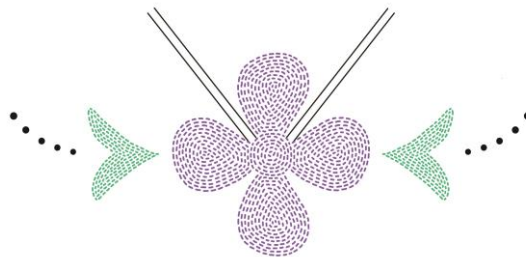


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Onion Lake, Saskatchewan**



PUBLIC

Wednesday April 11, 2018

Statement - Volume 429

**Phyllis Buffalo,
In relation to Daleen Muskego Bosse
Statement gathered by Kate Langham**

Coast Reporting Inc.

II

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."

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Phyllis Buffalo
(Daleen Muskego Bosse)

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April 11, 2018
Onion Lake, SK

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(PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 2:00 P.M.)

KATE LANGHAM: This is Kate Langham. Statement gatherer for the National Inquiry for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. I'm here in Onion Lake, Saskatchewan, at the health centre.

It is 2:00 o'clock and I am here with ...?

PHYLLIS BUFFALO: Hi, my name is Phyllis Buffalo. Cousin of late Daleen Muskego Bosse.

KATE LANGHAM: Can you spell Daleen's last name?

PHYLLIS BUFFALO: Muskego?

KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

PHYLLIS BUFFALO: M-u-s-k-e-g-o.

KATE LANGHAM: Now, please start off by sharing with us what it is that you would like the commissioners to know.

PHYLLIS BUFFALO: Well, okay. It wasn't until about a week later we found out that she was missing. But the reason at that time was because my uncle and auntie were hoping to find her during the weekend. And after we come, we couldn't find her anywhere. We started searching, phoning friends. I remember they went to the police station. All they said was, oh, she probably left with another guy. And, of course, we were all hurt for them to assume that right away. And we kept on looking around searching ourselves, and then my aunt came and ended up hiring a private investigator because cops in Saskatoon didn't make an effort to do anything right away.

It wasn't until January when it was brought up to them that she was missing. We couldn't find her anywhere. And, then, that's when the RCMP got involved. And during that time -- I remember the first time I heard she was missing. I just remember my chest tightened up here. I knew -- I just had this feeling something was wrong. She always used to phone. She would phone on weekends just to see how we were doing, and she would tell us how she was doing.

At that point I was starting to get mad at everybody, cops especially. They made me feel like she wasn't worth to go looking for her. And then after finally when they started helping

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1 us -- in our culture, we do everything in fours.
2 So to bring awareness to her missing and wanting
3 to find her, we started a walk, a memorial walk
4 for her. And we did that for four years. And
5 every year we did it, we always did it the same
6 time. And those trips, they were hard, but then
7 we would always tell each other we're here.
8 We're doing it for my uncle, my auntie, my
9 cousins, and for her, to bring her home.

10 So we would leave Onion Lake, and it would
11 take us five days to get to Saskatoon. And then
12 along the way we're trying to bring awareness to
13 her and to maybe other ones. And people started
14 joining our walks, people from Fedderchild
15 [phonetic], people from here. We had people that
16 showed up from BC, brought their support and
17 everything. And in our culture, our family,
18 that's the thing that makes me wonder about other
19 families, you know, when I hear about other
20 families. I wonder about what are they doing to
21 help themselves, and how come they're not using
22 our culture, you know, to ask for help.

23 We used to do -- we went and seen this one
24 woman in Vermilion; she was a clairvoyant. And
25 we would have candlelight vigils, everything to
26 help ourselves and for her to hear us to come
27 home. And I don't know, I guess, that's the one
28 thing that I would want people to know is ask the
29 Creator for help. We did that in the four years.
30 After the four years, two, three weeks after,
31 that's when her remains were found.

32 And before that, my cousin, [D.], we
33 would travel to places and go put posters. We
34 went to BC, we went to east side Hastings looking
35 for her. We just did a lot of -- we did a lot of
36 miles and walking to try and find her and let her
37 know we were looking for her. And after going to
38 Vancouver, we had cops there that they helped us
39 out more than the cops in Saskatoon. So after
40 all the four years, when we were told that her
41 remains were found, we were happy but yet
42 devastated.

