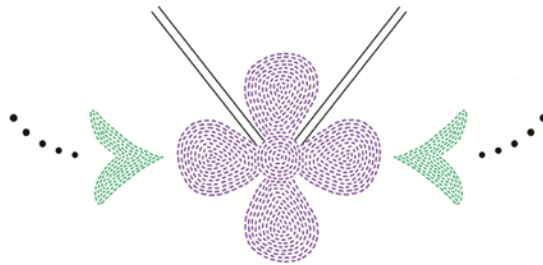


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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  
Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel  
Metro Vancouver (Richmond)  
British Columbia**



**PUBLIC**

**Friday April 6, 2018**

**Statement - Volume 363**

**C.R.**

**Statement gathered by Daria Boyarchuk**

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II  
ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 7 of *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*, Chief Commissioner Marion Buller ordered that all names be made anonymous in this transcript and any related documents. The order for anonymity was made June 27th, 2019.

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

1 Richmond, British Columbia

2 ---Upon commencing Friday, April 6, 2018

3 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Hi. My name is  
4 Daria Boyarchuk, and I'm the statement-gatherer for the  
5 National Inquiry for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women  
6 and Girls, and I'm here in the presence of [C.R.], who has  
7 come here to share a story, April 6, 2018. We are here in  
8 Vancouver, British Columbia, and we're also here in  
9 presence of our health support worker.

10 **MS. S.N.:** My name is [S.N.]. Thank you.

11 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** And also, a friend,  
12 a very close friend of [C.R.]'s. Would you please  
13 introduce yourself?

14 **MS. S.B.:** [S.B.].

15 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** [S.B.], thank you.  
16 [C.R.]?

17 **MS. C.R.:** Yes.

18 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** I have a consent  
19 form that I have spoken to you earlier about.

20 *[Registrar's note: Off-the-record informed consent*  
21 *discussion omitted].*

22 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** It is 4:29 in the  
23 afternoon, and I invite you -- why do I have three pens now  
24 by my side? I invite you, [C.R.], to share your story in  
25 the way that you feel most comfortable with. If you want

1 me to ask you questions, if you want to just let the story  
2 flow, feel free to do so.

3 **MS. C.R.:** Okay. My name is [C.R.]. I  
4 was born January 2nd, 1961, in [BC Community 1], in my  
5 grandmother's house. I am the sixth of 11 children,  
6 although one is -- one passed on when she was 11 -- I mean,  
7 she was five. Sorry.

8 My mom didn't raise the first -- I call us  
9 the first litter of kids, the older kids. She didn't raise  
10 us. We were raised by our grandparents. She married the  
11 two youngest sisters' dad, who was white, so she had to  
12 leave the reserve, and she passed away -- she was 29 when  
13 she was passed away -- when she passed away of alcoholism.

14 My grandparents' home was very  
15 dysfunctional, very -- there was lots of rage, lots of  
16 anger, lots of sadness. I felt like I was always being  
17 beaten up by my grandfather, and my grandmother was very  
18 quiet. And I was being -- I was being molested from the  
19 time I was five until I was eleven by my grandparents' --  
20 one of my grandparents' sons, and one of their son-in-laws.

21 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Grandparents' son --  
22 so this is your uncle?

23 **MS. C.R.:** I don't refer to them as my  
24 uncles. I haven't since we went to court. So I refer to  
25 them as my grandparents' --

1 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay.

2 MS. C.R.: Yeah. So the molestations  
3 would be during the day -- one of them would be during the  
4 day, and the other one would be at night. He would -- the  
5 one at night would crawl through our bedroom window, and it  
6 was, like, almost every -- every night.

7 My cousin [Cousin 1] who lived with us for  
8 -- I don't know how long, but I know she was there for a  
9 while. We -- the way our grandparents' house was built was  
10 that their bedroom was right here, our bedroom was right  
11 next door, and then our uncles' bedroom was up in the  
12 front. There was never, ever a door on our bedroom. It  
13 was like a curtain. And I know that the one that would  
14 come in at night, he would come after me, and then he would  
15 -- if I pushed him away or anything, he would go over to my  
16 cousin. My younger brother slept in the bottom bunk. And  
17 I think there was a bed -- there was, like, a bed next door  
18 to -- right beside the bunk bed, but I'm not sure who slept  
19 there.

20 My older siblings, [four names redacted],  
21 and my cousin [Cousin 2], they were all sent to -- what is  
22 it called?

23 MS. S.B.: Residential?

24 MS. C.R.: I don't remember.

25 MS. S.B.: The Mormon Placement Program.

1 MS. C.R.: Mormon Placement Program.

2 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Who was that there,  
3 again?

4 MS. C.R.: My older siblings.

5 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Your older -- okay.

