National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Truth-Gathering Process

Part 1 Statement Gathering

Aboriginal Friendship Centre

Vancouver, British Columbia

Wednesday August 22, 2018

Statement - Volume 471

S.M., In relation to F.M.

Statement gathered by Terriea Wadud

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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 April 8th, 2019.
III

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.”
### TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Statement Volume 471**  
**August 22, 2018**  
**Witness: S.M.**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Testimony of S.M.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporter’s Certification</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statement Gatherer: Terriea Wadud**  
**Documents submitted with testimony: none.**
Upon commencing on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at 10:27 a.m.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** My name is Terriea Wadud, and I am a statement gatherer with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The time is 10:27 a.m. The date is Wednesday, August 22nd, and we are in Vancouver, B.C., at the Aboriginal Friendship Centre. In the room with me I have...

**MS. [S.M.]:** [S.M.]. Do you want me to spell it?

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yes, please.

**MS. [S.M.]:** [ Spells name]

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** And where are you from?

**MS. [S.M.]:** I was born in Calgary, Alberta. My mother's from Stó:lō Nation, Chilliwack, and my father is from [European country].

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay, thank you. We also have as health support...

**MS. V.J.:** My name the V.J., and I'm a Tsimshian Nation, north of Terrace, on the Northwest coast of B.C.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Wonderful, thank you. All right, [S.M.], where would you like to start today?
S.M., In relation to F.M.

MS. [S.M.]: Well, my mother is [F.M.]. She was born [birthdate], 1953.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And she passed away [date], 2000 - [identifying information removed].

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Eighteen years.

MS. [S.M.]: I don't even know where to start. My mother was -- she struggled with drugs my entire life. My brother was born addicted to heroin. I'm not too sure, but my -- my aunt says that I have fetal alcohol syndrome. I don't know whatever else I have too, but even though my mother was -- was a junkie, she was a good person. My entire life she -- she was in and out of recovery homes.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Detox centres. Not once did my dad try to get -- get help for his addiction. He just was enabled by living free in my grandmother's basement, and my mother just lived on Hastings Street my entire life. She tried so hard to -- to quit.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Growing up she told me many stories of my family and my background and I never wanted to -- I never paid attention to -- to her stories.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.
S.M., In relation to F.M.

MS. [S.M.]: I didn't see the importance of it.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And I, kind of, wished I did pay attention now --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- now that she's gone. I don't even know where to start. Just before my mom died she -- I didn't know because I was -- I was about 17 or 18, and I didn't know that she was completely clean off of methadone, and after 35 years she -- she was completely free from any drugs, any methadone, anything, for two months.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: She was with my aunt in Princeton, B.C. It was the first time ever that she -- she made it that far. And I wish I wasn't so caught up in my life that when I seen her I should have took her to my grandpa's because she was in town for -- she was in town for a doctor's appointment, and I think she's going to pick up her last welfare cheque and she was going back to Princeton.

I had told her -- I had told her that my brother was having seizures, because my brother's on the streets.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.
MS. [S.M.]: And when people would go to check to see if he was okay they weren't actually checking to see if he was okay, they were checking his socks and his pockets. And so I told her that this was happening and, you know, being an addict in recovery, she had jumped on a -- the Greyhound, and somehow she ended up on an express bus, and my grandfather was supposed to meet her at the Greyhound and she never showed up, but she -- she showed up -- but she came early, and so she put her stuff in -- in a locker at the Greyhound.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And came downtown to find my brother. And at the time I was -- I was selling drugs in Pigeon Park.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And, you know, my brother -- I'd see my brother every day. And I'd look, and "Mom, is that you?" Like, I -- I didn't even recognize her. She's so beautiful.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: She had been clean. And I was so caught up in my own world that I didn't take the time to -- to take her back to my grandpa's. I didn't think -- you know, I didn't think that was the last time I was going to see her.
MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Of course not.

MS. [S.M.]: She found my brother, and my brother convinced her to get some crack and when you smoke crack you -- you need to do heroin to come down. It kind of goes hand in hand, so...

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: They ended up going into the back alley and getting high and they ended up leaving each other, and...

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: They ended up -- I'm sorry?

MS. [S.M.]: They ended up leaving each other. My brother's, you know, he's -- he's very messed up. And, I mean, the next day was welfare day, I think, or -- yeah, welfare day, or maybe it was that day, I can't quite remember.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And so my foster parent calls me. I had just left a foster home and started to live on my own with my first born child.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And she said -- asked me if the police had come to my house and, I said, "No." And I was really scared because I was selling drugs. And --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.
MS. [S.M.]: -- and I was 18 and had alcohol in my house. And so I quickly hid everything because I didn't know why they were coming and what was -- and what was happening. And then my aunt calls me and -- and she didn't tell me either.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: But I, kind of, had a bad feeling, so when the police came to my house they pulled out some ID cards that my mom had. They were my kid’s ID. Even -- and the police said that they found my mother's body --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- in a hotel room on Main Street --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- with the needle still in her arm, the lid in her mouth, and her money down her pants. And those were the details that they gave me.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And that was the last time I ever decided to sell drugs because the person that sold my mom the drugs murdered her, and I don't know if it was intentional or if it was just a bad case of dope.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: But I lost my mother, and --
yeah, she -- she lost her -- her battle to
-- to her addiction.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

MS. [S.M.]: And she tried so hard. My
mother told me many stories of -- of being raped and gang
raped by multiple people, and beaten. She lived a horrible
-- horrible life.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Abused and used because she was
powerless over her addiction.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And she was -- she was a slave
to -- to the streets and to the drugs.