43 And at that time I had wrote out a letter, a
44 victim impact statement. I never got to read it,
45 but at that time when I wrote it, I was just so
46 full of anger. And to top it off, my grandfather
47 was sick when she went missing. And he couldn't

1 talk, and he used to -- always talk about her.

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2 And we didn't want him knowing, so we would
3 always tell him she was too busy with school, she
4 couldn't come down. He passed before we found
5 her. And it was through him that -- that
6 encouraged us with our culture, whenever we
7 needed he's always there to help us, the Creator.

8 And after finding her I just, like --
9 anytime I looked at any white guy, I would be,
10 like, I wonder if he has done anything to
11 anybody. Or sometimes I would see guys that
12 look -- are, like, similar looking to that guy.
13 And I don't know there were times that I just
14 wanted to tell this one reporter in court to shut
15 the fuck up. Quit talking about my cousin like
16 that. It was always negative.

17 It seems like every time a Native lady goes
18 missing, she's a hooker, she's a prostitute, but
19 my cousin was educated and she was going to
20 school. She wasn't anything like how he tried to
21 portray her in court. There were so many times
22 when my uncle had to tell me to quit looking at
23 him. I just hated him. And I would say, how can
24 a person forgive somebody that did that? How is
25 that supposed to help? To me, it's, like, I'm
26 saying -- I know I can't forgive him. I can't.
27 And they say that's supposed to help you heal,
28 but I don't think so.

29 And the way he had talked about my cousin,
30 and he even also talked about looking at other
31 Native women, that this one Native woman robbed
32 him of his cab fare in Saskatoon. A couple of
33 months later he goes and picks up a fare and here
34 it was that girl. And what he said was, I
35 recognized her right away. He said to himself
36 that if she gets in, he was going to get back at
37 her. And I am, like, did we just catch a serial
38 killer? He talked about his wife, his
39 sister-in-laws, how he had sexual fantasies about
40 his mother-in-law. It was just the way he talked
41 about the women.

42 And then how he accused the Saskatoon cops
43 for going to his grandma's place and telling her
44 that he was getting charged for murder. He
45 turned around and he blamed the cops. I just
46 want to [indiscernible] at him and tell them, you
47 killed your mom -- your grandma because of what

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1 she heard you did to women. I'm still in the
2 process of writing out my impact statement.
3 Because this one is just -- it was all anger.
4 And I wouldn't mind, like, to read it.

5 KATE LANGHAM: Please do, if you would like to share
6 with the commission.

7 PHYLLIS BUFFALO:

8
9 "Our cousin, our sister Daleen was
10 beautiful, thoughtful, outspoken, caring and
11 fun loving. She was outgoing, friendly and
12 enjoyed life. She always laughed. She was
13 always laughing, joking, doing and saying
14 silly things to make us laugh or smile.
15 Daleen was family oriented. Family meant
16 everything to her. She always took the time
17 to visit cousins, aunties and friends. We
18 look forward to the weekends when she would
19 come home. She would lend a helping hand
20 and offer support in any way she could. She
21 always used to tell us not to worry about
22 her. We would get her to promise us to be
23 careful and phone us when she needed
24 anything.

25 When her daughter, [Daughter], was born, she
26 was happy, she was proud, and she had so
27 much love for [Daughter]. She often talked about
28 watching [Daughter] grow up, finish school, and
29 get married. Everything that a mother and
30 daughter experience together to build that
31 special bond mothers and daughters share.
32 But now that's gone.

33 [Daughter] has to grow up without her mom.
34 You deprived her of that for both of them.
35 Now, the only way [Daughter] will get to know her
36 mom is through our memories and pictures.
37 Never again will we hear her laugh, to see
38 her face and her smile, to give and receive
39 hugs from her. She was our sister. Our
40 family loved her, cared for her. You took
41 that part of our lives away. Daleen, our
42 family, our life.