6 MS. C.R.: Yeah.

7 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: All of them, or --

8 MS. C.R.: Yeah. My brother [M.] and I  
9 weren't allowed to go because we were too young.

10 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Mormon?

11 MS. C.R.: Placement Program.

12 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Placement Program?

13 MS. C.R.: Yeah.

14 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Like, how many  
15 siblings would you say were there? Who was sent?

16 MS. C.R.: It was [four names redacted]  
17 and my cousin [Cousin 2].

18 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay. So --

19 MS. C.R.: Five.

20 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: -- five?

21 MS. C.R.: Yeah.

22 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: In the same bedroom  
23 where this man would climb in, how many, would you say,  
24 kids were sleeping?

25 MS. C.R.: At one time, I think there was

1 at least six of us in that one room, yeah. And -- like I  
2 said, it went on until I was at least 11, and I remember,  
3 at one point, telling my sister because they were home for  
4 the summer or something. I told my older sister that the  
5 one at night was climbing through our bedroom window, and  
6 she said -- she had told me to go outside and get a big  
7 stick for when he comes in, and I remember thinking, like,

8 "Why can't you do anything about it?  
9 Because you're supposed to be the  
10 bigger sister."

11 Right? But that was the extent of it.  
12 That was the extent of me telling anybody what was going  
13 on.

14 I was raped by one of my cousins. He  
15 would actually crawl -- like, I started sleeping in the  
16 living room on the couch, and he would climb through the  
17 window, and he would rape me on the couch at least once or  
18 twice a week.

19 I honestly believed that because of what  
20 was going on in my grandparents' house, that was normal.  
21 Everything that was happening to me was normal, and I  
22 don't...

23 My mom passed away when I was ten. I  
24 remember sitting on the couch, and the police came to the  
25 door, and they asked my grandparents if they were the



1 parents of [J.P.] and my grandfather said,

2 "Yes,"

3 so he -- they called him outside. And he  
4 came in -- he came back in, and all he said was,

5 "Your mom's dead,"

6 and I remember sitting there beside my  
7 sister [J.], and I kept saying,

8 "No, she's not. She's not. She's  
9 coming home."

10 I remember my grandfather looking at me  
11 and just telling me to shut the fuck up.

12 I don't -- I remember them bringing her  
13 home in the casket, and I was sitting on the chair by the  
14 living room, and my brother [T.] -- my oldest brother [T.]  
15 came over to me, and he said,

16 "Let's go see Mom."

17 So I went up with him, and I stood  
18 there, and I kept saying to her,

19 "Mom, you have to wake up now."

20 I kept saying,

21 "You're home now. You can wake up.

22 It's okay."

23 But again, I was shut down by my family,  
24 because I wasn't allowed to grieve my mom passing away.

25 I don't remember the funeral.

1 I think I was probably twelve when I had  
2 my first drink and first cigarette. I remember -- I  
3 vaguely remember being in a day school, but I was there for  
4 a while. But I remember going to hide away because I  
5 didn't want to be at school, so I'd go hide under the dock.  
6 I think there was about three or four of us that would go  
7 under there, but I'd get beat up when I got home.

8 I remember being -- I don't know how old I  
9 was. I was out in the bus stop, and apparently, somebody  
10 went and told my grandfather that I was smoking, so he was  
11 outside calling, yelling for me, so I went home.

12 I got in the door. He closed the door.  
13 He threw me across the room by my hair. Then he came after  
14 me again, and he threw me in the corner. He had a bar of  
15 soap, and he shoved it in my mouth. He told me I had to  
16 eat it. In my head, I was saying,

17 "This is not going to stop me from  
18 smoking."

19 I learned how to shut myself off. I  
20 learned how to disassociate. There had been -- there were  
21 times when I'd be sitting in my grandparents' living room,  
22 and I could feel myself floating up above and watching  
23 everything that was going on.

24 I was very, very promiscuous. I had  
25 gotten pregnant when I was 16. I think I was 16. I met --

1 I met this guy. He was in the military. In my mind, I  
2 thought,

3 "I could get pregnant by him, and  
4 he'll take me out of here."

5 I was actually put on birth control by my  
6 sister.

7 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Your oldest sister?

8 **MS. C.R.:** Yeah.

9 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** The one you spoke to  
10 --

11 **MS. C.R.:** Yeah.

12 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Spoken to about --

13 **MS. C.R.:** But I didn't know what it was.  
14 I was just told I had to take it every day, and I stopped  
15 taking it, and that's when I got pregnant. But I didn't  
16 even know I was pregnant. I was never even told about  
17 having my period.

18 I used to get beaten by my sister because  
19 some of the girls at school were telling her that I was  
20 stuffing my bra, because I was very well-endowed when I was  
21 skinny as a whale. I was I would say I was bullied a  
22 lot when I was growing up. I was like a skinny little  
23 whale. Like, I just -- I was so skinny, and I was always  
24 getting -- girls were always beating me up. And I became a  
25 bully in high school.