Growing up my dad’s side of the family raised
me from the time I was three.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: Until I was about 12 or 13.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: You know, growing up my family
really despised me because I lived in my grandmother's
house and my dad was a junkie. You know, he put a lot of
stress on my grandma.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Because, you know, my dad would
-- would do drugs all the time and there was always a
bottle of methadone in the -- in the fridge and, you know, I'd always find needles kicking around the house.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And it was okay for him to have his addiction. But the way my family talked about my mother was -- it was -- you know, it was because she didn't have somebody to enable her addiction, like, my -- my -- my dad's mother did.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And so growing up my dad said that the family would -- they would call me a “chug,” and I didn't know what that meant until I was a teenager, because I thought it was, like, a Hindu because we lived on 49th and Main, and so I just assumed that it was because I lived in the neighbourhood. I didn't know, and they would tell me that I -- I look like my mother and I act like my mother.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: I'm going to be pregnant by 16, and I'm going to turn out just like my mother and --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- and everything they told me I eventually lived up to. I was prostituting on -- on Hastings at the age of 13. I was addicted to drugs. And I was pregnant by 16.
MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: By a Vietnamese drug dealer.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Who I thought loved me.

It was pretty shitty living up to those -- what -- what they told me was going to be, right.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: I remember, I think I was, like, 14 when I -- when I left home. I went to go live with my mom. She was --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: I'm sorry, what age did you --

MS. [S.M.]: I think it was about 13.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Thirteen.

MS. [S.M.]: My mom was staying with -- like, a church lady, and on the other side of the PNE, and we were staying in her basement. My mother was still on methadone, but she wasn't using and, you know, I was -- I've always loved my mom.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Even though, you know, my family would talk bad about her and put her down and say all these bad things about her. The more they said that, the more I would love her.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.
S.M., In relation to F.M.

MS. [S.M.]: I've always had the connection with her. And she's always loved me. And there was always no abuse. And I felt that love.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And grew -- growing up I was always told that she was bad and she was a “chug,” she was junkie, and -- and the more they said that the more I -- I loved her.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: So that time we lived with this church lady, and my mom, and she would do my hair, and she'd accept me for who I was, and she would tell me that I was beautiful and loved, and -- and I was finally with my mom again.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

MS. [S.M.]: She ended up -- I can't really remember what happened, but we ended up moving to my aunt's in -- in -- in Maple Ridge.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: We stayed there for a few months. I think my mom was still on methadone at the time, and I don't think she was using, and -- but we stayed with my aunt for a few months and I was going to school out in Maple Ridge, and it was great. I was with my mom again.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.
Statement - Public
S.M., In relation to F.M.

MS. [S.M.]: And I think that went on for maybe six months.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: (Indiscernible).

MS. [S.M.]: And then my aunt -- I don't know what happened between my aunt and my mom, but something happened.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And we ended up leaving there too.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: I think we ended up in Powell Street, Powell Street Shelter (ph) or Powell Street Shelter. Not a shelter for -- for children, that's for sure.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm, because you were still 13?

MS. [S.M.]: Yeah.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: In Powell Street Shelter my mom had relapsed.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And she, kind of, went in and out, and I think eventually social workers, or something took me away.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.
S.M., In relation to F.M.

MS. [S.M.]: And then I was in a group home. They didn't -- they didn't try helping my mom. They just --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- they just took me away. And my mom tried really -- really hard to -- to keep us together. And there was no support for her.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: She never -- she never took care of me growing up, so she tried really hard, but the addiction took over, and from there it was, kind of, went all downhill in my life and her life and --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: From the time that you were...

MS. [S.M.]: Moved into the group home.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: (Indiscernible) into the child welfare system?

MS. [S.M.]: Yeah.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: Eventually I -- I -- you know, I learned how -- like, eventually I started smoking pot and --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- drinking and doing drugs in these group homes. I got put in a few different group
S.M., In relation to F.M.

homes.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And I ran away because I -- I didn't like the place I was in. I just wanted to be with my mom. And they wouldn't -- the Ministry wouldn't let that happen.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: So I turned to some friends and ended up getting turned out at the age of, like, 13 or 14.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: I was really -- really scared. I just wanted to keep these guys happy and I needed a place to stay. And my first trick, or john --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- was an undercover police officer.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And I was charged with soliciting a police officer -- a police officer at the age of 13 or 14. And my mom came to court and she tried fighting to keep -- to keep me, but because she was in her addiction nobody would, you know, try to help us.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

MS. [S.M.]: So, again, I ran away and I found my mom, and stayed in the Regent Hotel with her.
MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay. And that's in Downtown Eastside?

MS. [S.M.]: Eastside, yeah. Many times I sat in that window looking down on the street and just wishing things were different.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: My mom survived many close calls to death.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And she was -- she was -- she tried so hard. She really did. She never gave up -- my entire life -- like -- her -- my entire life that she was alive, she never gave up. I remember one Christmas I had been up for days, I think, it was, like, 14 and my feet were so cold, frostbitten. And -- and I was hurting for drugs.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And standing on the corner of Jackson and Hastings, and my mother was standing on the other corner, and it was snowing, and it was cold, and it was Christmas. And I just wished my life was so much different. Nobody ever gave my mom a hand out or help. They just -- all they ever seen was a junkie whore. And I think things could have been different if -- if, you know, if the welfare system or Ministry had worked with my mom
instead of --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: -- against her.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: You know.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Could you -- could you tell us more about what that would have looked like if the Ministry was to work with your mother. What -- what did you need? What did you she need?

MS. [S.M.]: She needed -- she needed somebody to tell her that she was doing well and making progress and offering her services.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Working with her instead of against her.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: You know, they make it so hard for -- for people when they already are struggling for fight their addiction.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: They put more barriers in the way. Makes it harder.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

MS. [S.M.]: You know, my mom -- that first year that I lived with my mom it was like -- it was like I
had lived with her my whole life.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

**MS. [S.M.]:** It was like we didn't miss out on anything, we connected so well. And -- and my mom had suffered her entire life. Her body was the only thing that could help her survive as far as addiction, food, rent, everything, it was -- it was like that was the only thing she had to offer.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Of course.

