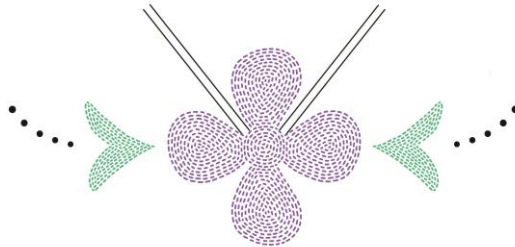


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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 I Statement Gathering
Fort Garry Hotel
Winnipeg, Manitoba**



PUBLIC

Tuesday October 2, 2018

**Statement - Volume 485
Chantel Henderson**

Statement gathered by Tiar Wilson

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NOTE

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

1 Winnipeg, Manitoba

2 --- Upon commencing on Tuesday, October 2, 2018, at
3 2:03 p.m.

4 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** I usually start by
5 introducing myself, and then kind of just go around the
6 room for people to introduce, just so -- in case the
7 Commissioners hear other voices.

8 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** I can --

9 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** Just kind of up
10 right here, yeah.

11 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** You can move closer.

12 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Closer?

13 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** (INDISCERNIBLE).
14 (Laughter). You can put it right beside if you need to,
15 angle it the same way.

16 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** Yeah. There you go.

17 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** That's good.

18 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** Thanks.

19 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** Oh.

20 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** So even though you aren't
21 on the camera, Marlene, I'll get you to introduce yourself
22 in your role, as well --

23 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** Okay.

24 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** -- just so they know
25 who's all in the room, right?

1 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** Okay.

2 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** Yes.

3 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** All right. Good
4 afternoon, Commissioners. It's 2:03 PM on Tuesday, October
5 2nd, 2018. This is Tiar Wilson, and I have the honour of
6 gathering a statement here today at the Fort Garry Hotel
7 here in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

8 I'll begin by starting -- getting the health
9 support, who is not on camera, to my left side to introduce
10 herself, and then we will go with Chantel and her
11 boyfriend. So we'll start with you, Marlene.

12 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** Tansi. *Aniin.*
13 *Bozhoo.* My name is Marlene Jay Carriere, and I'm a
14 personal health support, mental health therapist, for the
15 First Nations Inuit health branch, but most of all, I'm a
16 kokom, a grandmother of the north. (Speaking Indigenous
17 language.)

18 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Hi, I'm Chantel
19 Henderson from Sagkeeng and Fairford First Nations. I grew
20 up in Winnipeg.

21 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** And your support is your
22 boyfriend?

23 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. My support
24 here with me is my boyfriend, Fred Chiesel (phonetic).

25 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Introduce yourself, as

1 well.

2 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** So hi. I'm Fred Chiesel
3 (phonetic), I'm from Quebec. I grew up in Sherbrooke, and
4 my -- my First Nation is Lac-Simon.

5 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** All right. So as I
6 explained a little bit earlier, Chantel, this is -- this is
7 your time, your space.

8 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** M-hm.

9 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** And we can start wherever
10 you want.

11 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Okay. Okay. So --

12 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** Don't forget to talk
13 loud.

14 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** M-hm. I guess
15 for -- I guess how it all starts for me was -- was when I
16 was first molested by my [Cousin1] when I was four or five
17 years old. Yeah. And I never told my parents about it.
18 And I was protecting my sister so he wouldn't, you know,
19 molest her. She's a year and a half younger than me. And
20 I never reported him. Maybe it's just shame. Maybe it's
21 just -- didn't think anyone in the family would believe me.
22 Plus, you know, fear of being ostracized.

23 I'm the oldest of four siblings. I have two
24 sisters and one brother. I grew up in a two-parent
25 household until the age of nine. At that age was a very

1 big shift in my life because my -- my [Grandpa], who I was
2 very close with, died. And it sent a -- it sent the whole
3 family into a tailspin, and it especially impacted my
4 [Mother]. And as a result, my mother got into -- deeper
5 into her alcohol addiction. And up to that point, like, my
6 mom and my dad were in a -- an abusive relationship where
7 alcohol was a contributing factor to lot of their, you
8 know, domestic violence and fights and parties. And as a
9 result of my mom's -- my mom's drinking from, you know, her
10 losing her father, my dad eventually, you know, left her
11 and left us, which drove my mom into other addictions.

12 It was probably around this time that we
13 first got taken into the child welfare system. I
14 actually -- I remember the time when it happened because
15 my -- my mom was helping me look for her drugs, and the
16 phone rang. And I answered it, and it was my auntie, my
17 auntie Margaret. And me being naïve child that I was, I
18 told her -- when she asked where my mom was, I answered
19 her, "She's busy looking for her drugs." I didn't know
20 that was a bad thing. So my auntie being the social
21 worker, reported it, and all four of us kids got
22 apprehended and shuffled around in the child welfare system
23 for about two years.

24 We were -- yeah. We -- we got to go into
25 about half a dozen, maybe a little more, of foster homes,

1 because, you know, there was four of us, some
2 occasionally -- there was maybe one or two homes that they
3 actually put us all together in. But the rest were -- we
4 were separated into twos. So I was separated and sent off
5 with my sister, [Sister 1], and my little brother and my
6 little sister, [Brother 1] and [Sister 2], were put into a
7 home together. And for those two years, you know, I just
8 remember, you know, the visits in the child welfare office.

9 I just remember the nights, you know, just
10 crying myself to sleep and wanting to go home. And I, you
11 know, kept begging my mom, you know, Why can't we come home
12 with you, Mom? I didn't understand it at the time, but,
13 you know, she was dealing with her addictions. And she
14 was, you know, working on getting herself clean and going
15 to rehab. I felt like my brother and sister had it easy
16 because they don't -- they were too young to remember being
17 in the system, but me and my sister [Sister 1], you know,
18 had it harder because we were older, and we remember it
19 all.

20 I remember my time in those -- in
21 those -- in those foster homes, and just constantly being
22 bullied and neglected and abused, you know, by the other
23 foster kids and other kids in schools that we attended.

24 I remember one foster home that we were in,
25 and it was, like, none we had ever been into. And it

1 was -- it was, like, one of the best. And we were in a
2 good school, and the school was very, like, supportive of
3 me, you know. They encouraged, you know, my smarts. I was
4 bullied a lot as a kid because I was smart, you know,
5 because I liked to read. I liked to write. I liked math.
6 I got awards, you know, in elementary school for my smarts.
7 And I got bullied for that because they would have, you
8 know, public assemblies where they'd call up your name and
9 you'd go up and get your awards. And one time, I remember,
10 I -- I went up for, like, four awards on assembly. But I
11 was ashamed because people, you know, would see me as a
12 nerd, and I got bullied as a result of that.

13 But in this school where I was with this
14 foster home, it was, you know, being -- being empowered, I
15 guess, you know, being encouraged to continue with my
16 schooling, you know. You know, things like spelling bees
17 or being a patrol. It's even, like, having other, you
18 know, foster sisters in the home, and them being in, you
19 know, Girl Scouts. You know, I never experienced anything
20 like that, you know, where it's the two parents who are
21 still together, you know, and that they weren't abusive.
22 And they had family dinners. Mm. Something we used to
23 have, you know, before my parents were so abusive and
24 alcoholics. But we didn't last that long in that foster
25 home, and I was sad to leave. I'm still in touch with the

1 parents from there.

2 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** How come you had to
3 leave?

4 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** It was because the
5 parents were advocating on our behalf to get more -- more
6 money for food and clothing, and I found out later that the
7 person who was in charge of my caseload is a politician
8 now. He -- I don't know if he remembers me, but yeah. I
9 was told later, you know, who he was. And yeah. But yeah.
10 We were moved because the parents spoke up about that, and
11 the worker refused, and because they didn't want, you know,
12 the parents, you know, advocating on our behalf and
13 harassing them, you know, for this or for that, we were
14 switched to another home, far worse -- a far worser home,
15 the worst one of them yet. It was our last one, though.
16 But we were there for a year.

17 This was -- it was mostly Indigenous homes,
18 I noticed, and I think it was through Ma Mawi. [Caseload
19 Worker]. That's who. That's my -- that was my worker.
20 Yeah. So yeah. We were placed into this really bad home
21 where it was another Native family, but it was a single
22 mother this time. And she had no kids. And this was the
23 only one where the -- it took all four of us in. But
24 because, you know, four kids, four paycheques, we basically
25 were treated like a paycheque. And -- but, you know,

1 treated poorly, you know. We barely got to eat. We barely
2 got to go shopping. If we did go shopping, it was at
3 garage sales or thrift stores or not at all. We'd see the
4 better treatment of their -- their nephews and nieces were
5 treated so much more better than us, so we knew the
6 difference, you know, the preferential treatment. There
7 was eventually sexual abuse happen in the home with their
8 nephews and me. Yeah.

9 They took us out to a trip to their reserve
10 in Lac St. Martin, and I guess that's where they're from,
11 and I didn't realize it at the time, but that's, like,
12 close to my dad's community. So it's -- yeah. Anyways.

13 The boys were very bad at bullying me, and I
14 snapped one day. And yeah. I went, you know, chasing them
15 with a knife down the street, just to stop them from
16 bullying, you know, me and my sisters and picking on the
17 younger kids, and the adults not listening, and the worker
18 not taking our complaints seriously. And I just felt like
19 I had to finally stand up for myself and for them.

20 And they never bothered us again after that.
21 Eventually -- eventually, we were placed back into the care
22 of my mom at 12 years old. So we were put into care
23 at -- when I was 10. So this must have been in 1992, and
24 we came back in 1994.

25 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** So your birthday is '82?

1 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. Yeah. So
2 yeah. By that time, my mom had found a new partner, and
3 they were engaged and trying to find a bigger place for us
4 to live in to -- she was currently living in a small
5 apartment in central Winnipeg. We eventually moved around
6 to two places before settling into a house on Toronto
7 Street. Before we got there, though, we lived on Gertie.
8 She used to live on Bum Row, and then she lived on Gertie
9 when she got us back in a -- what was it? One, two,
10 three-bedroom, a three bedroom apartment.

11 The marriage -- well, the relationship she
12 was in was abusive. The guy was abusive again. So we were
13 witnessing not only, you know, my mom getting abused by my
14 dad, but, you know, her new boyfriend. I, being the
15 more -- being the oldest of the siblings, I -- I always
16 felt like having to try to help and protect my mom. And
17 yeah. A couple times, I would have to intervene.

18 When we went to return to live with my mom,
19 I got involved with the wrong crowd at junior high.
20 Mostly -- probably just because of the escape, escaping
21 from, you know, the responsibilities of being the oldest of
22 four children, you know, taking and witnessing abuse at
23 home. I rebelled a lot. I ended up, like, skipping school
24 a lot. I started smoking and drinking when I was 12.

25 I also started running away from home.

1 There was a couple times, you know, the police found me and
2 they brought me back. And I remember one time I actually
3 walked all the way from Central to -- because I remember
4 there was a party -- all the way in the Maples, and wanting
5 to go back to that place in the Maples, and walking. I
6 don't know how many hours it was, walking all the way there
7 and walking all the way back. And I just remember all the
8 cars of people that tried pulling over, tried to pick me
9 up.

10 I forgot to mention that, probably because
11 of the whole molestation at a young age, that I became
12 sexually active when I was nine years old, mostly with boys
13 from the neighbourhood. I developed a bad reputation for
14 myself. And -- but I learned more -- I learned more
15 that -- that this was a sex and love addiction. That was
16 me coping with the death of my grandpa, who I was close
17 with, and that's how I acted out, by having sex to, you
18 know, find that love and affection that I was missing from,
19 you know, from my grandpa and my dad leaving.

20 So back to when I was -- I was hanging with
21 the wrong crowd, running away from home, we
22 eventually -- they had a bad influence on me, and
23 eventually I started doing some, you know, small crimes.
24 One of them we got caught for was a B and E, a break and
25 enter, in a friend's building. And yeah. We ended up

1 going into this person's apartment when they weren't home,
2 and just stealing stuff, you know, from the place. I
3 remember I stole a jacket, a winter jacket. Eventually we
4 got caught. We were ratted out by somebody, one of our
5 friends or something, and got charged with theft under
6 5,000, I believe. And I pleaded guilty, and I had to pay
7 restitution to the person for what I stole, and I got
8 probation for a year.

9 Despite all that, I still hung out with
10 those friends. We were doing, you know, a lot of partying,
11 drinking, hanging out with older men.

12 I remember the first time I -- they brought
13 me to a booze can on Mickey, and I was only 12. And I went
14 off with -- with a guy who was claiming he didn't know,
15 let's go get some more and go get some more beer. And we
16 went to a couple ATMs, and he said his bank card wasn't
17 working, and he couldn't pull out any money. So we were
18 driving back to the booze can. And he parked -- he parked
19 in an alley. And he raped me with a knife at my throat,
20 threatening to kill me if I didn't, you know, give him a
21 blow job. I -- he let me go. And I wandered,
22 shell-shocked, to a local 7-Eleven and called a police.
23 The police never found the guy. But I heard that
24 they -- they went to the booze can where he picked me up
25 and shut it down.

1 And that same year, I almost got lured into
2 the sex trade twice. A friend of a friend was -- had a
3 sugar daddy who would, you know -- she had a couple sugar
4 daddies, and he would buy her, you know, anything and
5 everything. And I -- and I didn't really understand why.
6 And, you know, I don't really -- you know, really know, you
7 know, this is what she had -- this was happening until
8 later on in my adult life. But -- and I -- I believe there
9 was one time she made a deal with a guy, and I didn't know
10 it, and I think she traded me to her guy friend for drugs
11 one time. And then she tried to encourage me to get into
12 it, too. But I -- I didn't want to.

13 Another time, I met a guy. I probably was
14 18 or 19. And he wanted me to work for him on the streets.
15 And I tried it. I tried it once or twice. But then when I
16 went to go find him to, like -- because I was told, you
17 know, to give him the money, I tried to go find him, and I
18 went to the bar to go find him, and they wouldn't let me
19 in. And he pretended not to know me because, you know, I
20 was only, like, what, 12 or 13. So I guess I, you know,
21 avoided a disaster there.