1 I got pregnant when I was 16, left [BC  
2 Community 1] with the dad, but we lived in [BC Community 2]  
3 for a month with his parents, and then we drove across  
4 Canada to Quebec, to my older sister who was there, and I  
5 was going to live with her until he came back from Alert,  
6 but that's when I found out I was pregnant -- so going back  
7 to having this mindset that I was going to get pregnant by  
8 him so he could take me away.

9 He phoned and he asked me what happened at  
10 the doctor's. I told him that I was pregnant, and he says,

11 "Okay, I'm going to come back and  
12 marry you."

13 And I said,

14 "No, I'm not going to marry you  
15 because I'm pregnant."

16 I stayed in Longueuil for another month  
17 or two, and I went back to my grandmother's house, trying  
18 desperately to hide the pregnancy, but I was as big as a  
19 house, so when -- I left when I was, like, 127 pounds.

20 I went to see the doctor. I told the  
21 doctor -- at the time, I said that I wanted to give the  
22 baby up for adoption because I wouldn't be able to take  
23 care of the baby, but he was very good friends of my  
24 grandparents. Like, they were -- like, he was friends with  
25 everybody. So he ended up telling my grandparents that

1 that was my -- my plan was to give up my son for adoption.

2                   And I remember sitting at the dinner table  
3 beside my grandfather, and he turned and looked at me. He  
4 said,

5                   "You know, giving a baby away is like  
6                   giving away puppies,"

7                   because he knew how much I loved puppies  
8 when I was growing up. I always wanted to have a puppy.  
9 And that just hit me, and I told him, I said,

10                   "I cannot take care of this baby."

11                   I said,

12                   "I'm only 16. I want to go to  
13                   school. I want to do things."

14                   And he said that they would help me.

15                   So I had my son, and I believe now I  
16 have I believed in the last few years that my son was an  
17 absolute gift to my grandfather, because when I was growing  
18 up, he was this mean, very vicious, abusive man, but when  
19 my son was born, he totally changed to this little, caring,  
20 full of love old man, and I couldn't figure out what  
21 happened to him. I even asked -- I remember asking one  
22 day,

23                   "What did you do with my chinni?"

24                   So he ended up -- they ended up raising my  
25 son. I left when I was 18 or 19. I moved to [BC Community

1 3], because I told my grandfather I was going to go to [BC  
2 Community 3], and I was going to get a job, and I was going  
3 to come back and get my son.

4 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: [Mistakes name]?

5 MS. C.R.: [BC Community 3].

6 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Okay. Did you go  
7 there?

8 MS. C.R.: I did.

9 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: You did go?

10 MS. C.R.: Yeah. Got a job at a bar  
11 because I was an alcoholic. That's what I always said. I  
12 was an alcoholic so I worked in a bar.

13 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: You were 18, you  
14 said, at the time?

15 MS. C.R.: I was 19 when I started working  
16 at the bar, yeah.

17 I went back to [BC Community 1] a few  
18 times, tried to take my son, but my grandfather threatened  
19 to take me to court, and I didn't want to fight him in  
20 court, so I just said,

21 "Okay."

22 I ended up having another son in 1984. He  
23 was born in [BC Community 1]. Oh, no, 1982, sorry, and  
24 then I had another son in 1984.

25 Their dad was very abusive, and I finally

1 threw him out, but I just -- I went on a terror. My son --  
2 I asked my neighbours to look after my sons, but I didn't  
3 see them for about a week, and the nursery came and got  
4 them.

5 They were in care for a while until I was  
6 allowed to go see them. I was allowed to take them home  
7 for Christmas because I knew that I was going to give them  
8 up for adoption.

9 I seen their dad when I got back to [BC  
10 Community 3], and I told him that's what I was -- I was  
11 going to give them up for adoption, and he wanted to take  
12 our older son. But I said,

13 "You can't take just one and leave  
14 the other,"

15 and I said, you know,

16 "I'm not going to let you do that."

17 So he agreed to let them go for  
18 adoption.

19 I think my -- [Son 1] was two at the time,  
20 I think. They were adopted into a white family.

21 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** [Son 1] and -- what  
22 about --

23 **MS. C.R.:** [Son 2].

24 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** [Son 2]?

25 **MS. C.R.:** Yeah.

1 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: How old was [Son 2]?

2 MS. C.R.: God, I don't even know. Just  
3 over a year, I think. Maybe not even a year.

4 I just went on drunk. I never sobered up  
5 again after that, after they were -- after I signed the  
6 papers, and because I used to think that -- my belief  
7 system then was if somebody had sex with me, that showed me  
8 that they loved me, so I was having sex with everybody.