**MS. [S.M.]:** My -- my aunt would tell me about, like, the stories of them growing up and --

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

**MS. [S.M.]:** -- living in the orphanage.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay. So your mother -- your mother and her aunt were in an orphanage?

**MS. [S.M.]:** Yeah. In New West on, like, 6th Street. there's this big -- I think it's a museum, I don't know. They had said that it was an orphanage when they were kids.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

**MS. [S.M.]:** And she would tell me about how, you know, my mom would just -- she would protect my aunt, even though my aunt was the older one. My -- my mom was just -- she was just a little fighter.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.
MS. [S.M.]: And she would always get into trouble, and she'd speak her mind, and -- and they would -- she would tell me how they -- the -- the nuns would, like, split them up.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And, like, my mom -- my mom would get punished a lot because my grandfather had to go, like, off to sea to (indiscernible) ships, or whatever he had to do to -- so he would leave my mom and aunt for -- for a few months at a time.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And they were mean to my mom, and I think it was because they were Aboriginal and --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- and they made sure to cut her hair real short and -- and --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: So what -- sorry, was this orphanage a residential school?

MS. [S.M.]: I don't know.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: I think it was, like, a discreet residential school. Like, because my grandpa could pick them back up months later when he came back from going out to sea.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay. And it was in New
Westminster?

MS. [S.M.]: Yeah.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: But they were really mean to my aunt and my mom. And my aunt -- my mom would always -- always take the blame and she'd get the whip because of something that my aunt did, and she -- she always protected my aunt. And then my mom -- when she met my dad he got her hooked on drugs.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Do you know when they met?

MS. [S.M.]: Can't -- I don't remember, but my mom was really young at the time.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: So was she an adult, or something younger?

MS. [S.M.]: Early -- early adult, I think.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And they lived in Calgary, and I was pretty oblivious to -- to -- to their addiction until I was older. I didn't really understand. You know, my -- my mom was abused her entire life, and...

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: When -- when I started using and
living on the streets and fulfilling the -- those quotes that my family told me growing up, I -- I thought that that's what I deserved.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm -- m'hm.

**MS. [S.M.]:** And I thought that that was the life that -- that I was set out to have. I'm sure my mom thought the same thing. Being a woman, and addicted to drugs and living on the streets. It felt like that was -- that was the only life there was. I didn't realize there was another life. I thought I deserved that.

You know, when I had my -- my first baby at 16, my mom came to the hospital and she was there. She tried so hard to -- to fight her addiction. There's just -- there isn't resources available for -- for people as much as there should be. There's a long waiting list to get into detox.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

**MS. [S.M.]:** You got to call every day. Now, I think they -- I haven't been in detox in years, but I heard that, you know, they've -- now taken smoking away and --

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

**MS. [S.M.]:** -- you know, when you're quitting drugs or alcohol, you know, smoking is, like, the only thing you have left, right? So they're making it a
lot harder for people to get clean today.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: And just for clarification, detox would be the first step on that path to recovery?

MS. [S.M.]: Yeah. You can't really be in recovery houses until you have gone through the withdrawal -- withdrawal stage.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: My mother was really -- really heavily addicted. Like, when -- there was nights when she jumped in bed with me and she was naked and she was sweating and she was delusional. She was vomiting. And I tried so hard to take care of her. Heroin has never been my drug of choice.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Because I've watched my mom go through the withdrawals, and it was really bad, her body wouldn't survive without the methadone.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay. And she did have a period where she was on methadone quite a bit.

MS. [S.M.]: Yeah. Quite -- quite often.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: That's why when I seen her that day in the park, I've never seen her so -- so -- so free, so beautiful, so -- so healthy.
MS. TERRIEA WADUD: And at that time she was on methadone treatment?

MS. [S.M.]: No, she wasn't. She was off of methadone for two months.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And I didn't realize that because I was young and caught up in my own world and trying to survive too, right.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Of course.

MS. [S.M.]: You know, I -- I -- I know my mother wasn't murdered in a brutal way, but her whole entire life she was abused, raped, used, tortured, by multiple men on the streets in order for her to survive. And I thought that that's how I was supposed to live too.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: The details of how they found my mother --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- in that hotel washroom will always be with me. It's, like, a typical junkie move to be, you know, like -- don't -- I've never used needles, but I've watched many people and, you know, they pull the lid out and (indiscernible) my mother must have died instantly because her body wasn't used to drugs because she was so clean.
MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah, m'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: But, you know, selfish as it -- like, I -- I seem to think, and I want my mother here with me today, but I feel, like, you know, now her -- she doesn't have to suffer. She lived a -- a life of suffering.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

MS. [S.M.]: Her entire life she -- she was abused one way or another, and not once did she abuse me. Not once did she call me a Chug. Not once did she put me down. She just loved me unconditionally, and she never judged me.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: It sounds like you had a very special relationship with your mom.

MS. [S.M.]: Yeah. And I -- I -- I've tried really hard to break the family cycle.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And it took me three kids to really -- really get it.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And I've had to fight the Ministry tooth and nail to get where I am today. And because of my history and my parents' history, they've made my life really hard.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.
MS. [S.M.]: You know, because I -- I have addiction in my family I'm judged.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And supports -- it's like -- it's like people don't believe me, or what I have to say is not valid because I -- I have addiction in my history. And, you know, who's going to listen to a junkie, right? No matter how much clean time I have, nobody wants to fucking listen to me.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And I'm not heard. I still fight [Child and Family Agency 1] and -- yeah, you know, if -- if -- if -- if [Child and Family Agency 1] had put supports in place rather than make things difficult for my mother maybe she'd be here today.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Is it fair to say that you see a pattern based on your own time being in the child welfare system, and now being involved with them through children, your -- your own history being in the system and the addictions is impacting the care --

MS. [S.M.]: Definitely.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: -- that your children are getting?

