some things and you'll feel a lot
20 better, but you didn't. So I went back to the cops and I
21 told them, and they were really, like, being my friends, by
22 this point. Because every day I was there for, like, a
23 week, and you know, they felt really bad. And so they knew
24 that the statements that I took and the statements that
25 they took before in the beginning were, like, totally

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 different --

2 MS. PAULA FOLEY: Um hum.

3 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: -- like, really,

4 really different. And they didn't match up at all. And

5 then, um, so, they, they said you might have a better

6 chance if you -- they told me I could file, like, for

7 wrongful death because there should have been, um, you

8 know, railings going down, but there wasn't. And I said,

9 you know, "That's not really what I want, and that's not

10 gonna really bring, you, any feeling of justice from that."

11 So I didn't, and I didn't pursue that there.

12 And so, um, by this time, um, my sister

13 was -- and she was just having the baby and, um, she was,

14 um, nine months, and, um, it was in December --

15 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Still 2002? Is this

16 2002?

17 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Yeah. And, um, or no.

18 No, yeah. End of November, that's right. And, um, she had

19 my, my niece [Niece], so, um, it was after that that she

20 started doing drugs. She really, really couldn't cope

21 with, um, the loss of my mother and stuff, like, I mean it

22 hit all of us, like, it really, really hit her hard, like,

23 she couldn't, she couldn't cope with it at all.

24 And she turned to drugs and she started

25 using, and, um, so then I was, you know, so I went back. I

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 was back and forth trying to help her take care of the kids
2 and stuff. And then, um, the kids, they got, um, taken
3 away and, yeah. They got taken away from family services.
4 And then, so, in order to get them back, I mean, um, she
5 went to rehab and all this stuff, and then, um, she went to
6 stay at the, um, treatment center in the reserve. And I
7 would stay there with her. She stayed there about -- I
8 have it was, like, 11 months that she stayed there, and I
9 stayed there with her most of the time.

10 And then she got pregnant with her, her,
11 um, her fourth son, [Nephew 2], she had him. And then she
12 had him there and then, um, she was doing good, and then,
13 so, they let us out and, but she was still on conditions
14 not to see, um, [Mellissa's Husband], because he wasn't
15 participating in the drug tests --

16 MS. PAULA FOLEY: Yes.

17 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: -- and the conditions
18 were no contact with him, and, um, um, drug tests for
19 herself.

20 So we moved in to Port Hawkesbury, about
21 half an hour off the reserve. We moved into a house there,
22 and we took care of the kids and stuff, and that was, like,
23 probably, like, a really happy time in my life, I'd say. It
24 was good times there, and, um, I don't know how long -- I
25 would say we lived there for quite a while, and, um, it

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 was, I think, Canada Day weekend and, um, we went to -- oh
2 no. We went to court and then they, the judge said that
3 the case was closed so we were, you know --

4 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: This is your mom's
5 case or to do with the --

6 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Oh no.

7 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: -- kids?

8 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Mellissa's. Because
9 my mom's case was, it never got re-opened.

10 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

11 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: And, um, it wasn't,
12 no.

13 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: So this was the family
14 court case?

15 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Um hum. So we were
16 really happy about that. And so, but nobody told us that,
17 um, like, the conditions still stuck.

18 MS. PAULA FOLEY: Oh, okay.

19 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: -- until, um, a couple
20 of weeks after, until, like, the paperwork was final. And,
21 like, you, so, we went home and we were so happy, and we
22 were celebrating and stuff.

23 And then that weekend, I went home, I went
24 home for Canada Day weekend. And, um, so I was drinking
25 and stuff and I lost my cellphone, and then, um, I guess

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 Mellissa was texting me and it was raining that night and
2 my, um, my cousins ended up finding it. And they hair-
3 dried it and they turned it back on and they read it and
4 then it said, it was texts from my sisters, and it said,
5 "Jolene, don't come back today because, um, I let
6 [Mellissa's Husband] visit the kids for a couple of hours."
7 She's like, "Don't worry, we're not back together." She's
8 just, like, "The kids just really wanted to see him, so I
9 let, let, I'm letting him see them for a couple of hours."