22 What scared me about my friend and her sugar
23 daddy thing was it was probably like a year or two later,
24 she was in the hospital. And -- and she didn't look like
25 herself. And it -- I don't know if she had it or not, but

1 she looked like she was dying. I remember my -- my
2 ex-boyfriend who was her brother, taking me to the hospital
3 to see her. And I don't know if it was for the last time
4 because I haven't heard from her since then. I just
5 remember going there, and then not recognizing her and how
6 her hair was mostly gone, and she looked so sick. And she
7 just had so many tubes coming out of her body, and she
8 couldn't speak. I don't know what happened to her. I
9 don't know if she's alive or if she's dead. I can see her
10 like that. I didn't want to, you know, hang out with her
11 or -- and her cousin anymore.

12 But before all that happened, you know, we
13 were partying, you know, hanging out with these older guys,
14 mostly Asian guys, you know, who preyed on us because we
15 wanted, you know, beer and drugs, and we pretended like we
16 were 16, like that made a difference. These guys were in
17 their early 20s and late 20s.

18 I remember the house, too. It was a
19 big -- it was a rooming house, you know. There was
20 probably about four or five of their Asian friends who all
21 lived together there. And they would have their garage
22 parties and sing their karaoke and drink their beer and
23 have us girls over. There was one time that I don't know
24 if I drank too much or if they had drugged us, but I
25 remember waking up on the couch in one of the guys' rooms,

1 and I remember seeing my friend being -- being fucked by
2 one of the guys, and I was being fucked by one of the guys.
3 I just remember being so shocked. I couldn't believe what
4 was happening, and I just went acted -- I don't know what.
5 Passed out again. And it was just hard trying to tell my
6 friend, you know, what happened when -- what I saw
7 happening to her, too.

8 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** Was it too much?

9 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** It's okay.

10 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Would you like to take a
11 break? You can still keep going. I don't -- I don't mind
12 at all. It's okay to cry if you don't -- tears
13 (indiscernible).

14 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** I found out not too
15 long afterwards that I was pregnant. I was 13. I didn't
16 know which one -- which one of those guys raped me, got me
17 pregnant. So I just picked one that I would recognize and
18 knew the name of and said he was the father. He denied it,
19 of course. He was, you know, Filipino.

20 I didn't see him again until maybe a year
21 later at another party, you know, where his Asian friends
22 were having in the north end, this time on Pritchard. And
23 I told him, you know, you have a daughter. Why don't you
24 come see her, you know? Set up visitation. But all he
25 wanted to do -- he didn't care about her. All he wanted

1 was, like, oh, do I get to be with you? I didn't want to
2 be with him, especially after what happened. So he -- he
3 said "no." You know, no, I don't want to be -- I don't
4 want to see her.

5 And then when I ran into one of his friends
6 that I recognized from those party days and told him that,
7 you know, he's the father, and I want to reach out to his
8 family to see if they want to be involved in my daughter's
9 life. And the family refused. They didn't believe me.
10 And I didn't realize at the time, you know, it had to do a
11 lot with, like, racism between the Filipino community and
12 the Native community. And that's why they refused to
13 believe, you know, their Filipino son knocked up, you know,
14 a Native teenage girl. I was never able to find him after
15 that to claim child support and get a DNA test. So I ended
16 up raising her as a single parent on my own.

17 Probably that same year before, you know,
18 that I had got pregnant, before I got pregnant, I was -- we
19 had moved to Toronto, Toronto Street, from Gertie, and we
20 were living in a house with my mom and her new husband,
21 this same abusive guy. And, oh, there was one time I
22 was -- I was -- I was jumped by my sister's so-called
23 friend and her sister. I was jumped from behind while my
24 sister was walking ahead, and they jumped me for my -- my
25 Georgetown sweater. So that was, you know, name brand

1 thing to wear back then. My sister went to grab my mom,
2 and my mom scared them away.

3 Another time that same year, I was walking
4 home. And a guy called out to me from his house, and he
5 was probably just a few years older than me, maybe like 17
6 or 16 or something like that, and he lived on my block.
7 And he invited me in for, you know, some beers and some
8 drinks. And a common theme for me growing up, you know, I
9 was very naïve. I was very trusting of people. And I went
10 with him into his house, literally, just maybe a -- six,
11 seven houses away from my house. And I figured, oh, okay,
12 I'm just down the street. I'll be safe.

13 What this guy didn't tell me was that he had
14 a girlfriend, and his girlfriend and her friends showed up
15 after me and his friends were -- were drinking in the
16 house, after they had basically got me drunk. And those
17 girls showed up, and I blacked out. But there was one
18 point where I remember I was hiding in the basement. And I
19 was playing a game. You know, I was pretending to play
20 hide and go seek from them, you know. And the last thing I
21 remember is just blackness. They must have kicked the shit
22 out of me three, four, five, I don't know how many of them.
23 I know there was six or seven of them at the party, guys
24 and girls. And I remember those three girls, they found me
25 in the basement.

1 same place where you were or if you want to start somewhere
2 else. What would you like?

3 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Yeah. I'll start
4 somewhere else.

5 MS. TIAR WILSON: Okay.

6 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: So yeah. Most of
7 those happened before I was pregnant. True change in my
8 life really came when I did get pregnant, because I felt
9 like, you know, I'd been wanting to actually, like, get
10 pregnant for a long time, you know, before that, because I
11 wanted, you know, that unconditional love. And having a
12 baby meant, you know, automatic, you know, unconditional
13 love. And yeah. Just -- yeah. My daughter was a
14 blessing. I found out that, because I hadn't gone to a
15 doctor for many years after being sexually active for a
16 number of years, that I had scarring in my tubes from
17 untreated Chlamydia. And yeah. My baby is -- yeah. A
18 miracle. She's my -- she's an only child. She was my
19 reason to sort of clean up my act after it -- it was while
20 I was on probation I got pregnant with her, and, you know,
21 I stayed clean and didn't, you know, hang out with those
22 people anymore. And I stayed in school.

23 I actually ended up going to APC, the
24 Adolescent Parent Centre. One of the pretty unique about
25 it is because it -- you know, it helps single adolescent

1 parents like -- like myself at the time to continue to stay
2 in school, but to also bring your kids with you to school.
3 So -- and you could attend while you're pregnant. And
4 because the junior high school I was at didn't really
5 condone, you know, teen -- you know, pregnant teens, so I
6 was glad, you know, there was this school available here in
7 Winnipeg.

8 So I went there throughout my whole
9 pregnancy, had my daughter, continued to stay in school,
10 and got to bring her with me. M-hm. She's -- yeah, she's
11 my reason, you know, the light in my life, that I stayed on
12 the straight and narrow and wanted to, you know, be a role
13 model for her because I realize, you know, all the -- just
14 the poverty growing up in the inner city, I didn't want
15 that for her. I wanted, you know, a different life. I
16 knew -- after going into that one good foster home, I
17 realized how good a life you can have, you know, even if
18 you're Native, if, you know, you just work hard, you get
19 your education, you know, you get a good partner, and have
20 a family, live in a nice neighbourhood, that it's possible.
21 So I wanted that for my daughter.

22 Yeah. So -- so yeah. I continued going
23 there until I was -- until I was almost 16. And yeah. I
24 really loved that school, and I wish I could have stayed
25 longer, but you can't stay longer than your kid is two,

1 because --

2 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** Yeah.

3 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** -- your kids can
4 only stay until you're -- up to two years old there. But
5 the whole reason I had to stop going to school was -- was I
6 had -- as I had mentioned earlier, I had started drinking
7 when I was 12 years old, hanging out with the wrong crowd
8 and such, and I continued drinking, but with my -- my mom
9 and her friends. And they would get me into bars underage.
10 And this one bar, the Westbrook on Keewatin, is a bar that
11 they would regularly frequent, that they'd bring me along
12 with. They wouldn't ID me because, you know, I was with
13 them, and they assumed I was, you know, legal.

14 One time, I got blackout drunk, and I don't
15 remember who I left with, but I remember waking up the next
16 day in this guy's bed. And he wouldn't let me leave. At
17 this time, I was breastfeeding my daughter. That first
18 morning when he was living at home with his parents, with
19 his sisters, his family, but he wouldn't let me leave. He
20 kept me there. And when I met the rest of his family, I
21 found out the two girls who had jumped me were his sisters
22 when I was 12 years old. They were his sisters. So I
23 was -- I knew what the sisters were capable of, you know,
24 the violence, so I assumed he was capable of the same
25 violence, and he threatened me not -- he threatened to hurt

1 me if I left.

2 And I kept -- I don't know. He kept me
3 there for a week. Basically, you know, keeping me in his
4 room, his sex slave. I kept begging him to let me go, let
5 me go home, let me go see my daughter, because by that
6 time, you know, my breasts were engorged and painful. He
7 promised to let me go if I promised him that I wouldn't go
8 to the police. And he threatened me if -- if I did go to
9 the police that, you know, he'd send his sisters after me
10 or he'd find me and hurt me. And I believed him, because I
11 know what his sisters were capable of.

12 I was so scared just when he walked me even
13 to the bus stop. And I couldn't believe it. Like, is this
14 real? Is this real? Is he really going to let me go?
15 Until the moment, you know, I was on the bus and we were
16 driving away. I still couldn't believe it. I was in
17 shock. And I was scared. I was scared to go home because
18 I was worried, you know, what -- how my mom would react
19 because, you know, she -- she's abusive towards me, and,
20 you know, leaving my kid with her for a week, even though
21 it wasn't my choice, I figured she'd be pissed off and mad
22 at me thinking, you know, I was out, you know, partying and
23 drinking.

24 I found out when I went home, you know,
25 that's -- you know, my mom was relieved. She was happy.

1 She was so worried about me. She had reported me missing.
2 And she had gotten in contact with an Elder,
3 who -- who -- who found out about me and knew I was being
4 held against my will, but knew that I would be released and
5 that I would come home and I would be safe. And she even
6 had, like, missing person posters out for me, too, and I
7 remember the picture she put up of me.

8 I found out not -- maybe just a couple of
9 weeks later, a few weeks later, that I was pregnant from
10 him. And the reason I found out is because it was an
11 ectopic pregnancy, and it -- the egg had gotten stuck
12 in -- stuck in the tube, and my tube had burst, and I was
13 internally bleeding. Then I had to be rushed to the
14 hospital, and I didn't know what was happening to me. And
15 I -- that was the first I heard about an ectopic pregnancy.
16 And how terrifying it was to be strapped, you know, to have
17 surgery, emergency surgery, because I was internally
18 bleeding.

19 So not long after that -- not long after
20 that, my mom decided to move us to Regina where her friend
21 [Mother's Friend] lived. And when there -- her main reason
22 was, you know, the fact that, you know, I was abducted. I
23 almost died, and that she wanted to escape from her abusive
24 husband. So we -- while I'm still, you know, recovering
25 from surgery, she has me helping her move and pack.

1 So we end up moving to Regina. We live
2 there for less than six months, and I hated it. But I also
3 saw, like, how much worse it was than in Winnipeg. We used
4 to live in Moccasin Flats, and we would hear literally like
5 every night or every other night, you know, police car
6 chases, you know, because all there was to do for fun out
7 there was to steal cars and get chased by the police, just
8 to get into trouble. I remember I -- getting into drugs,
9 you know, with my mom's friend's daughter and her friends.
10 Mostly weed, oil, hash. I had maybe one boyfriend while I
11 was there. But there always seemed to be, you know, drama
12 around him, and his sisters didn't like me, and I got
13 jumped again one night while I was walking home, probably
14 about three of them, about three of them. Yeah. I made it
15 out of that one. I was the victor. I won. I was able to,
16 you know, kick their asses, and I made it home alive, you
17 know.

18 I tried to stay in school while we were
19 there, but their school system is just different. It's
20 just different from here in Manitoba. And I didn't like
21 it. So yeah. Just -- my sister started getting into
22 trouble, too, with them. And I remember one time she told
23 me she actually got involved with some guys, and they had
24 gotten into a car where they were chased by police in a
25 stolen car, and they got into a crash. And she's lucky to

1 be alive, too. They got away. So I guess my mom probably
2 figured, you know, it was better to be back in Winnipeg
3 than in Regina. It seemed like we were worse out in Regina
4 than in Winnipeg.

5 So we ended up moving back. This is all
6 when I was 16, so that would have been, like, in 1998. So
7 I re-enrolled in high school, and just because of that
8 whole year, you know, just up to -- my life up to then, I
9 didn't feel I fit in with those normal high school
10 students, you know, where, you know, they had their
11 two-parents households, you know. They didn't have to deal
12 with alcohol and drugs in the family or rape or being
13 abducted or, you know, having a near-death experience. I
14 didn't fit in with any of them. None of them experienced
15 any of the trauma that I had to go through in my short
16 life.

17 So I ended up trying to find love again, and
18 I just felt like there was an urgency to, you know, try to
19 have one more kid, you know, for my daughter, you know,
20 give her a brother or sister. And I ended up getting
21 pregnant again, this time with a guy of my choosing. But
22 he was obviously still older than me, probably about -- at
23 least ten years older than me. And yeah. I -- I had an
24 ectopic pregnancy again. And basically, after that, at the
25 hospital, I -- I felt like I was sterilized by them. They

1 didn't want to allow me to have any more kids. And I
2 actually filed a complaint against the Women's Hospital
3 about that, but nothing was done. They determined there
4 was no cause. So as a result, I can't have any more kids.

5 As a result of all that, I ended up dropping
6 out of high school, just the depression, you know, knowing
7 at 16 years old, you know, you'll never have any more kids.

8 Soon after that, I got kicked out by my mom
9 with my two-year-old daughter, who had chicken pox at the
10 time. That was the first time I was homeless. And as a
11 teen, homeless youth, and single parent, I had no one to
12 turn to, not even my own family. So I went to the
13 MacDonald's Youth Services where I figured, oh, they're
14 going to help me. But when I got there and turned to them
15 for help, they refused, because they saw me as a bad
16 influence on the other teenagers that they were helping,
17 because I was a single teen parent.