MS. [S.M.]: Definitely. You know a lot of these social workers at the beginning when I lost my -- my
first son, they didn't give me a chance because I was 18.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And I was in care and both my parents are junkies.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: So there was no help for [S.M.], about getting her shit together, or having her own family.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And I had to fight and I had to fight and when my son was three, I just -- I couldn't handle my mother's death any longer. There was no supports in place for me and I was scared the social workers were going to take my son so I sent him to my aunt's.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And even she thought I wasn't going to make it because of my mom and my life. She gave him to family -- to her family -- extended family, like, she -- even my aunt thought, like, there was no hope for me. And out of all of the grandkids, like, me and my cousins, and my aunt's kids, I'm the only successful one. And I'm -- I should have been the one that should be dead by now. And -- and even my aunt she just is blown away that I'm the only successful one out of everybody when I should have been the one that is down on the streets, or even dead.
MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: All the social workers, they --
you know, they -- they read my file, and then they meet me
and they just --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- they -- they're assuming to
meet a junkie with scabs all over their body and --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- you know, they're blown away
at what they read, and then what they see. And, you know,
they -- the system is broken. They've all told me that
themselves and --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: The social workers?

MS. [S.M.]: Yeah.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: A lot of the time they said
there's nothing they could do to help me. And, you know,
for the last 11 years I've been -- I've been calling them
and making reports because my [teenage] son -- well, when --
when I was pregnant with him -- I -- I was pregnant with
my drug dealer pimp and I couldn't have another baby,
especially since I didn't have my first one.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: So I tried terminating my
pregnancy with drugs and alcohol --
MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: -- crack and whatever else -- heroin was never really my choice, but, even crystal meth, because I have ADHD, I don't get high off of the crystal meth.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: So it was never really my drug of choice. So I couldn't terminate the pregnancy. And when I had him, they instantly took him away from me, but because I was in Fir Square and the doctor had fought for me to stay there a few extra weeks because I was breastfeeding and my -- my son wasn't physically born addicted, but mentally fetal alcohol syndrome, all that other stuff, he struggles with. I see a lot of me in my son.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

MS. [S.M.]: Because all he's ever wanted was his mom.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And when he was about 15 months old I managed to get him back, and his dad beat me up so bad that I packed a suitcase and went back to the street because I didn't know what else to do, so I was back on the streets, and I went missing, and -- yeah.

I -- I've been begging the Ministry to look
into my -- my family -- my son's family home because there were signs of physical abuse.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: Sexual abuse.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And I've made numerous reports, police reports, social worker reports, any reports to anybody that would listen.

I remember one time I was telling my probation officer the things that my son does and she had said that, "You know, if he doesn't help that he needs he's -- he's -- these are signs -- I don't know, of a psychopath."

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

MS. [S.M.]: His father's family is [ethnicity redacted] and they're very traditional and they're very abusive.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And the social workers kicked me out of their offices. (Indiscernible) followed up on their reports. Told me that I needed to stop making these reports -- false reports, and they never wanted to listen to me because I'm a junkie and I got no family, and, you know, there's -- I've got -- you know, I don't have money.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.
S.M., In relation to F.M.

MS. [S.M.]: So they can continued to close my son's file and told me that I needed to get my facts straight.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: I've freaked out in their office. I've made threats. I've begged anybody to listen. I've been the biggest advocate for my son.

You know, hearing my son's diagnosis with -- with [Health Centre 1], broke my heart because a lot of his struggles were the struggles that I went through growing up.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Struggling with fetal alcohol syndrome myself.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Not understanding and just wanting to be with my mom.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And his dad's side of the family told him that I didn't love him, and that I loved all my other children and not him, and -- and they brainwashed him just like my family had brainwashed me.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And all he ever wanted was his mom and he could never have it.
MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Because I started having more kids.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And my -- my son [was] four years old, and I caught him taking my two-year-old's diaper off, telling him that he was going to give him kisses and make him feel real good. And when I told the Ministry about this they never helped me.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: They told me that I couldn't have visits because it was stressing him out and he was doing these things because of me and I couldn't parent him properly, and the reason why he was doing all these things because he was in my care. I said -- I told them that it's not true. Like, these -- I'm noticing these things and I'm the one that's speaking up.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: His dad's side of the family was hiding all of this stuff.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And they said -- they stopped my visits actually because these things were happening.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And I tried so hard to get him
the help that he needed. Last week the supervisor of my son told me that -- I said, who's -- who's going to be held accountable for the incident that just recently happened? You know, somebody needs to be held accountable.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

MS. [S.M.]: The police, the social workers, the doctors, anybody, somebody needs to be held accountable. Because I have been telling people for years what has been happening. What's going on and nobody ever listened to me. They closed the files. They ignored my -- my -- my reports.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: Said that I didn't know what I was talking about, and nobody ever took me serious, and I got my son into a program for children that were, like, exposed to sexual abuse and --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- I tried really hard to be consistent with it, but because he was living at his dad's, his dad had control.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And he took him out of the programs. And Social Services ignored me. And they ignored me and they ignored me, because I'm a junkie, or I'm not sure. I didn't know what I was talking about, or
they just never believed me and I -- I've been very 
cautious with my son because I, kind of -- he was very 
exposed to wanting to be exploratious [sic] with my younger 
son and I always -- I -- I kept -- I kept the sleepovers to 
very minimal and almost next to nothing because of it.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And just recently, and it's been 
about seven years since the last the incident and I thought 
he was better. I -- I thought maybe it was just a boy 
thing, or I don't know.