9 I worked at a bar. I sold pot. I got  
10 accused of being with this married man. It was, like,  
11 really? A lot of, like -- after my sons were -- after I  
12 signed the papers for my sons, I tried to commit suicide a  
13 number of times. I remember being at home in [BC Community  
14 3], and I went in the bathroom, and there were all these  
15 different pills. I didn't even know what they were; I was  
16 so drunk, because there was a big party happening, and I  
17 just took a handful. The next day, my face was just  
18 swollen. You had seen my eyes.

19 I remember going to the doctor the next  
20 day and telling him -- I went in there and my face was just  
21 swollen, and he'd asked me what happened, and I said,

22 "I think I took a whole bunch of  
23 pills last night, but I don't know  
24 what they were."

25 I said I was drinking.



1 I moved home for a while, but it was --  
2 hearing everybody say that I was such an awful mother to  
3 give my boys away, and then hearing my oldest brother say  
4 to me,

5 "You're just like mom. You're going  
6 to end up just like her."

7 And I kept saying,

8 "No, I'm not."

9 I didn't know how to stop all these things  
10 going on in my head. So it just easier to stay drunk. I  
11 think there were sober days in between. I don't know. My  
12 relationships were always so dysfunctional, abusive,  
13 blackout drunks.

14 I finally -- I came here with the one guy  
15 that I've been with off and on for seven years. We had  
16 this huge plan that we were going to get married, and I  
17 never went back. I fell in love with the lights. I fell  
18 in love with the parties. So for a whole year, I was  
19 drunk, on the street --

20 MS. S.B.: Excuse me. Sorry.

21 MS. C.R.: I remember being beat up so  
22 many times by men, but it was so normal for me. Like,  
23 that's just the way it was. I didn't know any -- any other  
24 way it would be.

25 I met this guy. I think it was probably

1 four months after I got here, and we ended up living  
2 together if that's what you want to call it. It was so  
3 crazy. I started doing coke. There wasn't a night that  
4 went by that I wasn't either high or I was drunk.

5 I remember being in the alley, I was just  
6 -- I just did some -- smoked some crack -- did a few hits  
7 of crack, and I seen my cousin down the street, and he was  
8 shooting up cocaine. So I asked him if he would shoot me  
9 up, and he got so mad at me. He swore at me so hard, and  
10 he told me never, ever to come around here if you -- if I  
11 was looking to get high -- (inaudible) cocaine, but it was  
12 okay to smoke crack.

13 And then I started working the street.  
14 And I was -- it was crazy because -- it didn't last long,  
15 because I always had that one person that always had  
16 cocaine, and he always had drinks for me, and we just  
17 always hung out together. And maybe I was -- I don't know  
18 if I was just naive or I didn't want to see it. Remember  
19 (inaudible)? Yeah.

20 I was -- after I found out this guy I was  
21 living with was with other women, I kicked him out of the  
22 apartment, changed my locks, and then I was -- I was  
23 actually on a drunk already for, like, three months, and  
24 this guy had called. I'd passed out. This guy had called,  
25 and he said,

1 "I'm going to Vancouver Island. Do  
2 you want to come?"

3 And I said -- I said,

4 "Give me a few minutes. I'm going to  
5 jump in the shower, and I'll"

6 -- he says,

7 "No, I'll be at your house in two  
8 minutes."

9 I didn't shower. Didn't even brush my  
10 teeth. I ran out the door, and he had four lines of  
11 cocaine for me.

12 We went over to the island. I wasn't  
13 sober. And I remember sitting in this huge house. It was,  
14 like -- at the time, it felt like it was this big, dark,  
15 dungy castle. There was candles around. He was upstairs,  
16 and I was sitting downstairs. I had my pack of cigarettes.  
17 I had a mountain of cocaine. I had a bottle of vodka and  
18 coolers. I was set. But the only thing I could think  
19 about while I was sitting there was how I was going to kill  
20 myself when I got back to Vancouver. I would go through  
21 the whole thing in my head. And that's all I was every  
22 night, was how I was going to kill myself, and I was there  
23 for a week.

24 And I finally said to my friend, I said,  
25 "I need to go back to Vancouver."

1 I said,

2 "There's just something wrong. Like,  
3 there's something wrong, and I don't  
4 know what it is."

5 So he put me on the bus, and he gave me  
6 \$200. He said,

7 "Just call me when you get home."

8 So I -- I get back to Vancouver, and I  
9 walk down skid row, and I walk into the bar, and it just  
10 felt so dark and dungy and sad, and I just walked out and  
11 went back -- went to my house my apartment. And my  
12 cousin was there, and I said to him, I said,

13 "I can't do this anymore. I can't.

14 Like, this is -- I can't do this,"

15 and he couldn't understand what I was  
16 talking about. And I told him,

17 "I need to stop."