18 So they referred me, since they didn't know
19 where -- anywhere else to send me, they sent me to the
20 Salvation Army shelter on Main and Henry. I -- me and my
21 daughter stayed there for about a week. And that was one
22 of the most scariest times in my life, living there, just
23 constantly, you know, being worried about being attacked,
24 being raped, being kidnapped, being harassed. I hated it
25 there. I cried every night.

1 My mom eventually let me come back home.
2 But it wasn't for long. I turned 17, and I -- because she
3 knew the guy who lived next door who owned a house, he
4 converted his house into a separate apartment on the second
5 and third floors. So he let me move in there. So I lived
6 on my own with my daughter for the first time when I was
7 17, next door to my mom. So I had my own space and
8 whatnot. But still, I felt very isolated, and I was
9 dealing with undiagnosed depression at the time. And it
10 was during that time there I attempted suicide for the
11 first time. I cut my arm, but I didn't go deep enough to
12 hit a vein.

13 Eventually I moved out of there, and I moved
14 into another place. By that time, I was, you know -- a
15 year had passed. I was 18. And I decided to become an
16 escort. I did it mostly for the money, but also because,
17 you know, I loved sex. And I felt it was like, you know, I
18 was in control, you know. I was there, you know, giving
19 the pleasure and having the power over the men, you know,
20 because I know, you know, I was only 18, and I didn't
21 realize, you know, how old most of these guys would be.
22 But they are from all socioeconomic backgrounds, all
23 different raises, all different shapes and sizes, Canadian,
24 American men. Yeah.

25 So I worked for an escort agency for about

1 six months. Yeah. And during that time, I was also
2 robbed. I guess there was people watching my -- watching
3 me come and go from my -- from my apartment, my duplex.
4 And I was robbed. One time I came back from work, and
5 everything was gone. Everything of value was gone.

6 I end up moving to another apartment.
7 I -- and that -- meeting another guy. We started a
8 relationship. I promised -- we made a deal that I would
9 stop being an escort if he -- if he would stop drug
10 dealing. So I stopped escorting for -- for him. And he
11 supposedly stopped drug dealing for me. But I found out
12 that wasn't the case, and that he was still dealing drugs.

13 I was also diagnosed with depression around
14 that time, and I was on antidepressants. And there
15 was -- there was one time he held a knife to my throat and
16 threatened to kill me and make it look like a suicide. And
17 after that, I stopped taking antidepressants because I
18 didn't want, you know -- I didn't want him murdering me and
19 making it look like a suicide. So I stopped taking them,
20 but I still had a couple -- yeah, there was actually from
21 that same guy, he ended up, like, stabbing me in the arm.

22 Yeah. And there was probably a
23 couple -- after that relationship ended, there was a couple
24 suicide attempts. I attempted to hang myself. I attempted
25 to overdose on pills, Tylenol, a whole jar of them. I

1 attempted to drown.

2 I also was trying to cope with all this by
3 drinking more, and I was in the throes of an alcohol
4 addiction. After I broke up with -- with my ex there, I
5 was attending AA. And when I was at a meeting one time,
6 because my ex had stolen my keys, and I really felt like I
7 needed to go to a meeting, I left my door unlocked and went
8 to a meeting, just a block away. But he must have known my
9 schedule or my neighbours knew I wasn't home, and somebody
10 robbed me. So all the things I -- I had bought with my,
11 you know, while I was working as an escort was stolen. You
12 know, it was just, like, you know, working as an escort
13 was, like, for nothing, it seemed like. All that money,
14 just to buy these things that were just stolen.

15 So I eventually -- yeah. I -- I quit that
16 relationship. And I was single for a bit. And I was raped
17 again by an acquaintance. I guess a friend of ours that we
18 knew from this -- this social, this dance. And I brought
19 him back because he was all, like -- him and his friend
20 were, like, oh, we don't have no place to stay, can we
21 crash on your couch. And I was, like, sure. You know, my
22 daughter was at, you know, her grandma's. And I was just,
23 like, okay, you know, just being friendly. I didn't think,
24 you know, it would be like that. It was a big mistake.

25 I -- I woke up to him having sex with me.

1 And I kicked him out and I called the police on him and
2 reported him, and took him trying to get him convicted
3 through the justice system. Mm. That was the first and
4 only time I ever tried to convict somebody who raped me,
5 and they must have had a really good lawyer because the
6 lawyer was able to get him acquitted, and I lost faith in
7 the justice system after that.

8 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Do you remember what year
9 that was?

10 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** I was 18, so 2000.

11 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** 2000.

12 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** So despite, you
13 know, all this craziness when I was 18, my -- I guess when
14 I was around 19, after that, I was, like, I tried dating.
15 I tried dating. Yeah. I was dating, and back then, it was
16 always phone chat lines. And yeah. I would go on these
17 blind dates with these guys that I didn't know, you know,
18 from the phone. And yeah.

19 There was one time this guy tried to drive
20 me out of the city. And I managed to, you know, convince
21 him to stop, and that I wouldn't tell anybody and that, you
22 know, it's -- it's -- you know, to stop, you know, what
23 you're doing before you take it too far. And he listened,
24 and I told him to just drop me off, you know, at the
25 nearest store and just leave me.

1 Despite that, you know, I still tried to,
2 you know, have faith in that there's -- there's some good
3 guys out there, you know, that maybe, you know, this was
4 just the bad apple.

5 So I went on another date with another guy.
6 I don't know how long it was after that one, but I realized
7 the place he took me, I felt like his intention was to
8 murder me, because it was near the dump, the dump near
9 Unicity or just outside of Unicity, somewhere around there.
10 But there was, you know, one of those divine intervention
11 that seemed -- I feel, like, you know, I have someone
12 looking out for me. And he took me to an isolated part of
13 the road, and I guess whatever he was thinking of doing, he
14 changed his mind because a car full of teenagers, you know,
15 suddenly came up down that same road and parked close by.
16 And they were drinking and partying, and yeah.

17 We ended up, like, having sex, but thinking
18 about that afterwards, I felt like, you know -- I felt like
19 he was ready to, like, bash my head in with one of his
20 tools from his truck and leave me there, if it hadn't been
21 for that car pulling up. No one would have known I was
22 there.

23 Because of my alcohol addiction, I was also
24 thrown into the drunk tank a few times, partying, going to
25 bars, et cetera. I did that for a number of years after I

1 turned 18, after I was legal, legally allowed to drink. It
2 was during one of these times when I was at the bar with my
3 sister, partying, that I blacked out again.

4 And my sister -- I don't know if maybe I got
5 kicked out of the bar or something, but I remember being
6 outside without my jacket, and I was talking to some -- to
7 some guys, to some -- I don't know. I guess African or
8 black guys. And they were trying to invite me out to a
9 party. And my sister came out, and she found me, and she
10 was trying to not convince me to go with them, because
11 there was four of them and just two of us. So I didn't
12 listen to her, and we end up, you know, going with them to
13 a party.

14 But we never made it to the party because I
15 blacked out. This -- this is all I remember from my sister
16 telling me. They -- we stopped at a -- at a beer vendor.
17 And they were pretending to, you know, get out and go get
18 beer. The same with my sister. But as soon as my sister
19 got out of the car, so that she told me, is that they
20 closed the door on her and took off with me in it.

21 I remember waking up the next morning,
22 butt-naked, and not knowing where my clothes were, and I
23 was in someone's apartment on their bed, alone in the room.
24 I eventually found my clothes, and I -- I didn't know where
25 my jacket was. And this was, like, in the middle of

1 winter, like, minus 30 outside. And I figured -- I thought
2 that they were, like, had stolen it to keep me there and
3 were keeping me against my will. And I couldn't go
4 anywhere. And I didn't have a phone.

5 They pretended they didn't have a phone so I
6 couldn't call anybody. And I couldn't leave out there in
7 minus 30. But I was stuck there for, like, two days until
8 a friend of me and my sister's showed up. And he -- he
9 realized what they were doing in keeping me there. And he
10 convinced them to, you know, like, let me go because I felt
11 like they were -- they were, like, getting me ready to,
12 like, put me to work, you know, in the sex trade. So he
13 end up -- he ended up, you know, dropping me off at home.

14 And my sister was, like, where were you?
15 And I told her, you know, what happened. I eventually
16 found out that --

17 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** (Indiscernible).
18 Sorry.

19 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** Oh, just a second. Just
20 a second. (Indiscernible). (Laughter).

21 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** That's cute.

22 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Okay. So where was
23 I?

24 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** So you were -- you -- you
25 went home, and your sister was asking you, like, where were

1 you?

2 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. Yeah. So I
3 told her what happened. And I end up finding out
4 that -- that my jacket was actually at the bar in their
5 lost and found because apparently, I lost my coat check
6 ticket. So if they have the jackets left over at the end
7 of the night, they leave them at lost and found at the
8 hotel. So I ended up going back to the hotel and finding
9 my jacket there. And all this time, I thought it was the
10 guys keeping it from me.

11 Yeah. So yeah. Despite the -- that
12 abduction, I graduated from high school that year. I was
13 the first in my family to graduate. But I realized I was
14 still stuck in abusive relationships.

15 I remember one of my ex-partners after us
16 grocery shopping on a hot summer day, we were living
17 together, we were arguing about something, and just -- I
18 remember, you know, him choking me on the couch. And I
19 couldn't breathe, and I was starting to see black. But
20 then, like before, I passed out or whatever. He let me go.
21 Another time, he forcibly confined me in this closet.
22 Another time, I had to defend myself against his abuse with
23 knives. Yeah. There was this one time I was -- he was
24 trying to grab the knives away from me, and he cut himself
25 on them. And there was just blood everywhere. And I ran.

1 And my daughter was still in the house. But I was so
2 scared of what he was going to do, I -- I -- I left her
3 behind, and I ran. I ended up running to her friend's
4 place just a few doors down, and we called the police. And
5 they, you know, they got him bandaged up but charged with
6 domestic violence. Thankfully, you know, after I left, I
7 guess my daughter heard, you know, what happened and saw
8 the blood and ran off, too, and she knew I ran to a
9 friend's place. So I was happy she was safe.

10 The moment recent incident that has happened
11 to me was back in 2015, when I was in grad school at
12 Concordia University in Montreal. I -- I was -- I was
13 really overworking myself then, you know. Besides doing my
14 full-time grad studies, I was working part-time. I was a
15 volunteer, and I was planning a panel for my practicum.
16 And I was basically working 12-hour days from 12 in the
17 afternoon to 12 at midnight. And I basically had a nervous
18 breakdown. And I naturally wanted to cope with that with
19 alcohol.

20 And one night, I went out drinking by
21 myself. And shots, shots were cheap that night. I
22 remember it was 250 a shot at this bar on Crescent in
23 Montreal. And I remember meeting these two guys, and just
24 taking shots with them. And I don't remember leaving the
25 bar. But I have flashbacks, little bits of that night.

1 The only reason I know where I went was I -- I found out
2 the next day that I had been raped, because the evidence in
3 my underwear, and my bra was torn.

4 When I went to go -- actually -- I actually
5 had a concussion, and I had a -- bruises on my face. And I
6 found out when I went to report it to the police that there
7 was a way for them to track my whereabouts through my
8 phone, and I didn't even know this. And based on that,
9 accessing that information, they were able to track my
10 whereabouts that night where I -- I had gone. And I don't
11 know. Some -- sometime that night, I -- I don't know. I
12 end up with a concussion. I was raped. I don't know by
13 how many men, and that's the scary part of it is not
14 knowing who or where.

15 And I -- I had to take a month off of
16 school. And they never caught whoever it was, because I
17 didn't know who they were. I couldn't remember anything,
18 just little flashbacks here and there, but it wasn't enough
19 for them to, you know, find a name or a face. Even though
20 they knew my whereabouts, they couldn't place an exact
21 address of these locations.

22 It was scary, knowing afterwards where I had
23 gone, because this was some sketchy parts of Montreal
24 where, like, Cabot Square, for example, you know. You know
25 Cabot Square in Montreal is where other natives all

1 congregate, you know, homeless natives, people with low
2 income, to drink, party, hang out. And it shows,
3 yeah -- to shoot up. And it shows from that whereabouts on
4 my list that I had wandered to -- you know, to Cabot
5 Square. So I don't know if anyone else, you know, further
6 took advantage of me there or raped me.

7 I found out from my phone that I had somehow
8 managed to take a cab home, that I had taken a picture of
9 the cab number. It's weird, just somehow, you know,
10 despite all that, I was still able, you know, to sort of
11 document. I almost dropped out of school because of that.

12 But there was a lot of -- I found there was,
13 you know, a supportive Sexual Assault Resource Centre there
14 at Concordia that helped me, you know, apply for my
15 academic extensions, to get counselling, to go get help to
16 report the incident and do the rape kit. I don't think
17 without that, I -- I would have, like, gone through
18 my -- gotten through that year.

19 I also met him. I also had -- we had gotten
20 into a relationship not -- well, within a month -- within a
21 few weeks of that happening. He didn't know about that
22 until way later.

23 Yeah. It was hard, going to Montreal in a
24 big city where, you know, as an Indigenous woman, it's -- I
25 feel like I was lucky to have gotten out of there alive,

1 that I survived that night without running into the wrong
2 person and, you know, becoming a statistic according to the
3 government.

4 Yeah. That was my most recent one. I
5 actually -- from that time, from the last rape to that most
6 recent rape, I -- I had gained a lot of weight because that
7 was my coping mechanism to sort of protect myself. I felt
8 like the more skinnier I was, the more attractive I was to
9 men and more, you know -- more of them trying to, you know,
10 approach me and attack me and rape me. So I felt, like,
11 oh, if I'm a bigger woman, you know, I won't get raped.
12 But that incident just proved, you know, that it doesn't
13 matter, you know, what size you are, that there's still
14 going to be men out that will, you know, rape you if they
15 have the chance to.

16 So as a result of -- yeah. As a result
17 of -- well, actually, what sort of brought my memories back
18 of all the abductions and the rapes and such was back in
19 2010, because my friend [Friend1] went missing. And
20 it -- it triggered all of my memories. It was, like, as if
21 I had blocked all that to sort of, like, cope with my
22 day-to-day living, you know. And it was just -- oh, my
23 God, it was so overwhelming to realize, you know, that it
24 can happen to men, too. And then all my memories came back
25 of what happened to me. But I also feel, you know,

1 grateful in that way because I can take some good away from
2 my friend's disappearance.