You know, five months ago I finally had proof 
that his father -- my son finally spoke up to the police 
and his father was finally charged with assault after 11 
years. And I've had -- I've taken him to the police when 
he was, like, four with a handprint, and the social workers 
continued to put him back in that home because when they 
walk into this [religion redacted] house they see a big 
glass window separating the two living rooms, and the glass 
window is engraved of the [ethnicity redacted] temple, and 
they just see a million dollar home.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: You know, they don't see my 
concerns or what I was seeing was happening. And they 
ignored me and they ignored me, and finally I -- I remember 
my son called me and he said that he was really dizzy and
told me that his dad had stomped on his head, and I took
him to the hospital and I did the follow up.

But because of my son's issues in the past I
couldn't have him in my home because I can't protect my
other children. So my -- he's at my sponsor's.

And just last week we had gotten back from
camping, and me and my partner had broke up, and we -- we
let our fighting get in the middle of our parenting and we
put our -- let our guard down, and I fell asleep for 20
minutes and I woke up with my daughter's pants down.

So now I'm living this nightmare all over
again. And I asked [Child and Family Agency 1] who's held
accountable for it now, and they told me his dad
manipulated the system.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

**MS. [S.M.]:** So I had to call the police on
my son and get my daughter assessed and I feel like I'm
starting this cycle all over again.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

**MS. [S.M.]:** Now, my daughter's violated at
the age of four and my son's a pedophile/rapist; I don't
know. Nothing happened. I mean, I don't know what
happened. My daughter says that he had touched her.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

**MS. [S.M.]:** But when I took her to the
hospital and her checkup, it was okay -- she was okay. And
the investigation is still going on, but I don't know, I
just -- I'm living a nightmare and once again [Child and
Family Agency 1] is not supporting my family. And
everything is really messed up. Times like this I wish my
mom was here.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: You know, like, trying to break
the family cycle, it's so hard.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: I've been drink -- in the last
four days I've been drinking. You know, I feel like -- you
know, my mother's death, it's -- it means nothing, and she
was a good person. She had a big heart, and she loved me
more than anything.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And she tried, she tried so
hard, but there was no support, there was no help.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm -- m'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: She sounds like she --
she had a fighting spirit.

MS. [S.M.]: She was. She -- she was
amazing.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah. I can hear that.
MS. [S.M.]: You know, and it's so hard to move forward in life when these things happen --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- with my children. It's really hard to be there for my son now because I have to protect my other children.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

MS. [S.M.]: And all those nasty things that my son's paternal family told him growing up.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

MS. [S.M.]: He -- it's -- it's like, "Your mother doesn't love you. Your mother doesn't want you. She loves her other kids." And -- and I don't think he understands that, like, now I can't be there for him because I need to be there for my other children.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

MS. [S.M.]: And it's hard to be put in this position to choose from my children.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Of course.

MS. [S.M.]: You know --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: How -- how old is your son?

MS. [S.M.]: He's [a teenager]. And I've been fighting for him for 11 years.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.
MS. [S.M.]: And nobody would listen to me.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Because I'm Aboriginal, because I'm a junkie, because I got no family. I don't know. I don't know why, but [Child and Family Agency 1] has painted a picture of me at a very young age and I have been trying to prove them wrong, that I'm not that person that they wrote and made me out to be. And because my mother was a junkie in the Downtown Eastside means that I can't love or care for my children? Yeah, I -- I grew up having to parent myself and I don't know how to parent because I've never been parented properly.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: But I have good intentions and I've done every parenting course there is. I've done every detox course there is. I could teach these programs.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: You know, and I have a lot of love to give and everything is just really messed up in my family right now. I don't have any family. I got my aunt. But she just, kind of, you know, she's in town right now and it's for my daughter's birthday, but it's funny because she just stayed at my house overnight, and she's off on the island with her daughter spending time there and, you know, kind of knowing, it's, kind of, heartbreaking because, you
know, I know deep down inside that she didn't actually come
to town to see me, it's -- [S.M.] a layover, and she's here
to see all her kids and her grandkids, and it just hurts.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

MS. [S.M.]: Because I'm not stupid, and it
just hurts not having any family, especially, like, what's
happening right now in my life. You know, I'm still
fighting these fucking social workers.

And if my son -- like, they have dropped the
charges on my son, but if -- if charges don't stick they
can't force him to get help because he's now at that age
where he doesn't want help. He doesn't want to see these
counsellors. And I'm just scared that, you know, after him
pulling my daughter's pants down last week I'm scared that
he is sick.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Really sick.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And where is he going to be in
five years? What's going on in his head? And once again
the social workers let me down. And you know, I -- he's
not -- he smokes pot, but, you know, he's on a fast track
of ending up on Main and Hastings pretty quick. You know,
he was telling me about, "That's the Native quarter, mom,
and that's where we buy smokes, and that's the pot corner."
And you know, trying to tell me all these things. "Oh, I -- you know what a six is? Like, you know, police are coming, mom." Tries to teach me these things that, like --

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

**MS. [S.M.]:** -- I've lived through and I know about. It's scary because, like I said, I see a lot of me in him. And now he's in care.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

**MS. [S.M.]:** And -- and now I can't be there for him. And it's just a matter of time before he's downtown too.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm. Is there anything that you can identify what would support you in this experience with your son?

**MS. [S.M.]:** With my son?

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah. What do you need (indiscernible) --

**MS. [S.M]:** I just wish --

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** -- what would be helpful?