43 She was a person with feelings,
44 emotions, and had a life worth living. She
45 had a family, a husband, and a daughter.
46 Our last visit in memory with Daleen was
47 Mother's Day 2004. It was Sunday and we had

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1 dinner early so Daleen could make the drive
2 back during the day. As usual, when it was
3 time, she hugged us all. She told us she
4 would be back the following weekend. She
5 told us to take care and that we will see
6 her and [Daughter] soon.
7 Her last words to us were, 'take care.
8 We'll see you next week and see you soon.'
9 But that never happened. You know why? She
10 met you. Tell us why Daleen -- why our
11 sister? How is she a threat to you? What
12 could she have possibly done to you? She
13 would never harm a person. She was caring.
14 What made you think you can decide who lives
15 and who dies? You're no god; you're a
16 murderer. What were my cousin's last words?
17 Did she beg and plead for you to stop? Did
18 she look scared? Was she crying? Think.
19 Remember her words. Daleen didn't deserve
20 that. No one deserves that. Women give
21 life. A women gave you your life. Your
22 mom, a woman, just like Daleen.
23 Remember her last words on Christmas,
24 on Mother's Day, her birthday, March 25th.
25 [Daughter]'s birthday, [birthdate]. Or just
26 think every day Daleen's last words. Say
27 them out loud so everybody can hear Daleen.
28 Say them in a way she said them to you.
29 A person pays one way or another. If
30 not, you or your family that you have
31 brought down will have hardship and
32 suffering. Your own family, our family and
33 especially [Daughter]. You're nothing but a
34 coward who preyed on an innocent woman who
35 was loved and cared for and missed dearly.
36 Every day she is in our hearts. The pain
37 you put her through, I prayed to God that
38 you pay and cause you pain and to feel what
39 you put her through. Live with it forever
40 as we have to live and go on without her,
41 without our sister Daleen."
42
43 I wrote this on the fourth year after her remains
44 were found. And a couple of days after he got
45 picked up. But I'm ready to revise some of this
46 because I know we're going to have to go back
47 when he appeals. I just pray that I am strong

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1 enough. And I just pray for everybody out there
2 that lost somebody. And I feel their pain.
3 Sometimes I just want to go there and help in any
4 way I can.
5 And then there was the other two ladies that
6 were from Nisinger [phonetic]. I knew them. And
7 they were, like, all nice. It's just the people
8 that they kept company with. I don't know.
9 Growing up we were told not to think or look
10 down on others, but it was so hard to do that
11 after we lost her. Any guy I saw, any white guy,
12 I would think does he treat his woman right or is
13 he abusive. You know, all this stuff still pop
14 up in my head. And I know it's been, like, ten
15 years but it's always there. And every little
16 thing, a song that she loved. A movie that she
17 loved. When I see it or if I hear it, and I will
18 just -- it hurts. Takes me back to her. I try
19 not to miss her too much because I want her to
20 rest in peace. But then it's so hard at times.
21 And it is so hard watching my uncle, my
22 auntie, and my two cousins, my brothers, how they
23 struggled. My brothers were going downhill.
24 They were getting into alcohol, getting into
25 fights, getting in trouble with the law. And
26 now, like, Daleen, I used to babysit her when she
27 was small, so I watched her grow up. She really
28 loved her brothers. To see them suffer like
29 that. It took me a while to get [D.] to start
30 talking. He was so hurt that he pretty well
31 pushed the whole family away, but now it's at the
32 point where we can talk -- he can talk with me
33 and I can talk with him.
34 And I can't stress enough of why people
35 won't go and ask for help with their Creator or
36 go to church. It just gets me mad when I feel
37 like they're sitting around not doing nothing
38 when they should be out there fighting and just
39 really looking. And in our culture we have
40 animals that I represent. And every time we did
41 our walk with Daleen -- for Daleen, we always had
42 eagles and there were horses dancing for us,
43 eagles flying around.
44 That very last year when we were done, the
45 northern lights were out and they were dancing
46 into the shape of an eagle. And it was so
47 awesome to see. For us it was, like, my grandpa,

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1 my grandma and all the other family members that
2 passed. That was their way of letting us know
3 they are there supporting us and that we're going
4 to find her. And sure enough it did happen.

5 But I just wish people would do that, ask
6 for help. And as for the cops, there's that one
7 name Sergeant Weighill. That guy was so
8 understanding. If only we had the whole
9 department of him, there would probably be a lot
10 more family members going up to talk and ask for
11 help instead of being too scared or given the run
12 around, or ... The cops, thinking, like, no,
13 it's not worth it, you know. But I'm really
14 grateful for that guy. He even made the effort
15 to come downtown to talk with the family and the
16 community. Not just for our family, but for the
17 other family that lost a loved one here.

18 There were -- we do our own little walks
19 from Chief Taylor School and we would walk up to
20 Cahill. And that was our little community
21 support, I guess, for the families that lost
22 somebody.