3 MS. TIAR WILSON: M'hm.

4 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: And he's still
5 missing, to this day. And as a result of him, you know, I
6 was able to deal with my trauma, to acknowledge it, to
7 actually get into activism. Yeah. I started attending
8 marches about safety in the neighbourhood, violence in the
9 neighbourhood. I started getting involved with the missing
10 and murdered Indigenous women. I started to address
11 women's safety in my neighbourhood because I lived in the
12 same neighbourhood where Shawn Lamb was murdering
13 Indigenous women, and I was scared that year. You know,
14 that could be me next.

15 So I did my practicum on women's safety in
16 the west end here of Winnipeg. And that was, for me, a way
17 to sort of, like, take back my power and help other women
18 take back their power instead of, you know, feeling
19 helpless and vulnerable.

20 And when I moved to Montreal, I really
21 opened up. I really got into, like, activism and taking on
22 leadership roles and that. I did my practicum -- I did a
23 panel on missing and murdered Indigenous women. I planned
24 it, organized it, and moderated it for a national
25 conference. And it was great. I got to meet a lot of,

1 like, Indigenous women that were doing, you know, working
2 behind the scenes on -- on the various areas that this
3 issue impacts, you know, Indigenous women and how they're
4 taking action and, you know, dealing with it. So yeah. I
5 felt a little bit more, you know, empowered, you know,
6 learning more about it.

7 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** M'hm.

8 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** And understanding
9 the root causes and such. And a lot of it, you know, that
10 it wasn't my fault and that, you know, there's people out
11 there who are predators and waiting to prey on people, you
12 know, living in poverty situations or just addictions or
13 just, you know, even young girls not in the right -- you
14 know, in the wrong place at the wrong time.

15 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** So you mentioned Shawn
16 Lamb. That was 2012 that he was convicted. I'm just
17 trying to fill in for the Commissioners, in case they don't
18 remember, but he was convicted for three women from the
19 west end. So just in connection to that, then, I'm just
20 trying to, I guess -- what year did you move to Montreal?
21 It was after 2012.

22 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** I moved to Montreal
23 in 2014.

24 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** And why did you decide to
25 move there? Because school?

1 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Oh, it was for my
2 graduate degree in community economic development.

3 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** Well, she had to meet
4 me. (Laughter).

5 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** I was meant to meet
6 him. (Laughter).

7 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** There you go.

8 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** But yeah.

9 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** The education was
10 the cover-up.

11 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

12 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** (Laughter).

13 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** (Indiscernible).

14 Yes.

15 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. Yeah,
16 because the -- 2012, that happened. I did my practicum in
17 2013. And I did -- I focused on -- I did a focus group,
18 and then I did a safety audit. And then I did self-defence
19 class and gave out safety alarms for women in the inner
20 city.

21 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** M'hm.

22 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** So that was my way
23 to sort of, like, you know, take a proactive approach,
24 invest in, you know, women's safety, because I felt like it
25 wasn't just, like, Indigenous women, but, like, women in

1 general --

2 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Right.

3 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** -- that were, you
4 know, being preyed on and attacked, especially, you
5 know -- I didn't really understand, you know, who Sean's
6 targets were, but, you know, just being a woman and being
7 Indigenous, I felt even more of a -- I had a target on my
8 back. And just even walking -- walking from home in the
9 west end to university, I was just seen as a, you know,
10 another Aboriginal women, you know. It didn't matter, you
11 know, that I was, you know, going to school or that, you
12 know, I was a single parent or that I had my own place,
13 or -- you know, it didn't matter. I was just seen as, you
14 know, a target, it seemed like, because I was always
15 approached by cars driving by thinking I'm a prostitute,
16 that I'm for sale.

17 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** So I'm just trying to
18 fill in the gaps here. So you were at the University of
19 Winnipeg?

20 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** From 2010 to 2014.

21 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** And you took?

22 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** A bachelor of arts
23 in urban and inner city studies.

24 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Okay.

25 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. So I did

1 that. And right after that, I moved to Montreal to do my
2 graduate degree in community economic development --

3 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

4 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** -- which was, like,
5 a one-year intensive program. And that's why I did my
6 panel on missing and murdered Indigenous women.

7 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

8 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. And I
9 actually got involved with the Indigenous community there a
10 lot on that issue. I joined the board of the native
11 women's shelter of Montreal. I joined the board of the
12 centre for gender advocacy because these were, you know,
13 issues close to my heart, you know, just because of the
14 rape at Concordia and this injustice, which worked for
15 advocating for missing and murdered Indigenous women. And
16 being, you know, experiencing homelessness.

17 There was actually -- I forgot to mention.
18 There was another part of -- where I experienced a year of
19 homelessness when I was -- 2005. So that would have been
20 23. I think I was 23, yeah. So yeah. I actually
21 experienced this bout of homelessness because where I was
22 living on Good Street here in Winnipeg with one -- with
23 my -- my ex who attempted to choke me, who choked me, he
24 got me hooked on crack. And I was addicted to crack. And
25 I didn't like the lifestyle that, you know, it was

1 your -- the people that are attracted to you, that you're
2 involved with, you know, the drug dealers, you know, how
3 they want to, like, offer up favours in exchange, you know,
4 sex favours in exchange for the drugs. And I wasn't like
5 that, you know. I didn't want to stoop that low. I just
6 wanted to buy my drugs, you know, and just, like, that's
7 it.

8 I was exposed to another world, you know,
9 with my crack addiction. And because of that, because I
10 found there was other crack addicts living in my building,
11 and they had kids, and those kids played with my kids, they
12 were wild and rebellious and neglected and just not taken
13 care of, and just seeing, you know, how they were, and I
14 didn't want my kid to end up like that.

15 And I actually ended up -- I ended up giving
16 notice and moving out of that place because I did it for
17 the sake of my daughter, and also to try to, you know,
18 remove myself from that, you know, crack environment. So I
19 actually gave up my daughter to my mom to take care of
20 until I got clean, until I could find a new place again.
21 And I was literally couch-surfing for a year with my new
22 boyfriend at that time, [Boyfriend1]. But then we broke
23 up, and then I had to couch-surf with my sister [Sister 1]
24 for a few months, but then she kicked me out. And then I
25 had to couch-surf with my mom, and she, you know,

1 eventually got sick of me, too, because we have this, like,
2 very -- you know, hate -- love-hate relationship growing
3 up. And she eventually kicked me out. And thank goodness.

4 I actually got off the housing list that I
5 had been on for about three years, and I got into a house
6 in the west end. And that more or less got me out of
7 homelessness. Then in -- I lived there for eight years.
8 And that was, for me, like the best part in my life because
9 it -- it provided stability for my daughter. She was able
10 to go to the same school, and yeah. She got to go to the
11 same -- the same school, then junior high, and then high
12 school, and they were all within, like, a ten-block radius.
13 So it was perfect for her to grow up in.

14 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** So she must have been
15 about ten when you moved in there?

16 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** 2006. Yes. But
17 then there was also -- I got back with my ex, the abusive
18 one, and yeah. There was a -- yeah. The whole knife
19 situation, that was the end of it. But there was an
20 incident before that where -- where we actually went out,
21 and CFS got involved, and they were threatening to
22 apprehend my daughter because of this one incident where we
23 went out and left her home alone. But yeah. I had to
24 prove to them, you know, that I was a responsible parent.
25 I broke up with this guy, and yeah, just tried to stay on

1 the straight and narrow, basically, avoid guys like him.
2 So yeah.

3 MS. TIAR WILSON: That was one of the
4 questions I was going to ask about CFS, like, if there was
5 any involvement ever at any time.

6 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: With my daughter?

7 MS. TIAR WILSON: Yeah.

8 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Yeah.

9 MS. TIAR WILSON: Okay.

10 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Yeah, because I was
11 a teen parent and because I was involved in the CFS system,
12 I assume -- well, I didn't -- I wasn't worried as
13 (INDISCERNIBLE) I don't think they had that back then, but
14 they still immediately had a case open up on me.

15 MS. TIAR WILSON: Okay.

16 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: And because, you
17 know, I had just been in the welfare system to -- just two
18 years ago, myself. So yeah. They had a worker involved in
19 our lives for at least six months to a year, just to prove,
20 you know, that I was going to school, you know, I was being
21 a good parent, things like that, that I could take care of
22 her.

23 MS. TIAR WILSON: Yeah.

24 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: And my mom was
25 supportive, and I was living with her and going to school.

1 So they eventually closed the case. And yeah. There was
2 just -- that year when I was homeless and my mom was taking
3 care of her and then, you know, there was that threat of
4 them threatening to take her.

5 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

6 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** And the crazy thing
7 was the way they had it set up is that because I was
8 registered with my mom's band, Sagkeeng --

9 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

10 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** -- I guess their
11 authority was to, like, oh, if you're a registered band
12 member, the kids are going to be taken out to the
13 community. And my family has not -- they basically moved
14 from the community back in the '70s. So they don't really
15 have any family living out there.

16 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

17 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** So that was just
18 absurd from the get-go, because they were threatening to
19 apprehend my daughter and send her out to my mom's reserve
20 where none of our family is living anymore. So yeah. They
21 never apprehended her. That was -- that's what I can
22 actually say I'm very proud of, that, you know, CFS never
23 apprehended my daughter. So ...

24 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** And I just wanted to
25 check in. I have a couple of questions, if you don't mind,

1 just, like, a couple --

2 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: I've got to go to the
3 washroom.

4 MS. TIAR WILSON: Okay.

5 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Will we have our
6 break?

7 MS. TIAR WILSON: Yeah. Yeah.

8 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Yeah. I need the
9 washroom, too.

10 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: Yeah.

11 MR. FRED CHIESEL: Yeah, me too.

12 MS. TIAR WILSON: (Laughter).

13 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: I am bursting here.

14 MS. TIAR WILSON: Commissioners, it is 4:12
15 PM, and as you heard, everybody has -- we've been here a
16 while. Everybody needs a bathroom break.

17 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Okay.

18 MR. FRED CHIESEL: And cut. (Laughter).

19 MS. TIAR WILSON: Good afternoon, again,
20 Commissioners. We just came back from our second break.

21 It's 4:36 PM on Tuesday, October 2nd, 2018. It's Tiar

22 Wilson, still. And we are at the Fort Garry Hotel. And

23 so, you know, we've spent the past couple of hours.

24 Chantel has opened up so much to us today, and she's done

25 it, you know -- so much has happened, but she's still, you

1 know, shared with us in a kind and gentle way. As part of
2 our process, we have, like, you know, you've shared with
3 us -- well, sometimes we ask questions in relation to some
4 things.

5 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** M'hm.

6 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** And I've been taking a
7 couple of notes to some things just that I'd like to delve
8 into further, if you're willing to. If you think it's
9 too -- you can say you don't want to. But one of the
10 things that I heard off the top was, I guess, where the
11 family breakdown happened for you. Your grandpa. Can you
12 tell me a little bit about your grandpa?

13 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** It's weird, though,
14 because, like, I feel like I had a close relationship with
15 him out of, you know, all the other grandchildren. But
16 then it's, like, I can't -- I can't recall those memories.
17 And I don't know why, either. And I feel like there's a
18 block there. And my mom, unfortunately, confessed to me
19 that she suspected he was sexually abusing me when I was a
20 kid, when he used to babysit me, and maybe -- I don't know.
21 Maybe that's why those memories are repressed. But then,
22 you know, it's, like, that's her suspicions, and I don't
23 know if it was true or not. And -- but yeah.

24 I -- I just -- I remember, like, he gave me
25 a nice sterling chain necklace for my birthday that year he

1 died, and I was so devastated when I lost it. And yeah. I
2 don't know where it ended up going because that was, like,
3 the last, you know, gift he gave me before he died. And he
4 ended up dying from a fall in his home. And he wasn't
5 found for, like, a couple of days. And it was just -- it
6 was just very sad, you know, that he died alone, you know.
7 And, you know, no one had checked on him for, you know, a
8 couple of days. And he was just -- I don't know, dead
9 there in his home by himself.

10 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** So that was when you were
11 nine years old? So that would have been about 1991. And
12 then after that, first -- so that's your grandpa from your
13 mom's side or your dad's side?

14 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** My mom's side.

15 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** That was your mom's dad?

16 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** That was my mom's
17 dad.

18 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Okay. And then you
19 mentioned after that things in the home, your parents
20 started drinking?

21 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** They were already
22 drinking before that. Like, they would have occasional,
23 like, house parties because that was the thing, you know,
24 with my aunties, that they'd have house parties, because we
25 used to live in the developments in -- in the Lord Selkirk

1 developments of the north end of Winnipeg. And because
2 there was a couple of our families that lived in
3 developments, they would, you know, occasionally have,
4 like, rotating, you know, parties, you know, every other
5 weekend or something like that. And yeah. It was just,
6 you know -- it was normalized. We didn't know anything
7 else. We didn't know any different.

8 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** So was there -- like, how
9 did it become to the point where they started abusing each
10 other? Or was it just more that you became aware of it
11 because you got older?

12 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** It was usually when
13 the drinking -- the drinking happened. I remember that,
14 you know, the fights, just how crazy they would get. It
15 was mostly my mom. It always seemed, like, as if my mom
16 was, like, attacking my dad. But I don't -- I don't
17 remember, you know, my dad being the abusive one. But this
18 is -- I don't know. Because I was also, you know, the
19 firstborn. I was daddy's girl. And my mom -- I felt my
20 mom resented me a lot for that, and I felt like that's why
21 she took a lot of her physical abuse on me when he left,
22 because I was his favorite. But yeah. The drinking was
23 always -- usually the drinking parties, like -- I don't
24 know if you ever watched that movie, Once We Were
25 Warriors --

1 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** Oh.

2 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** -- and that's
3 exactly -- I felt like that was our life, you know, living
4 like that. And I always felt like I had to protect
5 my -- my sister from, you know, their drunk friends, you
6 know, from coming into our room.

7 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** M'hm.