10 And then, so, um, my aunt went to the
11 grocery store to get a roast or something, and she took it
12 to my sister's knowing that [Mellissa's Husband] was there,
13 right? And I didn't know even know none of this was
14 happening. And then, so, um, she walked in and she seen
15 him sitting on the couch, and then so she left the roast or
16 the ham, right over there, and she went and she, she
17 called, um, children's services right away. And, like, I
18 think not even 45 minutes later, um, they showed up with
19 the cops and they apprehended the kids (~~inaudible~~) [on the
20 spot] and stuff.

21 So like, so he left and the kids, you
22 know, were gone, and, um, her youngest son was eight months
23 old - I remember - at that time, and, um, she was so
24 devastated. We were both devastated. I felt like I lost
25 my own kids, like, it really, it was so much hard work,

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 for, you know, and I thought we were, I thought we are done
2 with all that. And it just happened all over again. So it
3 was really, really hard.

4 And then, so she started, um, doing drugs
5 again after that. So -- and then, and then she got back
6 together with [Mellissa's Husband] after that. And then,
7 um, my family ended up getting, like, custody, well, of the
8 kids. They were taking care of the kids, and, um, they
9 told, they said that, you know, "If you say with
10 [Mellissa's Husband], you'll never get your kids back and
11 stuff." And they got all lawyered up, and I guess [Uncle 1]
12 was paying my aunt's, her husband was paying for lawyers
13 to, um, keep those kids away from her.

14 And then, so, meanwhile, like, she was
15 going back and forth to court and then I went with her, and
16 then, so, she thought by marrying [Mellissa's Husband] they
17 would stop, but it made them -- they're really stubborn,
18 too. And it made them even more, too. And they kept the
19 kids, even, you know, more after that, and then they
20 started threatening her with, like, adoption, and then said
21 they were going to adopt her kids and stuff and -- so she
22 was pregnant with [Nephew 1], her fifth kid, and, um, so
23 she, she was afraid to have her in the hospital, but she
24 ended up having her at, um, [Mellissa's Husband]'s cousin's
25 - I think - in the bathroom, she delivered her. And, um,

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 she went to the, it was a snowstorm and stuff. She went to
2 the hospital and she was, like, um, premature, and so she
3 was there for a little bit and I didn't even get a chance
4 to go to the hospital and I met up with her. And I was,
5 like, "What are you doing out here?" And she was like,
6 "Oh," she said, "The nurses said I could get a few things
7 and, you know, since I'm going to be at the hospital for a
8 while, they said that they could, that they'd watch [Nephew
9 1] and, um, while I get shampoo and all the stuff that I
10 need." And so she was, like, really happy and in a good
11 mood, and I seen her and I told her I'd come visit her
12 later that day, and then, um, when she went back there,
13 there, there was, like, four cop cars outside and they
14 wouldn't let her back in. So she didn't get to go back in.
15 And then my cousin, my first cousin came and started taking
16 care of my, my niece, and so, she was really devastated
17 after that. Like, that, that was so devastating to her,
18 it, it did something to her. Something that doesn't ever
19 make somebody the same. Like, it permanently --

20 MS. PAULA FOLEY: Changed.

21 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: -- changed her, right?

22 And, um, like, her fear was really, really high at the
23 time. But she kept going to court and she kept, you know,
24 trying to fight for the kids back and, um, her husband, he
25 was, um, he was abusive. He -- well, he started to get

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 abusive I think after a while.

2 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Is this [Mellissa's
3 Husband]?

4 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Um hum.

5 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: What's his last name?

6 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: [Mellissa's Husband].

7 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. We did ~~stay~~
8 [say] that.

9 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: And, um, yeah.
10 Because, and then so, she got into a big fight with my
11 sister, my sister, [Sister]. So, they, they weren't really
12 speaking, but she called me up one night and she said that
13 was, that she was coming home and she had everything, the
14 truck all packed up and stuff. And my dad's house is the
15 name, *[one line redacted - personal information]*. So I
16 asked [Sister] if she minded - which I shouldn't done, but,
17 I can't (*inaudible*) [say shit about it] now that - but, you
18 know, [Sister] said no. She didn't want her to come back.
19 So she didn't let her come back, and then I told Mellissa
20 this, and I was, like, "Oh, I'm sorry, but [Sister] said
21 that she doesn't want you here." And she was, like, "What
22 do I do now? My God." And she was, like, "I have to take
23 them back and unload everything," and you know. I was
24 crying, she was crying. I was so upset and it was really
25 emotional. I was so mad at my sister for that.