18 The next day, I was on the phone. I was  
19 phoning everybody because I did -- I had no clue. I had no  
20 clue what AA was. I had no clue. And I finally got a hold  
21 of this -- native court workers. I spoke to a counsellor,  
22 and he said,

23 "Can you come down right now?"

24 So I said,

25 "Yeah, like, I'll be there in, like,

1 half an hour."

2 So I went, got -- as soon as I got there,  
3 I went -- he called me right in his office, and we were  
4 talking, and I said,

5 "I don't know what to do. Like, I  
6 just -- I have -- I've called every -  
7 - I've called transition houses and"  
8 -- and he asked me if I had a drinking  
9 problem. I said,

10 "Yeah."

11 So he made one phone call, and I had a bed  
12 in a recovery house. But I had the most amazing excuse not  
13 to go there that afternoon. I had to do my laundry. So he  
14 said -- so the coordinator of the house, [G.], he said,

15 "I can hold your bed for 24 hours,  
16 and that's it."

17 So I had -- in my head, I kept saying,

18 "I have 24 hours to do what I have to  
19 do to go there."

20 I had no idea what I signed up for. So I  
21 packed this tiny little bag. I figured I was just going to  
22 be there for a couple days.

23 The third month I was there, I went to  
24 treatment, then I came out. I worked at -- I worked at  
25 there. I was in-house staff when I came out, and I used to

1 talk to [G.] every day, and then, all of a sudden, I  
2 started -- my body started remembering all these -- like,  
3 ugh. I'd wake up in the morning. I'd have a shower. We'd  
4 do our group, then I would just start feeling really dirty  
5 again, so I'd go have another shower. But then I started  
6 remembering them climbing in the window, and I start  
7 remembering them touching me all the time, and I finally  
8 told [G.]. I said,

9 "I was molested. I remember the very  
10 first time when I was five years  
11 old."

12 I said,

13 "Is that why I feel the way I feel  
14 all the time?"

15 He said,

16 "Yeah."

17 So I started seeing a psychologist, and  
18 the memories were getting more and more. And at one  
19 session, she said,

20 "You have three choices, what you  
21 could do. You can confront them, you  
22 can go through the elders, or we can  
23 go to the police."

24 The two were -- the first two were not  
25 even an option, because I knew that was never going to

1 happen. So I went and made my statement, and about -- I  
2 want to say two years later, maybe, they were charged.

3 We were in and out of court for five  
4 years. In the criminal, there was a stay. In the civil,  
5 they were guilty. When I was going to court, I knew -- I  
6 knew I wasn't going to get too much support from my family,  
7 and I knew that there was going to be a total uproar, which  
8 there was, because that triggered everybody else's abuse.  
9 I was -- my oldest sister phoned me, and she said that I  
10 was only doing it for the money.

11 So there was all kinds of, like, stuff  
12 like that. People were just -- and I just said,

13 "You know what? You believe what you  
14 want."

15 I remember one had passed away, and I got  
16 a phone call. And I'm like,

17 "So? What am I supposed to do?"

18 You know?

19 "I don't care."

20 And my mom's sister, she passed away, and  
21 she went to her grave knowing that her husband had done  
22 this, but she was going to court saying that he'd never,  
23 ever done that before. He's never, ever -- how I know she  
24 knew was because she called me and asked me and said to me  
25 on the phone,

1                    "I didn't know he was still doing  
2                    that."

3                    And she wanted me to stop the charges of  
4 rape towards her son, because her son had just passed away,  
5 and I said,

6                    "It's done."

7                    **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** The charges were  
8 against -- who was the perpetrator?

9                    **MS. C.R.:** My cousin.

10                   **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Your cousin.

11                   **MS. C.R.:** Yeah.

12                   **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** What was his name?

13                   **MS. C.R.:** [F.].

14                   **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** And his last name?

15                   **MS. C.R.:** [F.C.].

16                   **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** How do you spell his  
17 last name?

18                   **MS. C.R.:** [*Spells name*].

19                   **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** All of the charges  
20 were against him or --

21                   **MS. C.R.:** That was the thing that -- that  
22 was never really brought up in the --

23                   **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Like, when you took  
24 the case to court, did you take the case against [F.], your  
25 cousin, or did you also include your grandfather?



1                   **MS. C.R.:** It was just my grandfather's --  
2 one of my grandfather's sons and son-in-law. So that would  
3 be [R.] and [F.C.], but my aunt wanted me just to not -- to  
4 make sure that charges against [F.] were dropped, and I  
5 said,

6                                   "There's nothing I can do about it."

7                   But there was never anything done about  
8 that either. He had passed away, but...

9                   My intention of going to court was to set  
10 a precedent in hopes that it would give other survivors the  
11 courage to step up and speak of their abuse, and my  
12 intention was never, ever to receive anything from them. I  
13 knew that there -- it would be a complete denial on their  
14 part, and when it was all over and done with, I was glad  
15 that it was, because it was, like, going through being  
16 retraumatized every time you stepped in the courtroom.