8 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Fortunately, we
9 weren't, you know, raped or molested by any of their
10 friends or whatnot. But after my mom had -- my mom and my
11 dad split up and he left, my mom was very promiscuous
12 afterwards. And so I -- I feel like I learned a lot of my
13 promiscuity from her. And, you know, also trying to find,
14 you know, a replacement for my -- my grandpa and my dad
15 leaving. So that was -- I feel like why I started, you
16 know, having sex at a young age.

17 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Thank you for sharing.
18 So -- and then you went into care. And you were there for
19 two years.

20 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** M'hm.

21 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** And you mentioned that
22 you and your siblings got separated?

23 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** M'hm.

24 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** And you mentioned some,
25 you know, a really good home and then a really bad home.

1 And then you mentioned the -- I guess the -- the lack of
2 care from the social worker. I'm just kind of trying to
3 sum that all up and just wondering if there was any more
4 key points about the -- the child welfare system that you'd
5 like to bring up.

6 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Well, it was
7 definitely, like, the -- the bullying from the other -- the
8 relatives of the bad home that we were in that was really,
9 you know, destructive on me, that -- to the point where I,
10 you know, snapped and reacted with, you know, violence, you
11 know. It shouldn't have gotten to that point, you know.
12 The worker should have, like, listened to me and placed,
13 you know, us in a different home. I also wouldn't have,
14 you know, experienced the sexual abuse, too, from their
15 nephews. Yeah.

16 But, like, the positive thing I can see from
17 that is that I realized afterwards is that, you know, we
18 were placed in mostly, like, Indigenous or Métis homes. I
19 didn't realize that was, you know, a thing. I don't
20 remember being placed in a white home at all. I remember
21 being placed in a home where the woman was very into
22 culture, and I remember her -- they picked up a -- a bird
23 from the side of the road and had taken it home and
24 showing -- you know, showing me how to clean it and take
25 off the feathers and, you know, preparing it and stuff like

1 that. And I was, like, I had no clue what this was all
2 about. And -- but I felt like that home was -- even though
3 it was, like, very traditional and, you know, into the
4 culture, I had a bit -- I wanted to -- I don't know what it
5 was, but I felt like, you know, they were too strict. And
6 I made a false accusation of abuse with the foster mother
7 so we could be moved.

8 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** M'hm.

9 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** That's my only
10 regret is, you know, making a false report of abuse against
11 the foster parent. I -- in regards to the good foster home
12 that we were placed in, I -- I really felt, like, you
13 know -- I don't know. I -- I learned a lot from them, and
14 I wish we had been able to stay with them a longer time,
15 because they -- you know, they -- they were and continue to
16 be a good influence in the Indigenous community to this
17 very day in Winnipeg.

18 And, you know, I'm glad we got to -- you
19 know, I got to know them from their foster home. But I
20 really wish I had been able to stay with them longer
21 because I felt like that took away an opportunity for me to
22 get connected to the culture, because I believe they
23 started their own dance troupe. Their -- their daughters
24 were in Girl Scouts. I wanted to eventually go into Girl
25 Scouts, too, but we weren't there that long. It was very

1 short. It was, like, maybe -- I don't know, like, six
2 months or something like that. It wasn't long. And it
3 was, like, the best school I had gone to. You know, they
4 were so supportive of me and wanted my talents to, like,
5 thrive, my -- my smarts. And it was such a, like,
6 welcoming environment compared to where -- where I was, you
7 know, living when we first got apprehended at David
8 Livingstone school where I was bullied a lot for my
9 intelligence.

10 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

11 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. It was
12 quite -- quite the turnaround. But I also feel like what I
13 can take away from being in the foster care system was that
14 if I hadn't been put into it, I wouldn't have known, you
15 know, there was a different life outside of, you know,
16 weekend parties, you know, the abuse, you know, my mom and
17 dad, you know, endured with each other, the drugs and
18 alcohol addictions, the poverty. Yeah. Just -- I wouldn't
19 have known there was a better alternative life if I hadn't
20 been put into these foster homes, especially with the homes
21 where they're connected to the culture so, like, well.

22 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

23 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. I really
24 feel like there's more -- there needs to be more, you know,
25 foster homes like that.

1 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** And you said you're still
2 in contact with them?

3 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. Yeah. Yeah,
4 I just saw my -- my foster mother the other day at a
5 performance. I was performing at drumming.

6 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

7 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** It was funny how it
8 comes all full circle like that eventually, you know. I
9 got connected to the culture, and yeah. She knows I want
10 to -- I want to become a traditional women's dancer.

11 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** M'hm.

12 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. She's
13 totally supportive of that when I'm ready, so yeah. I'm
14 just -- it's good to see her still, you know, around in the
15 community, being a role model. I just wish, you know, I
16 had been able to stay in her home longer so we could have
17 been more connected to the culture at an earlier age.

18 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

19 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah.

20 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Would you like to share
21 their names with us?

22 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. It's Barbara
23 and Clarence Nepinak. Yeah.

24 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Okay.

25 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah.

1 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah. Because a lot of
2 time, we name perpetrators, but we don't name the good
3 people. So it was just an opportunity.

4 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. They were
5 the best grandparents ever -- out of all the foster
6 parents, I mean. Just --

7 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Well, they're probably,
8 like, grandparents now.

9 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. Yeah, they
10 are.

11 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** M'hm.

12 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. I follow
13 them on Facebook and see them at different events here and
14 there. And yeah. It's good to still see them, you know,
15 involved and still here in Winnipeg, because I don't know.
16 They've been around the world, but they still choose to
17 live here in Winnipeg. Me, I'm just, like, oh, I'm out of
18 here as soon as I get the chance. But it's, like, I'm
19 pulled back anyways.

20 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** It's part of your
21 journey.

22 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah.

23 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** So you're -- you did move
24 back here after you graduated?

25 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** No. I stayed -- I

1 stay there. I -- the whole purpose of me moving there
2 after my degree, my intention was to start my own business
3 there. But I didn't realize how much the language law is a
4 barrier for anglophones like me who only speaks one
5 language, English. And it was very hard to, like, start a
6 business there because French has to be the prominent
7 language on any business. So I still tried to connect
8 with, you know, English organizations and business
9 startups. But it was -- the support wasn't there. They
10 claimed it was there, but the Quebec government is really
11 supportive of francophones --

12 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** M'hm.

13 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** -- French citizens,
14 Quebecers, Quebecois. And he grew up there, so he knows.
15 And yeah. It -- it was difficult. I tried for probably
16 about -- I tried for a good two years, trying to start my
17 business. I was reaching out to so many different
18 programs, and it was, like, oh, you don't -- you don't
19 qualify because you didn't live here long enough. Oh, you
20 didn't qualify because you weren't born here. Oh, you
21 don't qualify because, you know, you don't speak English,
22 you know. You don't qualify because you don't have a
23 partner, you know. And I was just, like, it was, like,
24 door, door, door, door, you know, being shut in my face
25 time after time.

1 And -- and it just got to the point where I
2 was, like, okay, you know, if I'm not supposed to be here,
3 then, you know, I'll start the business somewhere else.
4 And I had a job opportunity to come back here, so I took
5 it.

6 And then I had another job opportunity for
7 an internship with an environmental consulting company in
8 Guelph, Ontario. So I did that for eight months, and I did
9 part of the internship there for five months. And then I
10 did part of the internship here for three months at Aki
11 Energy. And yeah. The internship was with Shared Value
12 Solutions.

13 And because I actually got -- probably the
14 year before that, I got -- before I left Montreal, I got
15 into this training program for training Indigenous leaders
16 to develop renewable energy in their communities. And it
17 was an exclusive program, and they only pick 20
18 participants from across the country, and I was one of
19 them. And it was the very first program of this training
20 cohort. And I got chosen. And I had originally wanted to
21 work with Kahnawake, since they're just right next door to
22 Montreal. But it's hard to work with the Mohawks if you're
23 not a Mohawk. I had to learn that the hard way. No matter
24 how much education, how much smarts, how many connections
25 and networks you have, they prefer to work with their own.

1 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Especially in Kahnawake.

2 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. Yeah.

3 Because I found that, you know, I -- I met people in
4 Kanesatake. I met people from Akwesasne, and those
5 Mohawks, you know, are more inclusive than people from
6 Kahnawake. So when I had gone to the 2020 catalyst
7 program, when I couldn't work with Kahnawake, I tried to
8 reach out to Kanesatake and Akewsasne, and no.

9 They -- yeah. They weren't ready. Well, they had their
10 own people working on stuff, but the -- I don't think
11 Kanesatake was ready. Akwesasne was, like, way ahead of
12 the game, so they were good. But yeah.

13 The internship that I got a year after that,
14 that -- that 2010 catalyst program, it was for three
15 months, one week intensive each month, and it was paid for.
16 It was the 12th grant program, and it was covered,
17 completely covered. And it was training to show Indigenous
18 leaders how to start these energy projects in their
19 community.

20 And I'm all about, like, the environment. I
21 didn't do an environmental degree because of the science
22 component. So I figured, well, there's another way I could
23 get around this. So that's why I did community economic
24 development. And I decided, you know, I eventually wanted
25 to, you know, work with my community. And yeah. I

1 got -- I got to go to see a lot of projects across the
2 country, in B.C., in Ontario, in Quebec. And the
3 conference coming up, that I'm doing next weekend, it's
4 that one, the follow-up to that program. And the
5 internship arose because of my interest to want to work
6 with my community on an energy project.

7 So that internship, you know, opened up my
8 eyes to a variety of projects, mostly in Ontario, but also
9 in Manitoba. And I really -- I wanted to switch my focus
10 from my business idea into renewable energy.

11 And I actually reached out to my community
12 to start a community energy plan, but the very bare bones,
13 they're starting from scratch. They needed more or less
14 to, like, start from the basics with a economic development
15 plan first. And I didn't have that, you know, specialty.
16 Mine was more community, and economic was more like
17 economics. I only had one economics class, and that was in
18 university. So -- and I struggled to get through that. So
19 it's more a wait-and-see approach right now, to see if
20 they're going to get that set up first, and then
21 they're -- they're definitely willing to hire me.

22 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

23 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** And to go back and,
24 you know, help them use my connections to create these
25 energy plans for them. Yeah. I've -- I tried to reach out

1 to my mom's community, Sagkeeng, but they're already, you
2 know, on the ball. So I think my dad's community needs me
3 more. So I'm trying to --

4 MS. TIAR WILSON: Refresh my memory, sorry
5 to cut you off.

6 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Fairford.

7 MS. TIAR WILSON: Fair -- yes.

8 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Fairford is my
9 dad's community. My mom's is Sagkeeng.

10 MS. TIAR WILSON: Okay.

11 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Yeah. So --

12 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: What was your dad's
13 name?

14 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: [Father].

15 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: M'hm.

16 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Yeah.

17 MS. TIAR WILSON: That's exciting to hear.
18 I can feel your happiness as you're talking about it. And
19 I hate to bring you back after I brought you to that happy
20 place --

21 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: (Laughter).

22 MS. TIAR WILSON: -- but I still have a
23 few --

24 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: It's okay.

25 MS. TIAR WILSON: Okay. So your pregnancy

1 at 13.

2 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: M'hm.

3 MS. TIAR WILSON: The -- the guy, you said
4 you ran into him a year later, and then his family, and
5 they kind of, like, denied your daughter. And you said you
6 haven't seen him since then? Just -- no need? There's no
7 need for it or --

8 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Well, there was
9 a -- a few times where I -- I -- it's a requirement when
10 you're on welfare and you know who the dad is, you have to
11 try to pursue them for child support. I tried that avenue.
12 I couldn't find him. So I just gave up. That was the only
13 time.

14 MS. TIAR WILSON: Yeah.

15 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: But I also knew
16 that, you know, that type of negativity I didn't want in my
17 daughter's life because I saw, you know, with some of my
18 cousins and their baby daddies and their negative lives and
19 how, I don't know, it has an influence on their children.
20 And I didn't want that. So I felt like, okay, if I don't
21 have that negative, you know, influence in her life, you
22 know, allow that in, then I can be the positive, you know,
23 influence for her. And then I wouldn't have to, you know,
24 be dealing with another person on how to parent her. So I
25 saw it as a bonus. I saw it as a blessing, you know.

1 Yeah.

2 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** I guess --

3 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** She -- she only
4 wanted to know who he was when -- probably when she was,
5 like, around five or six, wondering, you know, because, you
6 know, kids notice. I was native. She looked Filipino.
7 And, you know, they're, like, oh, why -- you know, who's
8 your dad, you know, blah, blah, blah. I just -- kids
9 started asking, so I told her who he was and that I reached
10 out to him, and the situation, and that he didn't want to
11 be in her life unless it was with me. And I didn't want to
12 be with him, so it was his choice.

13 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** The only reason I ask is
14 because part of this process -- and I -- I'm not promising
15 anything, but they -- they have this subpoena process. And
16 so if you have any questions about certain things that
17 happened in your lifetime, you know, that our lawyers and
18 our legal team are doing -- in the process, right? And so
19 one of the other things that you talked about was
20 sterilization. And we don't have to go there, because this
21 is where you got, you know, emotional last time. But I'd
22 like to know more about that, you know, which hospital it
23 was, if you remember doctors or anything like that.

24 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** It was the women's
25 hospital, the one on Notre Dame. That's where I went both

1 times. Yeah. The only thing I did was file a complaint,
2 and the doctors claimed they didn't do that. And they put
3 it on as the result of the -- you know, the ectopic
4 pregnancies and the tubes exploding and, you know, all
5 that. But I felt it was intentional. It was because of my
6 race, because of my age, and, you know, knowing -- knowing
7 more once I, you know, had done more of the research as an
8 older adult, I realized more that -- you know, that -- that
9 this didn't just happen to me, that it also happened to
10 other women. And yeah. It -- it hurt a lot, you know,
11 just seeing -- you know, seeing my cousins and my sisters
12 being able to have, you know, a few kids. Yeah.