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 And so, she went back to him. And she
2 stayed there, and then, like, it was around that -- and
3 then she went to, we were going back and forth to court, so
4 I moved to Port Hawkesbury to be closer to her. And, um,
5 so, we would meet up there and she would stay with me and -
6 - or I did stay in Chapel Island with her and -- but I'd
7 get into it with her husband a lot. We would butt heads
8 sometimes.

9 And, you know, so, um, she started getting
10 suicidal. And then, um, about a year and a half, probably,
11 before that she really did it, she got really suicidal.
12 And probably, like, a couple of weeks out of the month, I
13 would stay with her, and, um, until she felt better, and
14 then I'd go back home to We'kogma'q. And during all this
15 time, I told my sister [Sister], I said, "You know,
16 Mellissa," I said, "She's going to kill herself, you know."
17 And then she's, like, "Don't say that, don't ever say
18 that." Because, um, Mellissa -- I mean, [Sister]'s son's
19 father was in the Marines, eh? And he, um, he hung himself
20 when, um -- it was, I think it was in 2004 he did that?
21 *[Four lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55]*. And so she was,
22 she was mad, like, at the world, but she was mad about
23 that, too, and she was, like, "You know that (inaudible)
24 killed himself. Why would you say that? " And I was, like,
25 "Well, I thought you'd want to know what our sister's going

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 to do. So I'm just telling you, that's what's going to
2 happen." And she was, like, mad about it. "I don't ever
3 want to hear that again." And then it's, like, "All right.
4 Whatever."

5 And so, she was mad at me for going back
6 and forth and she was, like, "Oh, I need you here, too.
7 And why do you always have to choose her over me?" And
8 stuff, and it's like, you know, so I went to court with
9 Mellissa one day and, um, it was my aunt there and my
10 cousin, um, that came up to her and told her that, um, that
11 they, that the adoption went through and that she was going
12 to get papers saying that two of her kids were adopted by,
13 by --

14 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: By your aunt? By the
15 aunt?

16 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Yeah. And Mellissa
17 was crying, she was so upset. And she was, like, um, "How
18 am I gonna get -- I don't want to only get two of my kids
19 back, and I can't get the other two back," and all this
20 stuff. And I was, like, "They can't, no way can they have
21 adopted the kids. It's no way can they have done it this
22 fast." And it's like, I said, "Don't even listen to them,
23 they're lying and stuff."

24 And so right from the courthouse, we went
25 to the post office, and she checked the, um, her mailbox,

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 and there really was a, a brown envelope from the lawyer,
2 and I was gonna reach for it, I was reaching for it and she
3 shut it, and she thought it was the, um, the, you know,
4 saying that the kids were adopted. And she broke down and
5 she's on the ground and she was, like, crying and stuff
6 and, um, by this time, *[one line redacted - personal*
7 *information]*, but that she didn't tell anybody. Um, I
8 knew. And, um, but she was still suicidal. And, um, what
9 I, I thought was really on odd because she was, um,
10 Catholic --

11 MS. PAULA FOLEY: Yes.

12 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: -- *[Seven lines*
13 *redacted pursuant to Rule 55]*. I was, like, "Well, no,
14 you're not. Don't, don't kill yourself, then," I told her.
15 And I thought, *[three lines redacted - personal*
16 *information]*. She was still suicidal, and that, that's
17 when, how I really knew that, like, that she really wasn't,
18 like, mentally, like, completely --

19 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Stable.

20 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: -- yeah. Like, she
21 wasn't the person that she really, was, right?

22 ~~MS. DEBBIE BODKIN~~ [MS. PAULA FOLEY]:

23 Because (inaudible) those were gone.

24 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Yeah.

25 MS. PAULA FOLEY: Oh. Sorry.

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Well.