**MS. [S.M.]:** I just wish like, you know, eight years ago, seven years ago I got him into counselling. I had him in this program.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

**MS. [S.M.]:** My son still to this day hasn't told me who abused him.
S.M., In relation to F.M.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: But after speaking with multiple professionals they're the ones that have told me that children don't just do this.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: This is -- this is happened to him -- something has happened to him. I would have never thought of that. It was the professionals that filled my head with --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

MS. [S.M.]: -- why this is happening.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: But nobody ever did anything. And now, you know, he's old enough to be charged and I just don't know where to go from here.

You know, I'm very angry at my son. I know that it was impulse -- his impulse and his FAS that -- that -- that gave him that impulse that night. I know I had only fallen asleep for 20 minutes because he had put a movie on for my baby upstairs and I had checked the PVR.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

MS. [S.M.]: And by the time I went upstairs it was 25 minutes, so he -- he had only had 25 minutes. I don't know what happened. But it literally was two feet away from my head. My daughter was right beside me. And
just my family is so broken now and I've tried to so hard.

You know, last -- last week when we all went
camping, I had all five of my babies together. Something
that doesn't happen often.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And the Ministry has been making
my life very difficult to keep my children and have access
to my children.

And last week it -- all of my dreams came
true. Like, my partner hates my son. And he's really
matured in the last six months. And before we went camping
my partner had taken me into the bathroom -- and my
partner, he labels my son as a pedophile/rapist, that's how
he refers to him. He doesn't understand. And he pulls me
into the bathroom, and he goes, "[S.M.], we need to fight
for him. Let's not leave him at your sponsor's anymore.
He needs to be home with family, let's move." And it was
like my dreams finally came true. Everything I've worked
hard for my entire life.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And -- and we all went camping,
my oldest met us there, and I had all five of my kids and
didn't have to be approved by a social worker, or, you
know, this was all me, and we were all together, and the
very next day it was taken away.
And now my family is super broken. My kids can never be together -- like, I can never have my older one around any of my younger ones ever again, and, you know, who -- who's held accountable for this.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm -- m'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: You know, because --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Who would you like to see held accountable?

MS. [S.M.]: [Child and Family Agency 1].

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: You know, not once did they believe me.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: Not once. They continued to put my son back into that home.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: The home where he was being...

MS. [S.M.]: Abused.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: Physically abused, sexually abused.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Brainwashed. Told bad things.

And, yeah, it just -- even the doctors, like...
S.M., In relation to F.M.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Why did they let his father take him out of those programs? Those very crucial programs that I had him in?

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: This -- this all could have been prevented. I worked very -- not one social worker helped me get any of those supports in place that I had for my kids. I did it. I searched for those people. I got him on the wait list. I fought for him. And his dad just continued to take him out of these programs and the social workers didn't follow up with it. They didn't believe me. [S.M.] doesn't know what she's talking about.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm -- m'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And I'm living in this cycle all over again. It's hard to -- I'm scared to go back to my addiction because it -- I just so -- I just -- I don't want to go back into that lifestyle and into that suffering and pain. I don't want to be raped and abused and -- I don't want to die.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Of course.

MS. [S.M.]: And I'm so messed up now, and it's so hard to -- to keep this -- keep strong when I don't have anybody. It just -- it hurts so much. And I'm really scared --
MS. TERRIEA WADUD: (Indiscernible).

MS. [S.M.]: -- for my daughter because now she's been exposed.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: You know, how can I protect and love my son when I have three other children at home that I have to protect. And I, kind of -- I let my guilt cloud my judgment for my son and I have put my other children at risk.

You know, when I was on the streets, in my addiction, I think it was -- because I wasn't addicted to heroin that -- that I, kind of, filtered through the men that tried picking me up on the streets. I could never go with like a really old, ugly, nasty man. And Robert Pickton -- he tried picking me up one time.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And I was really hurting for drugs and he had said, "You know, I'll -- we can pick some up before we go to my place."

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And usually I would have been all for it because, you know, I needed my drugs in order to take my clothes off for men.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

MS. [S.M.]: He was so ugly and so scary
looking --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- that I had -- I had turned
him down, and I'm so grateful that I just had a little bit
of decency left in me or else I'd be on that farm too. I
don't know. I feel like God had protected me on the
streets.

When I turned 18 I received a lot of money.
I can't remember how much. But I thought it was because I
was 18 and my Band had sent me money, but it wasn't. It
was because I was raped by, like, four men and left to die
in Queen Elizabeth Park.

I've lived a horrible life on the streets.
I've been raped multiple times. I sold my soul for $20 at
some points.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: (Indiscernible).

MS. [S.M.]: When I walked away from the
streets without HIV, without Hep C, and very few scars.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: But my heart is scarred forever.
You know, if -- if there was more resources available for --
- for women today --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- we wouldn't be having this
collection.
MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay. What resources would -- would you like to see from (indiscernible).

MS. [S.M.]: I have a girlfriend right now, I -- I was taking care of her daughter for about six weeks, up until about three -- about -- about three or four weeks ago.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: Because my girlfriend had relapsed after five years.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: Because the Ministry didn't fucking put any supports in place and she had just moved out on her own for the first time ever.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: No, like, supports in place and --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- and she was staying with her street dad who was lives right across the street from me.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And since she's left we've had play dates -- this is a 64-year-old man, and we just sit and talk while the kids play. He's a really knowledgeable man too, and I became quite close to him.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.
MS. [S.M.]: And he called me one day said that he was in the hospital and if I could take care of his granddaughter. He needed to have surgery.

It turns out the surgery is the most invasive surgery that Vancouver General Hospital has, and this man almost died. And I watched him in the ICU -- and I have watched him with deliria. And he's -- he's -- he's surprisingly made a full -- well, almost a full -- he's still on dialysis, but they're thinking about even taking the dialysis away. And this man is just incredible. He's an incredible fighter.