13 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** So when you made a
14 complaint, did they come back with a report to you or,
15 like, your medical --

16 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** They gave me
17 a -- they sent me a letter stating they did their, you
18 know, investigation. I don't remember who the doctors
19 were, both times. I don't remember. But I know -- I know
20 there's -- it was documented, because they sent me a letter
21 saying they did an investigation and they found no cause.
22 So --

23 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** I'm just wondering, in
24 case of medical records. So that -- you were 16 at the
25 time?

1 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. And both
2 ectopic pregnancies happened the same year.

3 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Okay. So '82, '92, '96?

4 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** '98. '98.

5 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** '98? Okay. Sorry. I've
6 been trying to add it up.

7 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** My daughter was
8 born in '96.

9 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yes. Yes.

10 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah.

11 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** That's when you were 14.
12 Sorry.

13 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah.

14 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** So that was '98. So that
15 would be about 20 years ago. Oh.

16 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yes.

17 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Do you remember -- and
18 again, I know I might be pushing too much here. But do you
19 remember specifics and, like, dates around roughly when it
20 happened?

21 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** I feel like the
22 first one was in March, and the second one was in either
23 October or November.

24 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yes. Because I remember
25 now, you -- you gave me back -- you said it was around the

1 same time as us right now.

2 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: The move. Yeah.

3 MS. TIAR WILSON: And the season.

4 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Yeah. We moved to
5 Regina after my first ectopic, and then we came back, and I
6 got pregnant soon afterwards.

7 MS. TIAR WILSON: Okay. Yeah. I
8 just -- like, when we give this stuff to the Commissioners,
9 I just -- I just think that's an important thing. Like,
10 if -- you know, if -- if possible, to get -- subpoena
11 records or if anything still exists. Something must if you
12 got a letter back, right?

13 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Yeah.

14 MS. TIAR WILSON: And then another one, you
15 were about 18, you said, and that was the first time you
16 ever tried to go to court, and the guy got acquitted. Was
17 there a trial? Do you remember?

18 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Yeah. It was just
19 a judge. There was no jury. And I had a Legal Aid
20 counsel. Yeah. And yeah. I still see that guy around in
21 Winnipeg occasionally.

22 MS. TIAR WILSON: Do you want to share his
23 name with us today?

24 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: The thing is, I
25 knew when I charged him who he was, what his name was. But

1 then over the years, I've forgotten what it was. And I'm
2 just not sure anymore, because of the years. I mistakenly
3 thought it was someone else, and -- and then it wasn't that
4 person. And then I saw him at an event, and even then,
5 after I had recognized his face and got his name, I just
6 wasn't sure again. But I just -- yeah. I remember
7 he -- he used to go to these dances, these silver dances at
8 St. Matthew's, you know, community dances. And he used to
9 work there. And that's the only way I knew him. And the
10 only reason he got off was because when this rape happened,
11 it was nighttime, and the lawyers -- what happened is the
12 lawyer made him shave his moustache or his beard or
13 something like that, something simple, but it was enough
14 to, like, change the look of him. So I was, like, hm, you
15 don't look the same, you know.

16 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

17 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** But it was him, and
18 they cast doubt into my testimony because they made him,
19 you know, shave his -- or if he did it on his own, I don't
20 know. But, like, if you know men, and he -- he -- you know
21 him, he only has always a moustache, and then he shaves it.
22 It looks different, right?

23 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** M'hm.

24 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** So that's what
25 happened, and they cast doubt into my testimony, and he got

1 acquitted because of that, because it was nighttime, and
2 they're blaming the shadows and stupid things like that.

3 MS. TIAR WILSON: Yeah.

4 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: And because I
5 couldn't remember if he had a moustache back then or not.

6 MS. TIAR WILSON: How did that court
7 process make you feel?

8 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: It was horrible. I
9 had no support then. I remember my lawyer, too,
10 [Lawyer](ph). Or, like, you know, I didn't really feel
11 like, you know, he -- he cared about my case and was doing
12 everything he could to win, you know. Yeah.

13 MS. TIAR WILSON: You said he was Legal
14 Aid. Do you remember, like, where he worked or --

15 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: No.

16 MS. TIAR WILSON: Again, these are just
17 potential for -- if we can subpoena court records and
18 whatever else. And then I think that's it for my -- for
19 some of the points that I -- really -- had really stood out
20 for me. Of course, like, when you were four years old,
21 too, you said a family member had molested you?

22 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Yeah.

23 MS. TIAR WILSON: Was -- was the family
24 member, like, living with you guys, or --

25 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: No, he was

1 babysitting. He was babysitting us. I've never reported
2 him. His own family probably doesn't even know what he did
3 to me.

4 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** So -- and then the other
5 thing you were talking about is culture. So I'm -- you
6 said you didn't have it in your life before, but you
7 mentioned that you want to be a traditional women's dancer
8 now. So I imagine your culture is coming back into your
9 life. Like, how did -- how did that come to be?

10 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** This guy.
11 (Laughter). Even though I, like, was introduced, you know,
12 to Barbara and Clarence, and I grew up here, and, you know,
13 a lot of Natives and culture around, I didn't really feel
14 comfortable or maybe I wasn't ready back then when I
15 finished my master's degree. But moving out east, it was
16 just, like, because there's such a smaller Native
17 population out there, everyone is so more community-minded.
18 They're more welcoming. They're, like, very, you know, a
19 lot of -- what's that word? Camaraderie? Or that word,
20 you know. Everyone is just, like, chummy --

21 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

22 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** -- you know, with
23 each other.

24 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Commonality? Is it
25 commonality?

1 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: No, no, no.

2 MS. TIAR WILSON: Commodity? Well --

3 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Yeah, yeah.

4 MS. TIAR WILSON: A community?

5 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Yeah, basically. A
6 community. Yeah. So there was, like, more, like,
7 Indigenous communities out there. Even sweats. And -- and
8 then I'm -- I met him, and he's -- back then, he was a
9 traditional drummer, a big drummer. And being, you know,
10 around him and the drum group and going to different events
11 and, you know, ceremonies and powwows, that sort of, like,
12 instilled, you know, my love for culture. And I saw how
13 proud it was making him, you know, and how -- the effect it
14 had on him in his life because, you know, his dad, you
15 know, is a residential school survivor. So just, you know,
16 re-connected to the culture is, you know, a way of healing
17 for him.

18 So I saw. I saw this, you know, happening
19 to him, and I -- I -- it rubbed off on me. And I don't
20 know. When I was a little kid, when I was living in -- in
21 the developments, there was a powwow club. And I was -- I
22 joined the powwow club, and I was a fancy shell, and then a
23 jingle dress dancer. And I've never forgotten about that
24 time. That was, like, just before, I think, we were
25 apprehended. And I've always wanted to, like, dance again.

1 But since I already danced, you know, fancy and jingle, I
2 didn't like, you know, the jingles and having to sit down
3 and sitting on them and stuff like that. And yeah, it was
4 heavy. It's a heavy, heavy dress. So yeah.

5 I was considering, like, traditional
6 women's. And I -- because I was struggling with, you know,
7 mostly an alcohol addiction. I really respected the
8 culture and wanted to, like, be sober before joining and,
9 you know, taking on, you know, the protocols and
10 traditional, you know, customs and stuff. Yeah. I end up
11 getting to attend a drum-making workshop, and I got to make
12 my own hand drum. We both did. And it was, like, one of
13 the proudest moments of my, you know, life, just knowing
14 how sacred it is, learning the teachings of it, and --

15 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** Like (indiscernible).

16 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. Yeah.
17 Reclamation. You know, because no one in my family is,
18 like, connected to the culture, at all, except maybe one
19 cousin with our kids. But other than that, no one is.
20 It's almost like religion destroyed our culture on both
21 sides of my family. And I realized that was related to
22 colonization.

23 So I was realizing more and more, you know,
24 some of my university education that connecting to the
25 culture, you know, was a way for me to, like, heal. And

1 once I had that drum, I actually waited, like, maybe a year
2 before I started really using it. I just was trying to
3 respect it and, you know, not use it while I was drinking
4 or, you know, using drugs.

5 And -- and probably not too soon after,
6 within a few months of me getting -- making my own hand
7 drum, I got gifted another drum. And that, like, you know,
8 I know how sacred that is, just being gifted something like
9 that. And I was just, like -- I was, like, bawling. So I
10 had, like -- it was those signals, you know, like those
11 signs that feel, like, okay. I get to make one drum. Now
12 I'm gifted another drum. I feel, like, you know, the
13 Creator is, like, sending me these signals. Like, you've
14 got to drum, you've got to drum. You know. (Laughter).

15 So yeah. Yeah. I probably waited a year,
16 until just last year. I really started finding drumming
17 groups, even in Guelph when I moved there. Yeah. I found
18 a drum group and started drumming and learning the songs.
19 And -- and then when I moved back here, I was trying to,
20 you know, look for drum groups, too, and I found the north
21 end women's -- North End's Women Centre and the West
22 Central Women's Resource Centre at Ma Mawi, and it was
23 just, like, word-of-mouth. Oh, there's a drumming group
24 here, here, here, here. You know, it was just, like, you
25 know, and just -- I just -- I don't know. I felt more

1 pride, more healing, you know. Just being able to learn
2 the songs and drumming them.

3 And even going to, like, performances and
4 realizing, you know, there's not many, you know, Indigenous
5 people out there re-connected to the culture, and the ones
6 that are sticking to it, there's not many. And I felt like
7 I was -- I felt like we were a very small number.

8 It was almost like me getting my, you know,
9 grad degree. There's not many of us out there that have
10 that education. And it's the same with the culture. And I
11 felt like, oh, there's a small amount of us re-connecting.
12 And -- and just, like, what was it? In the last couple of
13 weeks? Yeah. We just started attending a Anishinaabemowin
14 class.

15 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Oh.

16 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** So we've been
17 wanting to learn the language, too. And this guy started
18 dancing last year, and so I just seen, you know, how proud
19 he was, you know, dancing, finally dancing after drumming,
20 you know. And just, like, I've been wanting to, you know,
21 join him and, you know, us going, you know, on the powwow
22 trail and dancing together. Yeah. So yeah. It's
23 just -- it's, you know, through him, through other people,
24 through, you know -- it's funny that I had to move away to
25 really appreciate my culture.

1 It seemed like people out east are more, you
2 know, gung-ho about it than people here are. And that was
3 just, like, surprising. Yeah. I had to maintain that sort
4 of connection by, you know, finding these drum groups and,
5 you know, finding these events and powwows for him, and
6 just building community through that.

7 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** M'hm.

8 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah.

9 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Is there any people in
10 the community that you want to acknowledge? Like, I know
11 part of this process is, you know, sharing our truths, you
12 know, the horrible, horrible tragedies and trauma that
13 we've endured.

14 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yes.

15 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** But also part of it is,
16 you know, acknowledging those that are doing good for us.
17 Is there any specific groups along the way that, you know,
18 helped you when you really needed it?

19 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** (Laughter). Let's
20 see. Here's my list. (Laughter).

21 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** Where to begin.

22 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** M'hm. Did you ever
23 meet Jean Becker? In Guelph? In Guelph?

24 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yes. Yes.

25 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** Yeah.

1 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: As drumming.

2 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: She was the Elder
3 when I took my master's in --

4 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: At the University
5 of Guelph?

6 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: Because I lived in
7 Brantford --

8 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Okay.

9 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: -- and we'd go to
10 Guelph to her sweat.

11 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Oh. Yeah.

12 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: M'hm.

13 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: I did go to her for
14 a sweat.

15 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: M'hm.

16 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: It's out on the
17 farm?

18 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: M'hm.

19 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Yeah. Yeah. I
20 did.

21 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: She comes here every
22 year to pick the Sundance.

23 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Oh, really?

24 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: Yeah.

25 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Oh, I think I met

1 people out east that did say that they go to Sagkeeng and
2 Sundances out here. I was, like, what, really? You guys
3 travel all the way over there?

4 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** Yes, they do.

5 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah.

6 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** Every year.

7 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** I had no idea. So
8 people and organizations or -- that helped me along the
9 way?

10 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

11 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Whew. Oh, my God.

12 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** Da-da-da-da.

13 (Laughter).

14 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah.

15 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Like, where they have
16 programs that are doing, like, or people --

17 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Oh, many.

18 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** -- or just people in
19 general.

20 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** I would definitely
21 say, obviously, Barb and Clarence, you know, were those
22 role models, you know, connecting me to that culture when I
23 was a child. I would have to say there was maybe a few
24 teachers who, like, noticed my intelligence, my talents, at
25 storytelling, writing, stuff like that, when I was a kid in

1 elementary school. Like, Mrs. Bergman, Mr. Ens,
2 (phonetic). Oh, there was my math teacher, too, but I
3 don't remember his name. Yeah. Just teachers in school
4 were -- were always, like, my, you know, motivators, you
5 know. They saw, you know, my intelligence and encouraged
6 me to, you know, keep following, you know, my schooling.

7 There was definitely programs like the
8 Adolescent Parent Centre, you know, when I became a teen
9 parent. That was -- oh, that was amazing. Yeah. There
10 were a great support, you know, just being able -- allowing
11 me to bring my daughter with me to school, even attend
12 while I was pregnant.

13 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** I think they're still
14 around, too, eh?

15 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah, they are.
16 Yes, they are.

17 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** (Indiscernible).

18 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** There's also Career
19 Trek. Career Trek was actually instrumental in giving me
20 that inside look into post-secondary school because
21 they -- they travel to (indiscernible) Red River College
22 one week. They go to the University of Winnipeg another
23 week, the University of Manitoba, and they explore
24 different programs available out there. So they give you a
25 picture of, like, oh, if you're considering, you know,

1 university after high school, this is what's available.

2 And it was, like, a nighttime program. We
3 got to bring our kids with us, and they provided meals.
4 And it was very good. It was, like -- I don't know if I
5 would have, like, even considered university if it wasn't
6 for that program, even though, like, I probably waited,
7 like, 14 years afterwards. But I eventually, you know,
8 came back on that path. So Career Trek was definitely
9 instrumental with me pursuing my education.

10 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** And before we get to the
11 next one, are they Indigenous-led or is it more, like,
12 just, like, the city, everybody goes there?

13 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Everybody, yeah.

14 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Okay.