2 MS. PAULA FOLEY: Okay.

3 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: But, um, so, um, like,
4 I knew she was, like, a total different person. Like the
5 Mellissa I know and knew and all this stuff, she would
6 never harm anybody else, *[one line redacted - personal*
7 *information]*.

8 And then so I was like, *[one line redacted*
9 *- personal information]*, but it didn't. And it kind of
10 made her think she -- it, it, it made her flash back to
11 when they took the last baby away from her from the
12 hospital and stuff like that, and she wasn't gonna let that
13 happen again. *[One line redacted - personal information]*.
14 Like, she really thought that was a, like, a solution, a
15 real solution. *[One line redacted - personal information]*,

16 And, um, so, I'd, like, I would talk her
17 out of it and stuff like that, and, you know, cheer her up
18 and stuff. But it was only a matter of time before she got
19 depressed again. And, so, yeah.

20 And then she was, *[one line redacted -*
21 *personal information]*, and, um, that's when -- I was home
22 in We'kogma'q, and I didn't have my phone. I didn't have
23 minutes for my phone. But I used to lie in bed at night.
24 I used to think what I'm gonna say to her the next time I
25 see her to talk her out of it? Like, what new things I

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 would say or how -- what different things I could say to
2 make her feel better or talk her out of doing that, so I'd
3 be ready, when she, you know, got suicidal again.

4 And, um, so I was sleeping one night, and
5 I was sleeping and I had a terrible nightmare that, um,
6 that she died, and I was so, so devastated that it really,
7 like, hurt, like physically hurt. And, um, but then I woke
8 up and I was, like, oh, thank God. It was just a
9 nightmare, right? And then somebody, but I woke up and
10 somebody was knocking on my door. And then so I went out,
11 I opened the door and they came in. My, my sister and two
12 of my friends, closest friends, and I could tell just the
13 way they were looking at me, that (~~inaudible~~) [I] knew
14 already what happened. I was, like, "Say it." And I was,
15 like, "Just say it," I told them. And then they said,
16 "It's your sister. She --," and then they said, "She died
17 this morning. She killed herself." And then I just broke
18 down right away and I started crying and I was crying
19 really, and I was, like, "Ow, it hurts, and it hurts," and
20 I was, like, that -- and I was so devastated.

21 And then my family started showing up and,
22 um, I was kind of mad at them. So, you know, and then
23 there was a whole bunch of people in my house and they,
24 nobody would leave me alone. Like, they, they thought that
25 I was going to be suicidal just because she was, but,

Jolene Googoo

(Mother & Mellissa Marshall)

1 really, I just wanted to be away from everybody because I
2 was so mad at everybody. And, um, so finally I just, like,
3 freaked out and I said, I told everybody to leave, and then
4 my sister and my dad started leaving and I was, like, "Not
5 you guys." I was, like, "Everybody but you." And then, so,
6 because I said, "You guys all act like you care, now," I
7 was, like, "Where have you been the past two years?" And
8 I'm like, you know, "You guys are a big part of the reason
9 that she did this." And I said, "And now she's gone and
10 [one line redacted - personal information]." They're,
11 like, "Oh my God. [one line redacted - personal
12 information]?" and I was, like, "You had -- Just go."
13 Right? So they left.

14 And then, um, um, so, because Mellissa,
15 she wrote, I know, I read all the letters that she wrote to
16 her kids and stuff before she, you know, did it. Because I
17 knew she was going to do it. And she wrote me a letter,
18 like, a week before, and I still have it somewhere. But, I
19 was more of, like, um, not, like, because I knew I kept
20 trying to get her to leave [Mellissa's Husband] and she
21 kept trying to say, you know, if -- well she kept -- so we
22 did make a plan to leave, and then she backed out of that
23 plan at the last minute and I was so, I was so mad at him,
24 and I was so devastated. And I was, like, "If you go back
25 to Chapel Island," I was, like, "You're, you're going to

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1 kill yourself. You're not going to come back." I was,
2 like, "I'll never see you again," and all this stuff, and
3 we got into a big argument and, um, so. Yeah.

4 The last time we did talk, we did argue
5 and we fought, but we made up and we hugged and stuff, but,
6 you know when you're going to see -- you're never going to
7 see somebody again. This, that's the feeling I had. Well,
8 I knew that. So it's gonna happen, and there wasn't really
9 much I could do about it.