17                   **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Did they get  
18 sentenced to serve in jail, or what happened?

19                   **MS. C.R.:** No, the criminals were stayed.

20                   **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** They were stayed?  
21 Okay.

22                   **MS. C.R.:** Yeah. It was just the civil,  
23 that one of them was supposed to pay me \$2,500 -- no,  
24 \$25,000 -- \$250,000.

25                   **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** [F.] or --

1 MS. C.R.: [R.] was.

2 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: [R.] the senior?

3 MS. C.R.: The one that -- no, [R.] is the  
4 -- [R.]. [F.C.].

5 But they had -- even before the court  
6 cases started, they had -- like some criminals do, they  
7 will put their money and everything they own in everybody's  
8 names but theirs, but I was just, like,

9 "You know what? It doesn't even  
10 matter."

11 It never has.

12 When it was done, I was glad, like, I  
13 didn't have to go through that again, and I knew that if I  
14 can get through that, I can get through anything. That's  
15 what I kept telling myself and...

16 I grew up never, ever knowing who my  
17 father was. I found out just over 20 years ago that -- who  
18 my dad was, so I had built a relationship with him. He  
19 lived here in Vancouver. He just passed away just over a  
20 year and a half ago. I used to try and spend at least a  
21 couple hours with him every day, just so I could get to  
22 know him, and then, getting to know him, I found out that  
23 he went to residential school. I never understood what --  
24 anything about residential school. I heard things. So I  
25 had to do research, and that's when I learned why he was

1 the way he was.

2 He used to always tell me he was so proud  
3 of me. I used to always say,

4 "I love you, Dad,"

5 and he'd say -- he'd say,

6 "Thank you,"

7 and I couldn't understand why.

8 He started getting really sick, so I quit  
9 working and I quit going to school so I can make sure he  
10 was okay, and I went to his doctor's appointments with him,  
11 and that's when I found out he was diagnosed with dementia  
12 eight years before he passed away. I'd always say, you  
13 know,

14 "Residential school took my dad. Now  
15 dementia's taking him away from me."

16 My sister and I and my brother and my  
17 other sister, we all decided that we were going to put him  
18 in a home. That was -- that was the hardest thing I had to  
19 do because I always said I would never, ever do that. I'd  
20 go see him, and it was getting to the point where he didn't  
21 know who I was. So I'd leave there and just -- I'd be so  
22 hurt.

23 I remember getting on the bus one day,  
24 saying to myself,

25 "I'm going to go down to skids, go

1 sit at the bar."

2 I got to Main and Hastings, and I  
3 couldn't get off my seat. That was my plan. I was going  
4 to get off at Main and Hastings. I was going to go to the  
5 bar. No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't get off my  
6 seat. Every time the bus stopped, I tried to get up, and I  
7 couldn't until I got to my bus stop at my house.

8 I was at work, and the nurse phoned me and  
9 told me that they admitted my dad to the hospital because  
10 he was sick. He had pneumonia. I had to go to a meeting  
11 the next day, and I was going to go see him. After my  
12 meeting, I checked my phone, and there was a message. So I  
13 checked, and it was the nurse at the hospital saying she  
14 didn't think my dad was going to make it that night.

15 So I went to the hospital. I talked to  
16 the nurse, and she said,

17 "He might make it a couple more  
18 hours."

19 So I had to phone everybody and let them  
20 know -- my brothers and sisters down here.

21 Before he got sick, I wanted -- I wanted  
22 to live with him so I could take care of him, but he  
23 wouldn't let me. So I spent the night with him in the  
24 hospital, and he passed away that morning at 5:00. I've  
25 been told that was the greatest gift I could ever give him.

1 There was a time that I thought I was not going to make it,  
2 and I didn't want to fall into depression, because I knew  
3 if I did, I wouldn't make it out this time. I used to say,  
4 you know, like, I had the best dad in the world, and he's  
5 my -- he'll always be my hero. And I know that he loved  
6 me, and he had apologized to me for not protecting me.

7 I have -- around the same time I found out  
8 who my dad was, my two youngest sons and I were reunited,  
9 and they both live here in Vancouver. [Son 1], he's the  
10 oldest one of the two, he's a full-blown alcoholic, and my  
11 youngest one is hooked on heroin. And I keep thinking --  
12 like, trying not to tell myself that I failed as their mom,  
13 and I stopped myself from trying to run in and save them,  
14 but it's such a heartache knowing that they're out there.

15 I feel, like, so alone. I know I've got  
16 somebody here right now, but it's, like -- she lives up  
17 north, and it's easy to pick up the phone, but some days,  
18 it's just, like,

19 "I can get through this, too."