23 So they're there too to help us. And they
24 used to come to us and ask us what did we do. Or
25 they needed help and they would come and ask us
26 for advice, and we would let them know what they
27 should do. But the majority -- my cousin was
28 starting to -- she grew up Christian and she was
29 shy with us. We always encourage her to come
30 hang out with us and get to know us. Because
31 with our family -- like, she's my cousin, but
32 then we were brought up to know each other as
33 sisters. Somy -- the four of us sisters, we
34 would include her in whatever we did. Because
35 she used to say I'm so jealous, I don't have any
36 sisters, and there's four of you. And we would
37 tell her, well, you are our sister. Just
38 whenever you're ready to get to know us, you know
39 we're always here. So when she got into her
40 teens, that's when she started talking with the
41 other sisters. Because we grew up like this, so
42 I encouraged her to go and get to know the rest
43 of the sisters.

44 And she was starting to -- how would I say
45 that -- she was getting into her culture and she
46 loved it. She was taking classes. She even
47 bought rabbit fur. She was going to make

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1 something out of it, but she didn't have the
2 chance to, so I have kept that rabbit skin. I
3 don't know what I am going to do with it, but I
4 know maybe one of these days I can get somebody
5 to make something with it and give it to her
6 daughter.

7 Going through her stuff after the funeral
8 and everything, it was so hard, like, seeing her
9 clothes being given away. To me, it was, like,
10 okay, she is not coming home. It just made it
11 more real. So at that time all I thought about
12 was my niece, [Daughter]. How she never got to know
13 her mom. So I grabbed some stuff for her to
14 keep. I grabbed her veil and I kept that for her
15 daughter. A leather jacket, leather boots, an
16 outfit. Just so, you know -- I wanted her to
17 have something of her mom's.

18 And she was an angry girl when she came. We
19 all knew she was hurting and all. It took me a
20 while for her to open up to me. When she was
21 ready to talk about her mom or ask about her mom.
22 We told her whenever you're ready just come and
23 let us know. So now we have that bond with her.
24 It took a while, but now she's opening up. And
25 you can tell she loves it when we see her give
26 her hugs.

27 I'm that type of person that I'll give hugs,
28 and she used to stay-away-from-me. And I used to
29 get hurt and think -- I told Daleen that I would
30 help in any way to help her girl. But she was
31 too angry at that time. But now it's different.
32 Now she's with the family. She's getting to know
33 all of us. She'll ask about her mom. She was
34 really nice, Daleen. She was caring, silly. We
35 got -- growing up we used to go play bingo with
36 our grandparents. So when she got older and
37 after she had [Daughter], she started coming with us
38 to bingo and just bonding with her like that.
39 She loved having sisters, big sisters.

40 She was the youngest of the first generation
41 of granddaughters. And we used to always tell
42 her, you're too trusting, you just talk to
43 anybody and you got to be careful. That's how
44 she was. She was outgoing. It didn't matter who
45 you were, how you were dressed, or -- she would
46 acknowledge you and -- she was a really awesome
47 sister. It's sad that it was her time.

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1 And my auntie, she's so -- her religion, she
2 prays to God and everything like that. And I
3 used to see her and would wonder, like, the pain
4 that she's going through and everything. And I
5 used to wonder how she could do it. How she
6 would put on a brave face. And I used to
7 think -- maybe because I didn't see her show
8 emotion, I always thought she was, like, strong.
9 But here, after we found out that that guy went
10 to jail, I've never heard my auntie swear ever.
11 Because we were told that there were these Native
12 guys in jail that heard about him and that they
13 were waiting for him to come into jail. So I was
14 happy -- I was, like, really? Can you tell those
15 guys to beat him up. Maybe castrate him, if they
16 can. And that's how angry I was.

17 I know you're not supposed to think bad on
18 people, but this one, I hated. I just really
19 wanted somebody to get back at him. And then we
20 were told, There is some guys here waiting for
21 him anyway. Sure enough, they found him and they
22 beat him up. And then when they went to court,
23 his lawyer, the first thing he says was, I like
24 to let you -- the court know that my client was
25 spit on and was punched by an Aboriginal man that
26 was being transported with him to the courthouse.
27 And I am, like, fuck, for real? You're going to
28 complain about being spit on and what you did to
29 my sister. I fucking hated him.