And I've had this little girl and, you know, I see her mom on the streets and I say to her, "What are you going to do?" Like, she's trying get into detox, there's no detoxs available. There's a wait list.

And, you know, when you're an addict and you want to get clean it needs to be right now because tomorrow's a different day. And that's not available for anybody. And there's, like, Onsite and I think there's one other detox place, and there's hundreds of junkies in the world, so, you know, she's -- my -- my girlfriend's still alive surprisingly.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: With the fentanyl going around, but she can't get into detox and, you know, there's just
nothing available.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: So you would like to see more detox centres?

MS. [S.M.]: Oh, for sure, for sure, and not a huge long wait list and --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And these facilities need to be programmed in a way that works with people.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: Not against people. You know -- you -- you take smoking out of a facility like this and nobody's going to go. You know, you can't just give someone a patch and say, "Here, quit your drugs and, oh, you got to kick smoking too." Like, they're making is so hard.

I haven't been to a detox in many -- many years, but things have changed and it's very -- very different now and it's -- it's not accessible.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

MS. [S.M.]: It wasn't accessible for my mom and it's not accessible for my friend. I -- I work in the Downtown Eastside, and I hand out syringes and condoms and crack pipes every single day.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And I mean, I've had to Narcan
people. And I hear people's stories. And, like, I believe that my job is what keeps me sane today.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: What is your job?

MS. [S.M.]: Because -- I'm a shelter resource worker.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: So I see these people coming in and every day and they're suffering. And it's -- it just -- it -- it makes me realize that that's not where I want to be today.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: But, you know, you hear the -- there's -- you hear the -- you hear these people’s stories and how they ended up being homeless and --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- you know, trying to put a plan in place for them. There just -- there isn't anything available and you wonder why people continue to live on the streets and self-medicate. They feel like, you know, the poor stay poor and the rich get rich.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: (Indiscernible) our -- I don't know, I feel like our -- our society today has taken away services.
MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And it's taken away more services and it's harder on the streets.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: I -- I couldn't imagine where I'd be -- I don't even think I'd be alive if I was still out there.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: They're -- they've taken away so many resources for youth.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: For women. That the death toll just keeps rising.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And -- and the death toll of these people just gets younger and younger.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Does -- does that feel complete for you in terms of recommendations for the Commissioners, or do you (indiscernible)?

MS. [S.M.]: Yeah, you know, I feel like -- I feel like -- I feel like services for women need to be put back into place.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Not just the Women's Centre downtown can't handle it all. There needs to be services
that can meet people's needs, working with people on where
they're at in their life at that time.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: We need to protect our youth
more. These services for youth is a fucking joke. You
know, they're willing to pay $2,000 to some random group
home staff, but they won't give my sponsor, who has quit
her job to take care of my really -- my really sick son.
They want to give her $500?

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

MS. [S.M.]: I'm going to slap your face.
Like, she doesn't want money, but it requires money to take
care of him.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And you're going to give some
random group home staff, who doesn't give a shit about my
son, probably just has to write a quick report, $2,000 but
you can't help my sponsor out, who loves and cares for him
and is willing to go that extra mile? What is wrong with
our system? You know it's -- it's -- it's a paycheque.

And -- and I'm about to -- I was about to
lose -- I -- I have given the Ministry a perfect plan on
summer -- I did their fucking job for them and say still
can't meet his needs.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.
MS. [S.M.]: After everything he's been through, it's -- they're given her vouchers to go to -- to get food? You know, like, what's wrong with this system? It's fucking broken.

And if a social worker can tell me that the system is broken and they're very -- very sorry they can't help me, then there's something seriously wrong with our world today.

And, you know, I feel like the Ministry and Children and Families, especially [Child and Family Agency 1], their policies and their procedures, they're a hundred years old, don't meet the individual families that they have to support, their policies and procedures are far from it. They work completely against these families, including myself. I have been fighting with them for so many years. And I sit here now and go, who's going to be held accountable?

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: You know. And they work against you, not for you. I'm surprised that I -- I've gotten this far. And I'm tired, I'm really tired of fighting. I can't do it anymore.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And they really need to look at that. You know, if -- if [Child and Family Agency 1] had
supported my mother 20 years ago.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Maybe she'd still be alive today, but they didn't. They made it extremely difficult for her, for myself, and I'm still standing here.

I've been kicked out of their office numerous times. They said I need mental health, my addiction, blah, blah -- I'm all worked up, I can't control this. There was a reason why I was all worked up and really upset and it was because I wasn't being heard.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm -- m'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Because my stories or my -- my reports wasn't valid for them. I didn't know what I was talking about. I was overwhelmed with my visits, so they took them away because my son was acting like this. And I told them, "He's not acting like this because he's in my care. He's acting like this because he feels comfortable in my home. There's something wrong. Can you help me?"

No. They just made it worse. Took my visits away and I had to just fight harder.

At the end of the day I'm still sitting here except my son is the one that struggling more than ever now. Now, he's old enough to be charged. And he's suicidal. And he struggles with mental health.

And, you know, still there's no change for
anything. I really hope that my story is taken serious. And I hope that whoever is listening looks -- looks at the source and looks at the overall picture, instead of taking away services that you could put them in place, or our children are going to keep dying, and our mothers and sisters and daughters are keep -- aren't going to keep getting raped, abused, and tortured. And people are just going to continue to get away with it.

I really hope we can have change. And I really hope that I didn't just waste my time, bring up all my feelings and --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah. I -- I do have one question in regards to your mother's death. Was there a police investigation?

MS. [S.M.]: I believe so.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: And what was the outcome and the police department? Was it VPD?