20 I have family down here, but I always  
21 think it's a waste of time for me to even try and connect  
22 with them, but I have amazing friends. That's what I hold  
23 onto. It's like I can't -- I think I have four or five  
24 women in my life that I can trust completely with my life.

25 I talk to my dad through a medium, which

1 really helps me.

2                   When [S.B.] phoned me yesterday and she  
3 was on the bus coming in, I was still laying in bed at  
4 12:00 o'clock in the afternoon. It's like (inaudible) a  
5 bit.

6                   I think if I had -- I was seeing a  
7 counsellor, but they closed the office. I know I need to  
8 do that again.

9                   The only vice I have now is food. I quit  
10 smoking five and a half years ago, so I've gained like all  
11 this weight because food tastes so good now, but...

12                   I always think of where my mom would be if  
13 she was my age. I'm 57 now. I think of where she would be  
14 if she was my age, when she got to my age, because she was  
15 29 when she passed away, and I try to do one thing a day  
16 that I think that she would do, and if that's just making  
17 somebody smile or laugh, then I've done what I know my mom  
18 would do. It's just getting through the day. Twenty-four  
19 hours.

20                   My head hurts now.

21                   **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Do you want to take  
22 a break?

23                   **MS. C.R.:** Yeah.

24                   **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Okay.

25 --- (Off-record)

1                   **MS. C.R.:** I wanted to mention my  
2 granddaughter, who is attending UBC right now. Her dad is  
3 my oldest son, who I will admittedly say is in a very  
4 dysfunctional relationship. Because she felt that her dad  
5 totally pushed her aside for this person, she started  
6 cutting herself.

7                   She's very -- she really sticks to  
8 herself. Like, she's got a dorm room at UBC, but she goes  
9 -- she spends most of her time in there and then school and  
10 her classes and at my brother's house, but because of my  
11 son's partner, we haven't spoke in three years, and I know  
12 -- like, it's really hard, because I know -- knowing that  
13 she's here and I can't even reach out to her. It's really,  
14 really difficult.

15                   **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Is this the person  
16 you spoke earlier that you passed by in the hallway --

17                   **MS. C.R.:** No. No, this is my  
18 granddaughter. She's 17 -- 16, 17. And, like, it's --  
19 it's interesting, because I was listening to something last  
20 night, I think it was, and it's -- for myself, like, my  
21 middle son has three daughters, but he's never, ever raised  
22 them. They're all -- I think two of them are in care, and  
23 the other one is with their mom, I don't even know where,  
24 but he's had no desire to be a dad.

25                   My youngest one, I told him he's not

1 allowed to be a dad until he's 40, which he hasn't been a -  
2 - he's not a dad, thank God.

3                   So it's been a struggle for me, because  
4 I'm -- I spend so much time by myself, and it is by choice.  
5 I have, like, a few friends down here that I do spend time  
6 with, but I'll say that I'm okay living by myself. I'm  
7 okay being by myself, and then having a partner who lives  
8 in Seattle that I see, like, every weekend unless something  
9 happens with him or whatever, but I don't want to get back  
10 into the dysfunction of having a relationship either, so  
11 it's interesting. Because the last relationship I was  
12 actually in was 15, 17 years ago, and he was charged  
13 because he beat me, you know.

14                   I've done so many different things in the  
15 past 25 years that I always wanted to -- I mean, I wanted  
16 to know what my purpose was, being here, that I never  
17 succeeded at committing suicide so there was a reason why,  
18 that I'm here, and I know that working with women is -- is  
19 that part of the missing puzzle.

20                   I was a part of a program called  
21 Reclaiming Our Spirits. That was developed by Dr. Colleen  
22 Varcoe and three other women -- two other women, and I went  
23 to Halifax --

24                   **MS. S.B.:** Two weeks ago? I think that's  
25 what you said.



1 MS. C.R.: -- two weeks ago to the  
2 Canadian Domestic Violence Conference and did a  
3 presentation.

4 Right now, my fear is that -- like, I've  
5 started taking sleeping pills again because I wasn't  
6 sleeping properly, but it's started to get more and more,  
7 so I just stopped. I just stopped taking them, but I know  
8 how easy that's -- it is to get back into. So it's --  
9 that's one of the struggles that I have more than anything  
10 is taking sleeping pills.

11 I know I have -- I need somebody that I  
12 can talk to. Not -- I'm the type of woman who does very  
13 deep and intense therapy because the surface stuff doesn't  
14 do nothing for me, because it's like just talking to one of  
15 my girlfriends or somebody that I just met on the street,  
16 basically.

17 I know that, with my dad's passing, like,  
18 it gets easier, but sometimes -- excuse me -- I just -- I  
19 miss him so much.