30 The lawyer, the way he made it sound that
31 the cops were doing -- how did they say -- that
32 interrogations were so rough. And I'm like --
33 and that's all they can talk about. And they're
34 still not thinking about what he did to my
35 sister. Like, they thought we were the liars and
36 that what he did wasn't nothing wrong. It wasn't
37 nothing bad. Terrorists -- they said they were
38 using terrorist tactics to make him confess to
39 something that he didn't do.

40 And my other cousin [D.2], normally he's the
41 type of guy that will tell you, okay, calm down.
42 Don't let it get to you. But then when he heard
43 all that stuff, he caused a commotion in court
44 where we had to leave the courthouse. Then I am,
45 like, I don't know why they protected him. It's
46 the first thing they did was they covered him.
47 Like, really? You guys are going to protect him?

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1 Why? So then my cousin was thrown out of court,
2 but he was allowed to come back the next day.
3 But then they had cops there too now.
4 And why are they protecting him? Why?
5 KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.
6 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: I just feel bad about his wife. I
7 don't know but it gets to me a bit. He has a
8 wife and yet he can go out and do that to women
9 and then come back to her. And he talked about
10 all Native women are hookers. He hated Native
11 women. He hated hookers. And yet he was driving
12 down 28th in Saskatoon picking up Native women.
13 And during our walks, there were -- we had
14 support. People would drive by and honk the
15 horn. Anybody, white people, natives. There
16 would be some negative people that would drive by
17 and give us the finger, tell us to go back home,
18 we're nothing but drunken Indians. But then we
19 would just go, okay, that's your opinion. I
20 don't care what you think. This is our culture;
21 this is what we believe in.
22 So we would continue. And we would always
23 pray. We pray, pray, pray all the time. I think
24 that's what helped us keep us sane. That's all I
25 can think about right now.
26 KATE LANGHAM: Okay. Daleen went missing in 2004.
27 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: 2004, yes, May.
28 KATE LANGHAM: And her remains were found in 2009.
29 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: '08.
30 KATE LANGHAM: 2008. Locally?
31 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: Warman, Saskatchewan of Saskatoon.
32 KATE LANGHAM: Was your family offered any supports
33 throughout the court process?
34 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: Yeah, we had social workers come and
35 talk to us. But at that time nobody really
36 wanted to talk, the family. Because I think for
37 ourselves at that time was, okay, well, why now
38 do they want to help us when we have been asking
39 for help. And the way we have been helping
40 ourselves is through our culture, praying,
41 singing, you know.
42 KATE LANGHAM: So the supports that were offered
43 weren't a good fit?
44 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: No.
45 KATE LANGHAM: Do you have any suggestions about what
46 might be a better fit for families going through
47 that process?

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1 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: For me, I would think to have
2 somebody there that is willing to listen and not
3 judge and make the people feel comfortable so
4 they'll be able to go to this person and ask for
5 help and not be scared or -- but if I go ask and
6 they say, no, you know. I wish there was
7 somebody there right from the beginning to help
8 them out in that way.
9 KATE LANGHAM: Right.
10 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: And that -- not to feel like we're
11 such a burden.
12 KATE LANGHAM: Yeah. Now, you mentioned the police
13 were not helpful --
14 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: At first.
15 KATE LANGHAM: -- at first. Do you have any
16 suggestions or recommendations around the
17 policing aspect?
18 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: Other than maybe these cops should
19 go and do a course with Sergeant Clive, his name
20 is Clive Weighill.
21 KATE LANGHAM: Was he from the Saskatoon Police.
22 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: Yes.
23 KATE LANGHAM: Was he an Indigenous policing officer?
24 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: No, he was Caucasian.
25 KATE LANGHAM: So do a training or do a course
26 about --
27 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: M'mm-hmm.
28 KATE LANGHAM: What kind of training would he be able
29 to offer, do you think? What worked for your
30 family?
31 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: That when he made an effort to come
32 to Onion Lake and get to know our family and see
33 our community. Maybe to even show the family
34 they're there to help them and to show it by
35 going into a sweat with the family. Letting them
36 know that, yes, I'm here. I'm here to help you.
37 I'll do whatever I can. I'll even go into a
38 sweat with you. I think that would ease some
39 peoples' minds and hearts.
40 KATE LANGHAM: Now, your family was incredibly
41 resourceful and like you said just kept at it and
42 kept at it. Do you have any suggestions around
43 that piece?
44 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: Well, I'm sure some people should
45 know -- the ones that are still with their
46 culture, should know that they could go to that
47 for help and just to sit there and not do

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1 nothing. Not even maybe to go to church, you
2 know. That's still help. Even though you're
3 just praying to God, he hears. And He'll help
4 out in any way that He can. And just to believe
5 in finding her, not to give up hope. Even
6 knowing there's days that you feel so much
7 despair, hurt and all, you still have to have
8 that hope that you're going to find them, go see
9 psychics, go talk to whoever.