15 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah, anybody.
16 Well, for us, there was a component for us teen parents,
17 so --

18 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

19 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** -- yeah. Yeah.
20 There was also RAP, Resources For Adolescent Parents. I
21 think that's with New Directions. I think they're still
22 around, too.

23 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** New Direction?

24 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah.

25 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** (INDISCERNIBLE).

1 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah.

2 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** At St. Boniface.

3 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. So RAP.
4 APC, Career Trek. Oh. Boys and Girls Club of Winnipeg.
5 They were very helpful when we were living in poverty as
6 kids, you know, just having the programs available to us,
7 even snacks when we didn't have food at home, you know,
8 feeding us. Where else?

9 I would say David Livingstone school was,
10 like -- I didn't realize it back then, but they did have,
11 like, those -- they did incorporate, like, Native, you
12 know, books. I remember reading, you know, books about
13 Native people and, you know, what's -- what's that one
14 where the Arctic, you know, and they're blowing in the
15 snow, and they're trying to steal the little Inuit child or
16 something. And I don't know. I -- I didn't realize that
17 was, like, a Native book, but yeah.

18 And the Powwow Club. I found out the guy
19 who runs that, George Spence, he's still -- he's still
20 around, in the community, still teaching powwow club. What
21 else? I know you're not going to be happy to hear this,
22 but there was my ex-partner, Ray, who was one of the old
23 people who believed in me to go to university and, like,
24 encouraged me when not -- even my own family would -- you
25 know, believed in me. My daughter was a big motivating

1 factor for me to, you know, stay on the straight and
2 narrow, you know. My Auntie Cecilia. She helped me out
3 when I was facing homelessness, when I was transitioning
4 and moving between these three provinces last year and this
5 year.

6 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** Yeah.

7 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. She helped,
8 gave me a place to stay, loaned me money when, you know, I
9 needed it. Elders at the university. They were very -- at
10 the University of Winnipeg and Concordia University, they
11 were very helpful. Like, they were -- the student
12 lounge -- the Aboriginal student lounges at the university
13 were very -- you know, they were like a home away from home
14 for me, like, because I was dedicated to my studies. I
15 would stay on campus until it closed most nights, just
16 studying, writing, researching, being able to talk to
17 Elders, you know, about my difficulties and them
18 understanding, providing, you know, encouraging words of
19 support to keep going. I probably wouldn't be here without
20 them.

21 Definitely the Sexual Assault Resource
22 Centre at Concordia University. Like, I wouldn't have
23 finished my grad studies if it weren't for their help and
24 support because, you know, I probably would have just,
25 like, called it quits and moved back here and felt like a

1 failure, you know? But they kept me going, letting me know
2 that there's resources out there that, you know, if you
3 experience a sexual assault, you know, either on or off
4 campus while you're, you know, in school, you
5 should -- there's resources and supports out there for you
6 that are -- you know, there's therapy, you know. There is,
7 you know, support groups, you know. There is -- they'll
8 assist you to go do the rape kit or they'll assist you to
9 pay for your cab to go to the hospital and come back.
10 They'll, you know, have someone to go with you, you know.
11 There was just so much that got me through it all. Yeah.

12 Those are the -- like, I think of,
13 like -- yeah. How the --

14 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** How --

15 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** There was also
16 the -- there was the Y program, the YIP. It was the youth
17 internship program, and they were instrumental in getting
18 me working in the government at Environment Canada, and I
19 felt like, oh, without that program, I wouldn't have been
20 able to, you know, be able to find work in the government
21 because I got the work at Environment Canada, then the City
22 of Winnipeg, then Service Canada. So I got to get in that
23 doorway because of that program, so that was a gate. Yeah.

24 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** I have a couple more
25 questions, but I'm also being wary of the time.

1 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Okay.

2 MS. TIAR WILSON: It's, like, 5:27.

3 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Okay.

4 MS. TIAR WILSON: Are you -- are you -- I
5 mean, I'm comfortable. Are you --

6 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Yeah.

7 MS. TIAR WILSON: -- do you have -- are
8 you -- are you here for as long as we need you?

9 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: No, I'm okay. I'm
10 okay. (Laughter). As long as -- as she's okay.

11 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Yeah.

12 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: Yeah.

13 MS. TIAR WILSON: You're okay for me to ask
14 a few more?

15 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: M'hm.

16 MS. TIAR WILSON: I'm just curious about
17 your education path. Like, you're a single mother.
18 How -- obviously, dedication to get to where you are today,
19 but, like, were you funded or -- like, tell me a little bit
20 about your -- your journey there because that's -- there's
21 probably lots of stories there, too.

22 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Yeah. You know
23 how -- how they -- they have the visuals that, you know,
24 choose path A, you know, this is how it's going to look,
25 but then in reality, it's, like, pffff, you know, like

1 that? (Laughter). To get from point A to point B? Yeah,
2 that was my -- my path to education. Like, I
3 broke -- like, the reason I stayed in school was, like,
4 because those teachers who believed in me made me realize,
5 you know, I have potential. You know, I have
6 these -- these talents, these -- these abilities that I
7 didn't see in myself until they pointed it out to me
8 because I didn't think it was, you know, unusual or unique
9 or different. But I saw it as a bad thing because I was
10 bullied for it because those -- those special assemblies
11 when they would give out awards for, you know, your
12 achievements, like I mentioned before, that there was one
13 assembly where I got four awards.

14 So I was, like, embarrassed and shy. And I
15 should have been, like, proud and be like, you know,
16 confident, but the way I -- like, I understood later on
17 that it had to do with, like, the crab in the bucket, you
18 know? People see you're doing better than them, they're
19 going to, like, want to bring you down to their level. And
20 I understand that's why, you know, the bullying happened.
21 A lot of them were, like, teasing me and saying I was
22 teacher's pet and calling me names. And it took a lot just
23 to get through even elementary school.

24 Junior high wasn't that much different.
25 Like, when we were in foster homes, that was -- going from

1 David Livingstone in the north end where mostly -- there
2 was mostly Native kids, I -- you know, it was normal. You
3 know, I was, like, oh, I'm just everyone else, blah, blah,
4 blah. But then when I went into the foster homes, oh,
5 where they placed us, it was just, like, white
6 neighbourhoods. And we were usually the only Native kids
7 in the school. And we had to deal with obviously bullying
8 and teasing just like we were even in David Livingstone,
9 but for a different reason. It was for our race.

10 And except for the one school where I was
11 at, Buchanan -- Buchanan was, like, the best school I was
12 at where -- where they, you know, empowered me to
13 acknowledge my talents and abilities and encouraged it
14 with, like, you know, spelling bees, patrols, you know.
15 There was even the -- a new program they started I was part
16 of. It was conflict resolution managers. That's where
17 we -- we were taught how to go into the playground and, you
18 know, help, you know, stop conflicts between other students
19 and, you know, help them resolve it. Yeah. Yeah.

20 I guess it was -- like choir. Choir helped
21 me get through it, the rest of elementary at the end of,
22 you know, the whole grade -- grade 6 with the foster care.
23 You know, having those extracurricular activities really
24 helped. Like, at Buchanan, I remember I was in volleyball.
25 At Rockwood, I remember I was in choir. Yeah. It was

1 just -- I realize, you know, those extracurricular
2 activities in, you know, adjacent with my education was
3 important. And I also passed it on to my daughter when she
4 was older.

5 Just having -- when I -- when I got back to
6 my mom and we were -- we were sent to Hugh John Macdonald
7 School, I was bullied again, but I think it was because I
8 was shy, and I was a loner. And I guess I hadn't
9 developed, you know, social skills. I still feel -- I
10 still struggle with, you know, social skills to this day.
11 And I was, like, bullied for that.

12 And I remember I was jumped one day after
13 school, and it's weird, but I, like, yelled at them with,
14 like, you know, stop, you know, quit beating on me, you
15 know, that's enough, I'm already getting beaten up at home,
16 I don't need to come to school to get beaten on some more.
17 And the person who was beating me up, like, sympathized
18 with me because she also was getting beaten up at home,
19 too.

20 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** M'hm.

21 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** So it was that
22 projection of violence. And we ended up becoming friends,
23 and those were the -- those were the bad influences, the
24 wrong crowd, I ended up running with.

25 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

1 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** But I felt like me
2 being pregnant sort of stopped that, you know, running with
3 the wrong crowd because who knows where my life would have
4 ended up, you know, still being in there. I probably would
5 have dropped out of high school and never gone back. But
6 having APC as a teen, you know, a pregnant teen, really
7 helped me stay in school.

8 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

9 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** If it wasn't for
10 that -- I mean, because Hugh John Macdonald, once they
11 found out that -- well, they actually didn't find out. I
12 actually found APC or my mom did for me, and I just
13 transferred and told them, yeah, I'm moving to this other
14 school because I'm pregnant. And they're, like, oh, what?
15 You know, they were, like, you're pregnant? Yeah.
16 So -- in my -- you know -- yeah. So it was just being able
17 to go to APC and bring my kid with me would -- kept me, you
18 know, in junior high.

19 Guidance counsellors. That was a biggie for
20 me in junior high and high school was having the support of
21 guidance counsellors who I could go to about my stresses at
22 home or in school. Why can't I remember his name? There
23 was one counsellor at Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute
24 where I went to high school. And he was a big help. And
25 there was another woman who was a big help, too, who -- who

1 knew, you know -- they knew, obviously, I was a teen
2 parent. There wasn't many teen parents going to this
3 school, so that was one of the reasons why I felt like I
4 didn't fit in.

5 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

6 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** But because of the
7 whole ectopic pregnancy and just all that shit happening in
8 my life at that time, I dropped out. But I didn't drop out
9 that long. I -- I met this guy who introduced me to
10 his -- this adult education program called -- it originally
11 was called Hope, but they changed the name to Horizons,
12 Horizons Learning Centres.

13 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

14 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** And they're still
15 around.

16 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

17 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** And so I got
18 my -- I ended up joining in 2000 when I was 18.

19 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** M'hm.

20 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** And I ended up
21 finishing in 2002, when I was 20. So I was the first in my
22 family to get my high school diploma. And -- and then
23 probably about three years later, I tried -- I tried going
24 to college at CDI College. But I think that was doomed
25 from the start because I was addicted to crack at the time.

1 So I thought, you know, oh, I could, you know, I could
2 still, you know, have this -- you know, I was a functioning
3 addict. You know, I was able to pay the bills, you know,
4 the rent, buy food. It was just, for me, like a
5 recreational thing. But then it ended up, you know,
6 consuming me. And I ended up having to drop out of college
7 after four months.

8 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** M'hm.

9 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Funding for that,
10 it -- it wasn't -- it would have been covered if I had
11 stayed in longer than the six-month period. It was a
12 one-year program for, like, 12 grand, just for one year,
13 because it's a private college.

14 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

15 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** So because at that
16 time, I was with Sagkeeng -- was it through them? Or
17 maybe -- maybe I got a loan through Manitoba Student Aid.
18 Yeah. Either way, I ended -- I ended up in debt for
19 the -- for that program for those four months. And my
20 band, Sagkeeng, didn't want to fund me, and I still went
21 ahead and got a student loan. As a result of that, I -- I
22 ended up switching to my dad's band, Fairford.

23 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

24 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** But that was
25 the -- that was probably a few years later. And one of the

1 main reasons I -- I transferred was because I think there
2 was some sort of economic opportunity that -- I think it
3 was oil or gas. They were going to get revenue or
4 something.

5 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

6 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** And yeah. I wanted
7 to transfer there, you know, to get that, but we
8 didn't -- we didn't end up getting that or the deal fell
9 through or something. I don't know. Anyways, I ended up
10 transferring to my dad's band. And they forgot to transfer
11 my daughter with me, some sort of mixup. Anyways, yeah. I
12 ended up transferring.

13 And because of them, I was able to go to the
14 University of Winnipeg. They covered my -- my -- they
15 covered my tuition and then books and supplies. But they
16 did -- they gave me some money for living expenses, but it
17 was barely enough to take care of, like, the rent and
18 bills. I think the last year of my degree, I had to take
19 a -- I took a part-time job with Service Canada just to
20 help, you know, pay the bills and such.

21 And that was just -- oh. Yeah. That was
22 beyond stressful, having to work part-time, doing a
23 full-time, you know, degree was crazy. I don't know how
24 single mothers can do it with more than one kid. I managed
25 to do it one kid. Like, if you have more than one kid and

1 you're working part-time and going to school full-time, you
2 know, you have my respect. But yeah. That was insane for
3 me. Throughout my whole degree, I actually prided myself
4 on not having to apply for student loans because of the
5 lack of money there was that the government gave for this
6 PSSP program --

7 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

8 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** -- because I
9 learned later it had to do with the 2 percent cap on
10 education. And the money that I -- they allotted me for
11 living expenses was barely enough to cover my bills and
12 rent, like I said. So I had to apply for a lot of, like,
13 scholarships, bursaries, awards, and over those four years,
14 I managed to remain debt-free. I managed to not have to
15 get a student loan. I did get one student loan, but
16 because I ended up getting the three -- three awards soon
17 after, I ended up repaying that, like, within a week of
18 that.

19 So I managed to get through my -- my
20 bachelor's degree debt-free and winning, probably, like,
21 \$20,000 in scholarship money over those four years, just
22 to, like, support me and my daughter that the band I wasn't
23 able to help with my living expenses.

24 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

25 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Then when I got

1 accepted into my graduate degree in -- at -- in Montreal at
2 Concordia, fortunately, they -- there was a -- they -- they
3 gave some money to help with moving expenses. And yeah.
4 So that helped a bit. And -- but doing, like -- I learned
5 quickly that you go anything higher than a bachelor's
6 degree, the amount of funding opportunities, like, severely
7 is decreased. And there's not many out there.

8 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

9 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Like, I -- I found
10 out there's a lot here in Winnipeg because there's such a
11 large Indigenous population, but when I moved out there
12 east in -- in Montreal, there was, like, next to nothing.
13 I struggled a lot financially during my grad degree. There
14 was one scholarship I applied for that said it was a
15 graduate degree scholarship, but then they were getting all
16 technical because mine was a one-year intensive diploma,
17 and it wasn't like a master's because it wasn't two years
18 or longer.