20 I think, more than anything, our women  
21 need more safe places that they can go to and programs like  
22 Reclaiming Our Spirits that will help women who have  
23 experienced violence in their life and not to just let it  
24 go for six months, let it go for -- and have it being an  
25 ongoing thing, and like [S.] was saying, like, there is --

1 after something like this, there is no aftercare for a lot  
2 of people, especially in the isolated areas like Haida  
3 Gwaii.

4                   And I think that -- I mentioned this  
5 before, that it would be nice if the government gave back  
6 our medical and dental coverage, like the way it used to be  
7 -- medical, dental, and eyes. Because, working with women,  
8 and you see them when they -- like, they have no teeth, and  
9 then they come back and they have teeth, and it's such a  
10 difference. But they can't do that for -- say they lost --  
11 they lose their dentures or something, they can't get  
12 another pair for three years. So that just sets -- five  
13 years now. So it sets them back again.

14                   Health is a really huge issue, too,  
15 because, like, at the Vancouver Women's Health Clinic, they  
16 have nurse practitioners there that just see the women,  
17 just see women or self-identifying women.

18                   **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** How do you self-  
19 identify as a woman?

20                   **MS. C.R.:** How do I?

21                   **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yeah.

22                   **MS. C.R.:** I don't understand the  
23 question.

24                   **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Like, you're saying,  
25 you're talking about women self-identifying themselves, or

1 maybe I'm not just understanding what you mean by women  
2 self-identifying.

3 **MS. C.R.:** People who self-identify as  
4 women, transgender --

5 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Oh, trans -- okay.

6 **MS. C.R.:** Yeah. So there's -- and the  
7 collective is the only place that I know of that has nurses  
8 that just see women and people who identify as women.

9 There just needs to be more programs for  
10 the women, and more than anything, I think there needs --  
11 there needs to be -- especially in the -- on the reserves,  
12 there needs to be so much more resources, because so many  
13 of them are going to go back, and they're not going to have  
14 what we have here, and you know, it's not fair to them,  
15 because they would lose so many people as it is, you know,  
16 and it's sad.

17 But I think I'm -- I think I'm finished  
18 now.

19 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Okay.

20 **MS. C.R.:** Unless you want to ask  
21 questions.

22 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Well, you mentioned  
23 the -- just in the last five minutes, you were talking  
24 about the programs that would help women.

25 **MS. C.R.:** Yes.

1                   **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** For example, for six  
2 months more, or the programs that already exist, like  
3 Reclaiming Our Spirits. Is this a program that you  
4 envision something that would have helped you to get on  
5 your feet when you were younger so that you would not have  
6 been in the same position as you were when you lost your  
7 kids?

8                   **MS. C.R.:** Yeah.

9                   **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yeah?

10                  **MS. C.R.:** I think it would really help --

11                  **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Like, if you go  
12 back -- if there was a program like this back then?

13                  **MS. C.R.:** Yeah.

14                  **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yeah?

15                  **MS. C.R.:** And if it was continuous, with  
16 aftercare, because it's, like, when you did -- when we did  
17 the six-month program, we were all left raw and open. So  
18 it was so easy to go back to whatever everybody was doing  
19 before, because there was no -- there was no place for  
20 anyone to go really, you know, and it's, like, how do we --  
21 how are we supposed to help our women if we're opening them  
22 and leaving them raw and then just, like, walking away?  
23 You know, like, that's not helping them. It would benefit  
24 the younger girls, too.

25                  **MS. S.B.:** We have a counsellor up in

1 Masset who comes up once a month, and it's just like she's  
2 talking about, just leaving them raw, and the only person  
3 that's really benefitting -- it's run by the government,  
4 and the only person who's really benefiting is her, because  
5 she's not helping myself as a grandmother and my two  
6 granddaughters. She's seeing the three of us separately,  
7 but she cannot provide any suggestions for us to be a unit.  
8 So yeah, they need -- they need so much more than what  
9 they're offering.

10 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** What kind of  
11 recommendations do you have as women for the inquiry? How  
12 can the inquiry, do you think, help for next phases, for  
13 next steps for women, for next generations?

14 **MS. S.B.:** Programs for men.

15 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Programs for men?  
16 Okay.

17 **MS. C.R.:** Yeah.

18 **MS. S.B.:** Programs for men that will  
19 teach them how to love themselves so they -- and respect  
20 themselves so they treat our granddaughters like women, the  
21 way they used to 150 years ago.

22 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Thank you very  
23 much.

24 **MS. C.R.:** You're welcome.

25 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** It is 6:09, and we

1 are about to conclude our testimony. Thank you very much.

2 Thank you, [C.R.].

3 **MS. C.R.:** You're welcome.

4 ---Whereupon the proceeding concluded.

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, reading "Ren Zacchigna". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Ren Zacchigna, Certified transcriptionist