10 KATE LANGHAM: How old was Daleen's daughter when she
11 went missing?

12 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: She was -- I think she was 3.

13 KATE LANGHAM: And who raised her after her mom
14 passed?

15 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: [*Personal information - redacted*]
16 [*Personal information - redacted*]
17 [*Personal information - redacted*]
18 [*Personal information - redacted*]
19 [*Personal information - redacted*]

20 KATE LANGHAM: And was she raised in a different
21 community?

22 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: She was raised in Saskatoon.

23 KATE LANGHAM: Okay. Do you know if any supports were
24 offered to her during the time?

25 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: I'm not even sure. I don't think
26 she was. She was really angry.
27 [*One line redacted pursuant to Rule 55*].

28 KATE LANGHAM: Do you have any suggestions or
29 recommendations for supports or different ways
30 that that could be handled for young people who
31 have been impacted like that?

32 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: Well, maybe if -- like, with us, we
33 had our aunties and uncles. Just to come and sit
34 and listen to you and talk about what -- we talk
35 about her, a little memory that we just thought
36 of. And, you know, we would all talk about it
37 and, you know, laugh. And then it would get
38 serious after because we're remembering how she
39 was and how she's not with us. And just for
40 family to help each other in that time of need
41 and no fighting, no blaming amongst each other.

42 KATE LANGHAM: So meaning for her to stay connected
43 more or encouraged to be connected?

44 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: Yeah, with us too. Like, they kept
45 her away from us is how we first looked at it.

46 KATE LANGHAM: Yeah. Is there anything else that you
47 want the commission to know?

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1 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: I don't know if he would be able to
2 do anything about it, but freedom of speech.
3 When we were there, the StarPhoenix, that female
4 reporter, she was constantly negative writings
5 about her. Like, it was always negative, and it
6 was nothing positive. They didn't even talk
7 about her going to school, trying to get her
8 bachelor of education and, you know, none of that
9 was brought up. They just made her out to be
10 just another drunk Indian living in Saskatoon.
11 And it got to a point where my auntie called -- I
12 forget their names now. And so, like, the
13 commissioners of, like, freedom of speech, they
14 came down to talk with the reporters on how they
15 were reporting. The two guys that were reporting
16 weren't as bad as that female.

17 So the next day when we went to court, the
18 two reporters, the male reporters, came and
19 apologized and their writings were different,
20 except for the woman. And I am, like, you're a
21 woman. You know, why are you putting her down?
22 Why are you making us look bad? We're not all
23 bad. They only look at the bad and the
24 stereotype all Indians are bad.

25 KATE LANGHAM: So you would like something to be done
26 about the way in which reporters report on
27 victims of crimes?

28 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: Yes. Even though they pass, these
29 people, they're still people. People didn't know
30 them that way, the way they're being portrayed on
31 TV, on the news. A lot of our Indians are happy.
32 They have empathy. I wish they would have
33 that -- where they work. Even the cops. Like,
34 for example, me growing up, my grandparents
35 raised me. And I always wanted to be a nurse.
36 And when I saw what a nurse does, I was, like,
37 no, I don't think I can stomach it. But I still
38 wanted to help people. I like working with
39 elders. So I took a home care course and I was,
40 like, I don't want to go work in Lloyd. I don't
41 want to help these white people. Why should I
42 when they look down on us?

43 But then when I got there and I saw them and
44 I thought, these are somebody's grandma and
45 grandpa, and if they're all too busy or they're
46 too far away to come -- I lost my grandparents so
47 I thought at that time, I guess it doesn't matter

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14

1 if you're white, black, brown.

2 So I took them as my grandparents. I
3 treated them the way I would want my grandparents
4 to be treated. And I made friends. I just wish
5 people had more empathy for each other
6 everywhere.