MS. [S.M.]: Yeah. I don't really know. I -- I was 18 at the time.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: They might have just called it an overdose and called it a day.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Have you ever asked for her files, or asked to have access to...

MS. [S.M.]: I've been really closed off with this.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: It wasn't 'til a year ago that I decided to put her on the list.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: It's taken me a long time to accept the fact that my mother is dead.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Of course.

MS. [S.M.]: Somebody murdered her. Whoever gave her those drugs and it's why I made many changes in my life today. I don't sell drugs anymore.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Living off the misery of others. I think the police just -- yeah, they just called it an overdose and one less person to worry about.

You know, I don't know if you know [D.D.].

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yes.

MS. [S.M.]: [Identifying information redacted - one line].

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: He's a police officer.
MS. [S.M.]: He was.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: He's a retired police officer.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: He's the one that told the police that these women are missing.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And he made the list.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And he retired because he betrayed the Vancouver Police Department.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: And the corruption --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- that was going on there. And I remember I got picked up one time by a police officer --

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: -- and he put a gun to my head and said if I didn't give him a blow job he would take me to jail.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: There's a lot of corruption in the Vancouver Police Department and they get away with it because they have badge. Or I've been -- I've been beaten
by the police and then charged with assault on a police
officer because after they dropped me down a flight of
stairs in handcuffs in front of two of my children.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Because of a family -- it was my
grandfather's funeral, la da da, they handcuffed me and
dropped me down a flight of stairs and I started bleeding
from my face and I was panicking and I spit in his face
because nobody else was wiping the blood out of my face.
So they said that I spit in his face and I was charged with
assaulting a police officer through the RCMP.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: And they -- they -- they came to
court and they lied under oath. And at the hospital as
they it -- first they tried taking me to the police
station, put one of them said, “You can't bring her here
looking like that. So they had to take me to the
hospital.”

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

MS. [S.M.]: They -- they laughed at me.
They stomped on -- they stepped on me and assaulted me and
I was the one that was charged. The whole world is fucking
corrupt, the police, the Ministry of Children and Families.
It's been really hard to keep moving forward and trusting
people.
You know, [D.D] gave me a photo of my mom when she was about 18 years old.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: So he knew your mother?

MS. [S.M.]: Very well.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay, m'hm. That's very special.

MS. [S.M.]: And -- and he also supported me during the -- the Frank Kim trial. I don't know if you -- maybe you can google him. He -- ten days before I had my baby I was almost on -- in court, and he was his own lawyer and he had put a gun to my head and raped me multiple times and I was really young and [D.D] helped me get through it. And there was multiple children that were involved, and I just -- just had it. I just -- I couldn't let this piece of shit hurt me anymore. And -- I -- I told police, and he was charged with -- I can't remember, but he's never getting out of jail, a dangerous offender.

And, you know, he might be in jail, but I still live in fear all the time because he's got money and I know if somebody put me in jail for the rest of my life I would make it my life's goal to hurt that person. And I'm the one that put him there.

And I know he's locked up and he can't have access to computers and blah -- blah -- blah, but I -- you know, I have to live in fear because I spoke up and put him
in jail, it's scary. I don't -- I don't know -- yeah, he was a pretty crazy man too, like, the things he had done to us.

[D.D] was really supportive. He was really supportive and I was really young when -- I think I was actually the oldest of the group, I was like 16, but there's five or six of us kids and the things that this guy did to us was horrifying and -- yeah.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** And yet you --

**MS. [S.M.]:** I'm all over the place.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** That's okay. And yet you went to court and testified against him, like, that's...

**MS. [S.M.]:** And they put him in jail for the rest of his life.

**MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Wow. That takes incredible strength.

**MS. [S.M.]:** And he sat there and he tried to tell the Court, "Did you or did you not try to stab me?"

And -- and it's like he's so lucky that I missed. You know. Yeah, you know, I managed to get out of his house through a bathroom window, and the police had seen me running down the street.

This guy was -- he was -- he was really sick. He would read the Bible to us in his underwear and tell us
that he was God and that we were, you know, nothing and we
were drug addicts and slaves to the drugs. And he would
have sex with me for hours, and I let it happen because I
needed more crack.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: It's 11:53. You -- you
had mentioned that you need to get to your --

MS. [S.M.]: Yeah, (indiscernible) and, I
don’t know, I think the police are corrupt. The RCMP are
corrupt. It's hard to go turn to people that are supposed
to be there to help you. Instead, you know, I've had
experiences with police lying to protect themselves.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: Charging me with assault on
them.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: I've had them take advantage of
my body and they need to look into that too because, you
know, it's hard to turn to somebody that you trust.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

MS. [S.M.]: When they've taken all that
trust away. Yeah. All over the place here.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm, that's okay.
You've done an amazing -- amazing job. Does that feel
complete for you today?

MS. [S.M.]: Yeah -- yeah.
MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay. I just want to thank you again, [S.M.]. It's been an absolute honour holding space for your story and to hear about your special relationship with your mother and how she lives through you in such incredible strength.

MS. [S.M.]: I should have brought a picture of her. I just I've got so much going on in my personal life that...

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: There's still an opportunity to scan the picture even and send to us for -- for your file.

MS. [S.M.]: Okay.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: If that's something you want to do.

MS. [S.M.]: Sure.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: I would love to have a picture.

MS. [S.M.]: She was a very beautiful person.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: I hear that.

MS. [S.M.]: And she would never hurt anybody, except for herself.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: I hear that.

MS. [S.M.]: But thanks.

MS. TERRIEA WADUD: So the time is now 11:55 a.m. and we are finishing up with [S.M.]'s statement.
--- Upon adjourning at 11:55 a.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST’S CERTIFICATE

I, Shannon Munro, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.

Shannon Munro

September 9, 2018