10 And so, um, I thought about, um, making up
11 with [Mellissa's Husband] for her sake, like I did so many
12 other times, just to be with her. So I did call, um, and,
13 um, he said she was sleeping. So I ended up going home to
14 We'kogma'q. And then that's when it happened. It was a
15 few days after that.

16 And so, after that happened, I was really,
17 um, lost, I would say. Pretty devastated and lost and
18 stuff, and, um, so I start making up with my family - on my
19 mom's side - because I wasn't as mad at them as I was my
20 dad's side, you know, for how they treated my sister and
21 stuff. Because [Social Agency] was my family. Like, my
22 family was [Social Agency], like, um, workers, and stuff.
23 They worked in -- so I think that's why I was so mad at
24 them, too. Like, they gave her no hope at all. Like, it
25 was no hope. It was a hopeless situation when all that

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1 they, all they had, all they had to do was say, you know,
2 do this, this and that, and then you'll get your kids back,
3 you know. But there was never any of that. It was, like,
4 you're not getting your kids back. And that's, that's what
5 did happen, you know. You should stop fighting, but she
6 was, she didn't stop fighting. And, and they just, it was
7 a really hopeless situation, and I was so mad at them for
8 that because they were [Social Agency] and [Social Agency]
9 should have given her hope. Because that's all she needed
10 was a little bit of hope and she would have hung on. And,
11 um, they didn't give her any hope. So she didn't hang on.
12 And instead they did the opposite, and they're both telling
13 about the adoption and it kind of shooked her, and I was
14 mad about that, too.

15 So I went to Halifax and I was there for,
16 um, a few months, and, um, you know, I just needed to be
17 away from everybody, and, um, um, so I started going out
18 with this guy, and he was, um, he worked a lot, he didn't
19 do drugs, and he didn't drink. So that was really good.
20 And so we didn't really see much of each other, but, you
21 know, I stayed there, and, um, you know, I'd get to hang
22 out with my aunts and stuff a lot. And you I kind of,
23 like, was able to make peace with everything that happened.
24 You know. Like, come and accept it a little bit more.
25 Like, not be angry about it because there's, I couldn't

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1 change nothing. So -- and not to feel so guilty. Like, I
2 struggled feeling guilty for a long time, for a long time,
3 but, like, I, I dealt with all those emotions, like, kind
4 of on my own.

5 And, um, so yeah. So I think I was doing
6 pretty good, and, um, I was trying to find, you know, my
7 way, like, like, trying to find things, positive things to
8 do. And then, um, I was hanging out with these, my friends
9 and they had a boat and stuff, and then, so, the, um, my,
10 like, um -- I couldn't say purpose, but, like, something
11 like that came through them. They said, you know, "We have
12 a boat. Why don't you ask your band if you can get the
13 tuna license and, you know, we'll give you 50 percent of
14 the, um, tuna license. And, um, you don't even have to do
15 any work, you can just stay on the boat. So, I made that,
16 like, you know, my goal.

17 So I started traveling back and forth from
18 We'kogma'q to Halifax. And, um, so I was meeting with Phil
19 Drennon (ph), the Director of Fisheries and stuff, and I
20 told him my idea, and he thought that, he said it was a
21 really good idea and, you know, so, we worked on that plan
22 for a while, and, um, a couple months, and, um -- can I use
23 the bathroom?

24 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Sure. Sure.

25 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Okay.

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1 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: I'll shut the
2 equipment off for a bit.

3 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Okay.

4 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: You can have a
5 stretch.

6 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Oh my goodness.

7 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: It five after one.

8 --- Whereupon the session is in recess at 1:05 p.m.

9 --- Upon resuming at 1:30 p.m.

10 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. It is 1:30 p.m.
11 and we've just turned the equipment on and, um, just a
12 couple things I wanted to clarify. Number one, you are an
13 incredible young lady, incredibly strong and brilliant and
14 well-spoken and someone who's gone through so much and, you
15 know, thank you for being able to share it with me. I'm
16 honoured to be a part of here and to help you. Um, I
17 wanted to ask, whereabouts is [Mother's Boyfriend], now?