7 KATE LANGHAM: Do you have any ideas about how empathy
8 could be nurtured or grown like that.

9 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: For me, when I am like that. I'll
10 put myself in their shoes and I'd be, like -- if
11 I want to be treated like this, I'll have to
12 treat somebody like that first. And how would I
13 feel if somebody did this to me? And I would be,
14 like, okay, fine. I'll go help. I like to help.
15 I like working with elders. I learn some stuff
16 from them. I don't know what else to say here.
17 Okay. Here is one headline that was in the news:

18
19 "Trial ordered in Bosse murder. The man
20 charged with killing a Saskatoon woman who
21 was missing for four years has been
22 committed to stand trial at Court of Queen's
23 Bench. Douglas Hales 31, was charged in
24 August '08 with first degree murder and
25 offering an indignity to a body after the
26 remains of Daleen Bosse were found in an
27 secluded rural area just west of Warman. A
28 three-day preliminary hearing of the Crown's
29 evidence wrapped up Wednesday. Preliminary
30 hearings are held to determine if there is
31 enough evidence to proceed to trial.

32 Bosse, 26, disappeared after going to a
33 night club on May 19th, 2004. Bosse was
34 married with a child and was in her third
35 year of education at the University of
36 Saskatchewan. No date has been set for
37 trial.

38
39 That was the first headline that came out when we
40 found her. And then when the trial started the
41 headlines were different.

42 KATE LANGHAM: Do you remember what newspaper that one
43 came from?

44 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: They were all StarPhoenix.

45 KATE LANGHAM: Okay. So as soon as the trial started,
46 the tone kind of changed and got more negative.

47 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: Yeah.

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15

1 KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

2 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: Another thing about that one, the
3 whole time of the trial, we had noticed these two
4 white ladies. They used to come and sit at the
5 front. We were wondering if that's his family.
6 I can't believe they're going to come sit right
7 up front with us and all that.

8 Here, they were just two members of
9 Saskatoon that weren't happy with the way things
10 were going and the way things was. And these
11 guys -- these two women supported us all through.
12 They didn't have to. We were Indians and they
13 still came. They still came and supported us.
14 They would talk with us. They were really nice.

15 KATE LANGHAM: Yeah. And so is there a message that
16 you want to share in that line?

17 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: Like in what way?

18 KATE LANGHAM: Just, you know, that -- I don't know.
19 That it didn't really matter where these women
20 were from, they kind of put stuff aside or came
21 anyway and supported people as people.

22 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: Yeah. They came -- they would hug
23 us and just encourage us. And I just wish there
24 was more people out there like that. And just to
25 show support. We sympathize with you. We know
26 what you must be going through. The least we can
27 do is come support -- because you always feel,
28 like, if we had white people on our side, then
29 maybe people would help us.

30 KATE LANGHAM: Yeah. So it was important for your
31 families to know they had allies? It didn't
32 matter skin colour, anything?

33 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: Yeah. That's how it is for us. Why
34 can't it be for everybody else? We're all the
35 same. Our blood is all the same colour.

36 KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

37 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: Nobody is better than any other --
38 how would you say it -- no nationality is more
39 than anybody else's.

40 KATE LANGHAM: Yeah.

41 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: And all we do is, like, we help each
42 other. We're there for each other. We take care
43 of our -- what we call [SPEAKING CREE], Mother
44 Earth.

45 KATE LANGHAM: Is there anything else that you want
46 the commission to know?

47 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: I don't know. Just that I know you

1 probably have heard all these stories, but if
2 they could just put themselves in our shoes and
3 see the kind of pain we're going through,
4 especially if we have no support. It would just
5 be more -- it would be awesome if the RCMP,
6 lawyers, everybody else were more -- had empathy.
7 We're not just somebody to work with to make
8 themselves look good. Like, help us because you
9 want to, not because you have to.

10 KATE LANGHAM: Okay.

11 PHYLLIS BUFFALO: That's it?

12 KATE LANGHAM: Okay. So that concludes our public
13 interview. It is 3:00 o'clock.

14

15 (PROCEEDINGS COMPLETED AT 3:00 P.M.)

16

17

18 REPORTER CERTIFICATION

19 I, Alyssa Fontaine, Official Reporter in the
20 Province of British Columbia, Canada, do hereby
21 certify:

22 That the proceedings were taken down by me
23 in shorthand at the time and place herein set
24 forth and thereafter transcribed, and the same is
25 a true and correct and complete transcript of
26 said proceedings to the best of my skill and
27 ability.

28 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
29 subscribed my name this 7th day of June, 2018.

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33 _____
34 Alyssa Fontaine
35 Official Reporter

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