18 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Well, um, he died.

19 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

20 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: So back to that, I was
21 just gonna finish saying that.

22 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Yeah. Perfect.

23 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: But, um, so, let's say
24 -- right after my sister died and I was living with my
25 boyfriend, um, somebody in Shube - or Indian Brook - said

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1 that they were trying to get a hold of me. So, so I found
2 out who this person was and, um, I went to Indian Brook, on
3 -- I think it's like in a (inaudible). And then I went to
4 the band office and did find him, and I never met him
5 before. And, um -

6 (Cellphone ringing)

7 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Oh. I apologize.

8 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: That's okay.

9 (Cellphone keeps ringing)

10 (Cellphone keeps ringing)

11 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: It's possessed. It's
12 off. Sorry.

13 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: That's okay. And, um,
14 so he took me to the side of the band office and the band,
15 like, he was probably about my age, maybe, maybe a year or
16 so older, and, um, he was saying -

17 (Knocking at the door)

18 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: -- I just wanted to
19 tell you --

20 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Oh. I'm going to get
21 up (inaudible). Okay, sorry. Go on.

22 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: So, he took me to the
23 side of the building and said that, um, "I just wanted to
24 let you know that, um, I heard about your sister after, I
25 heard about your sister and stuff like that," and he said,

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1 "And I just wanted to tell you that," he said, "I was
2 there, um, at [Mother's Boyfriend]'s that day that, that
3 happened to your mother." [And he said, "I just wanted to
4 tell you that she didn't fall, that she did get pushed."
5 And I said, "(inaudible) said, "(inaudible) oh my God." I
6 said, "Would you be willing to, like, testify to that in
7 court?" And he said, "No." He said, "I don't want to
8 because," he said, "I'm going to get killed for that and
9 stuff." And he said, "Me and my friend were both there,"
10 and when, after [Mother's Boyfriend] pushed her, he said
11 that we ran away and, "We got scared and we ran away," and
12 he said "I just wanted to tell you so that you know."

13 And so, and so I felt, kind of, bad for
14 him because he was really, felt really bad about it, and I
15 don't want to put him in that spot. So I didn't really
16 push that to go forward any further and that. And then I
17 heard, um, not long after that, that [Mother's Boyfriend]
18 had cancer and he was dying, so -- and the neighbour across
19 the road, she heard he died of cancer before. So then he,
20 he ended up dying and so. That's it.

21 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: That's sort of the end
22 of that chapter, kind of. Okay. Um. Any, any other
23 comments you want to make in regards to your sister and
24 your mom and what you feel might be some of the causes,
25 what cause, um, resulted in the ends of their lives, like,

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1 the violence and everything?

2 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: And they were just
3 really good people, and I think they were, um, both taken
4 too soon --

5 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: For sure.

6 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: -- way too soon.
7 Maybe they were too good for this life and stuff and they
8 were -- I don't know, um, yeah. Just...

9 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Any, any, any
10 suggestions you see what things need to change?

11 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Um. Well, I think,
12 um, women should be, like, be heard and be helped more and,
13 like, um, things like this probably could be prevented to,
14 like, and I -- and you know, to an extent. And, just, um,
15 yeah.

16 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. Okay. Well,
17 thank you, again, for sharing all that you have and for
18 being such a strong survivor, for going through so much
19 that you have.

20 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Okay. Yeah.

21 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: We'll end this, now.
22 And then we'll discuss more about your after care and so
23 on. Okay?

24 MS. JOLENE GOOGOO: Okay.

25 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. So it is 1:35

Statement - Public

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1 p.m.

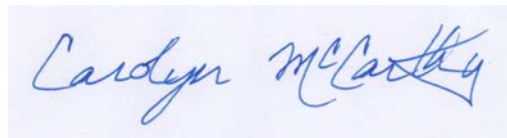
2 --- Whereupon the statement concluded at 1:35 p.m.

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I have, to the best
of my skill and ability,
accurately transcribed from a pre-existing recording
the foregoing proceeding.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carolyn McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light blue rectangular background.

Carolyn McCarthy, Court Reporter