19 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** M'hm.

20 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** So I applied, and
21 they were, like, oh, you're -- you're disqualified. I'm,
22 like, why? You guys say "graduate." You know, you guys
23 need to change the wording or change your, you know,
24 guidelines here because I'm a graduate. You know, this is
25 my -- a graduate diploma, you know. But I see it as a

1 degree because of the intensity of it being all year.

2 Yeah. The amount that they provided me for
3 living expenses was just barely enough to cover my rent.
4 That was it. I had to -- I had to take a part-time job. I
5 had to apply for -- I had to apply for a Manitoba student
6 loan. I didn't qualify to apply for my -- anything out
7 there for some reason because I wasn't a resident of
8 Quebec.

9 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

10 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Even though I had
11 moved there. I hadn't lived there long enough to be
12 considered a resident. So a lot of the scholarships, I
13 didn't apply for. There was, like I said, barely any for
14 Indigenous students. And I struggled that whole year
15 financially to support myself and him.

16 Yeah. And yeah. I -- I had to work a
17 part-time job. I took a part-time job, two part-time jobs,
18 concurrently, just to make it through university and to pay
19 the bills and buy groceries. And I ended up winning,
20 maybe, one scholarship that lasted for maybe, like, two
21 months. That was it. So that was my education path.

22 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Ah.

23 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** But I got it done.

24 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yes, you did.

25 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** Yeah.

1 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** I remember a question now
2 that went, again, is in the ends -- as Native people, we
3 kind of talk in circles here. I remember something, again,
4 taking you back, sorry, but you mentioned you joined an
5 escort service. Do you want to share that name of that
6 service and is it still around today?

7 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** This was before the
8 whole crackdown on escort services, because when I was
9 working, it was just, like, so many. But the person I
10 worked for, her name was Joanne. I don't remember her last
11 name, but she had many different company names. So they
12 had different -- many phone lines in their office, and it
13 was just downtown, right beside the Kens restaurant.

14 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Okay.

15 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. It was
16 located right there. And that's where we worked out of.
17 And we were sent out to calls, and yeah. They had many
18 advertisements in the Yellow Pages.

19 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Is that how you --

20 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** They just had
21 us -- yeah.

22 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Is that how you found it?

23 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. I think
24 that's how I found it, from the Yellow Pages. Or maybe it
25 was -- yeah. It was either Yellow Pages or in the

1 newspaper. Maybe when I was looking for work. One of
2 those two, but that's where they had the -- their ads. And
3 they had a variety of company names in different ads, but
4 it was just the one company. But yeah.

5 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** And then you mentioned
6 your friend [Friend1] in 2010 who went missing. You kind
7 of said he was, like, kind of a catalyst for your change.
8 Is that fair to say?

9 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. Yeah.
10 His -- yeah. His disappearance, like, for the longest
11 time, you know, up to 2010, you know, I was coping with all
12 the, you know, trauma I experienced up to that point. I
13 think there was a point, I don't know when, but I had
14 blocked everything out, you know, just to function. I
15 think I was going to, you know, therapy every now and then.
16 But I think there was something -- like, his disappearance
17 sort of, like, triggered in me all those memories that I
18 wasn't acknowledging, that it was just, like -- you know,
19 it was, like, waiting -- bubbling to the surface.

20 And then his disappearance just, like -- and
21 I almost dropped out of school that year, because
22 his -- his disappearance next month will be eight years.
23 And that was, like, the first couple of months, I was in
24 university, and it was hard to, like, not share that with
25 anybody because I felt like, you know, people didn't

1 relate. But then, you know, more and more, I learned about
2 it that, you know, it seemed like the focus was more or
3 less on Indigenous women, and his disappearance sort of
4 opened up my eyes to that other aspect of it, that this is
5 also happening to Indigenous men.

6 And doing more of that research, I found out
7 that statistically, you know, all the missing and murdered
8 men are -- seem to be -- have the higher numbers than
9 women. But it seems like the men -- they're killed by
10 people they're -- they're known to, and the crimes are
11 solved quickly versus the women where it's -- it's done by,
12 you know, unknown people, assailants, people they don't
13 know, strangers, and it's left unsolved. So I think that's
14 where the big difference was.

15 But, yeah, just -- I actually went to,
16 like -- because of his disappearance, a few years after, I
17 finally went to ceremony. I went to Uwipee (ph) and a
18 shaking tent ceremony, and he contacted me through those.
19 And I was given a gift from him, from the other side. And
20 it was sad to know that, you know, he's -- he's on -- it's
21 sad to know that, you know, he's -- he's gone. But it's
22 even harder, because I was asking, okay, if you're gone,
23 then where -- where can we find you, you know? Where can
24 we give closure to your family? And the spirits told me,
25 you know, it wasn't for me to know, and that it will happen

1 in due time. Yeah. It was just -- it was very hard to
2 come to that realization.

3 And just the description of -- of where he
4 described him to be makes me visualize that, you know,
5 someone murdered him, because he -- he said he was tied up
6 in a barrel. And I could just, like -- I can't -- it's
7 hard for me to imagine, you know, his final thoughts that
8 he had to, you know, go through, experiencing this, and
9 knowing that he's still out there and he hasn't been found
10 and giving closure to his family yet and his daughter.

11 Besides his disappearance, he was the one
12 directly I -- I've been impacted by the biggest because,
13 growing up in the north end, growing up here in Winnipeg, I
14 was -- I was part of this art project with Hannah Klaus
15 (ph). And it was writing out the names of all the people
16 that have gone missing or were murdered of the women. And
17 I realized a lot of them -- I realized I knew a lot of
18 them. And I felt like, you know -- I felt like -- I almost
19 felt like, you know, they were, like, flies, you know,
20 dropping, one after one, you know, around me, you know.
21 That's how I visualize it, that, you know, why me? Why am
22 I still here? Why do I get to live and they're all dying
23 around me? They're all going missing.

24 It's -- it's very hard to, like, live with
25 that, knowing, you know, these -- these are women you went

1 to school with or you hung out with or knew in some way,
2 you know, even, like, bingo, you know. You see them at
3 bingo, and now they're not there anymore, and they're on
4 the list. Even my sister's friend was murdered. And her
5 friend's cousin, Jennifer, is missing. And it's just,
6 like, there's so many -- there's not many degrees of
7 separation between me and all of these women, you know,
8 locally, and it -- it hurts. It hurts a lot because I live
9 with survivor's guilt because of all the other times that
10 it could have been me.

11 And -- and then I -- it got even -- besides
12 Darren, it was -- I went to school with Amanda Sinclair,
13 whose sister, Carolyn Sinclair, was murdered by Shawn Lamb,
14 right in -- in my neighbourhood. And I felt like there's
15 another, you know, close tie. And I was just sick and
16 tired of standing by, you know, not -- knowing, feeling
17 helpless, feeling vulnerable.

18 I wanted to, like, take that power back and
19 do something about it, take action. And that's why I felt,
20 like, you know, I've got to use my education towards this.
21 And that's why I did my practicum on women's safety and
22 missing and murdered Indigenous women. Just creating
23 awareness and empowering others, you know, to tell their
24 stories, because there wasn't many people encouraging me to
25 tell my story. It was a very lonely road, you know. But

1 it's also, like, an empowering one, too, you know, to have
2 your voice heard, to speak up and speak out against these
3 systems of injustice and oppression.

4 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

5 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** And just
6 understanding, you know, how that all connects to history
7 of Canada and colonization and policing and attempted
8 genocide of our people. Yeah. Not many people are at that
9 point. They're not ready or understanding. I'm aware.

10 I'm -- and I'm not afraid to speak out, and
11 I guess for some people, that's -- I'm -- I'm a liability
12 or I'm a danger, you know, to society, because, you know,
13 I'm -- I have nothing to lose. Like, if I did, you know,
14 I'd be dead by now, you know. But I'm not. So I feel like
15 I've got to use my voice, you know, get out there, tell my
16 story, gather others to tell their story.

17 I usually do that with blanket exercises
18 that I facilitate. And it's an honour to hear other people
19 tell their story to me and confide in me and be open like
20 that, because I know how hard it is for myself to, you
21 know, tell my story. But I also know that if I don't tell
22 my story, others aren't going to tell their story, you
23 know.

24 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** I mean, that's partly why
25 I'm kind of, like, pushing you on some of these questions,

1 because I recognize -- because you call it your smarts and
2 how you're able to weave all of this trauma and connect it
3 to colonization, but also, like, connect -- you can see the
4 good in the things, right? So that's -- that's why I'm
5 kind of, like, prying a little bit more. And I -- I feel
6 like I could keep asking questions, but again, I just want
7 to be aware of the time. It's almost six. Like,
8 how -- how are we feeling in here?

9 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** If you want to keep
10 going, just go. My back's hurting, so I'm trying to keep
11 going.

12 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** I'm good, yeah.
13 You're okay?

14 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** Yeah, I'm okay.

15 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Okay. Shoo.

16 (Laughter).

17 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** Oh, thank you.

18 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** You can stand up and
19 stretch for a minute.

20 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** Yeah. I just need to --

21 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** No, I was just -- you
22 know, we've covered a lot of things, but there was also
23 the -- the part of recommendations, last, but not least, in
24 that area. Have you thought about some of the
25 recommendations that you'd like the Commissioners to

1 consider in terms of, you know, survivors, but also, you
2 know, as somebody who has the experience, somebody who's
3 gone missing. I mean, he's a man, but I think
4 that's -- that's still that connection, right? Like, you
5 know, our men and boys are just as important as women,
6 although our mandate is women. But that's that, again,
7 connection.

8 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** For me, I feel like
9 education is a big part. I had to, like -- I didn't really
10 learn about the whole history of colonization and the
11 one-sidedness that they teach about Canadian history and
12 Indigenous peoples. You know, there's only one version.
13 It's not a full story. It doesn't include, you know, our
14 people's history. And I feel like that's a big component
15 that's missing, and that needs to be included. From my
16 work in Montreal in the short time I was there, there was a
17 lot of movement towards incorporating the blanket exercise
18 as a teaching tool of colonization and the attempted
19 genocide of Indigenous peoples.

20 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

21 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** And that was on its
22 way towards being made mandatory for students in -- they
23 were debating about how young to teach them. Some were
24 suggesting grade 6. Some were suggesting grade 8.

25 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Okay.

1 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. And just
2 doing blanket exercises, making that mandatory, a part of
3 the curriculum, because it's very participatory. It's not
4 like, you know, oh, you read a -- a paragraph or a chapter
5 and you're done. It's not like that, you know? There's
6 whole courses, you know, that can be taught about, you
7 know, Indigenous peoples and our history. And there's not
8 much time or emphasis placed on it in, you know, curriculum
9 from elementary to junior high to high school, let alone
10 post-secondary.

11 Like, I was part of the University of
12 Winnipeg Aboriginal Student Council, and we were pushing
13 towards this imposed curriculum of, you know, take at least
14 a three-credit course, something on Indigenous history.
15 And that was, like, a lot of conflict. And oh. But --

16 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** But now it's mandatory
17 there.

18 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. Yeah. But
19 people don't understand, like, how that worked, you know,
20 how that -- how that's been building up over the years,
21 how -- how it took a certain chain of events for that to
22 happen. Like, just even the inclusion of Indigenous
23 peoples on the regular student body councils at these
24 universities. That's the reason, like, one of the ways we
25 were able to infiltrate, basically, the regular student

1 body is getting one of our people onto this usually
2 dominant white student association in these universities.
3 And it's very hard and daunting to, you know, get in there
4 because usually, you're the only one. And there's a lot of
5 that inherent racism, especially here in Winnipeg, you
6 know, growing up with it, you know. It's everywhere.
7 Like, you feel it. You recognize it. And just calling
8 people out on it, it's hard because they aren't ready to
9 acknowledge it.

10 That's another aspect is teaching about
11 this, you know, racism. I started doing the, you know,
12 workshops on this in Montreal, as well. And that's where I
13 felt like the east coast is more -- especially
14 Montreal -- they're more open, you know, to these ideas, to
15 the learning both sides of the history and, you know, and
16 undoing those, you know -- these oppressive, you know,
17 attitudes, these, you know, little, insidious ways of, you
18 know, like -- something simple like not even sitting
19 beside, you know, an Indigenous person on the bus, you
20 know. Or here in Winnipeg, you know, taxicabs, you know,
21 refusing to take you because you're Indigenous or making
22 you pay up -- you know, up front because they assume, you
23 know, the stereotype that you're poor or that you're going
24 to rob them or, you know, something else. Just dispelling
25 those stereotypes is, you know, more work that needs to be

1 done.

2 I feel like there should be more
3 organizations hiring, you know, people like me who are
4 doing this work, trying to, you know, support ourselves
5 doing this work. That --

6 **MR. FRED CHIESEL:** That's for --

7 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** So yeah. It's just
8 like -- I was trying to support myself doing this work out
9 in Montreal, and the emotional labour it takes,
10 it's -- it's a lot to take on. Like, whenever I don't get
11 paid for a workshop, probably, like 75 percent of that
12 would go towards self-care, you know, because the mental
13 and the emotional and physical toll it takes on you, it's
14 not easy, you know. You think someone's coming into a
15 classroom to, you know, teach about antiracism or
16 colonization of Indigenous peoples, but you don't realize
17 the impact it has on the facilitator. And it takes a lot
18 out of you, and I had to learn that the hard way. And I
19 feel like there needs to be those, you know, supports for
20 facilitators, as well, who are, you know, brave enough to
21 do this type of work.

22 Yeah. Incorporating, you know, the blanket
23 exercise in the curriculum, making it mandatory in schools.
24 That was progressive, happening in Montreal, and the
25 English board -- English school board system in Quebec,

1 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** That told me right
2 off the bat, the babies are not being acknowledged and
3 honoured, the ones that are still being in the tummy, not
4 being honoured and acknowledged, right? The babies are
5 still being forgotten. Bring our babies home, CFS.

6 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. That -- that
7 was another thing you reminded me of. Art -- art activism.
8 Like, the Walking with Our Sisters moccasin vamps?

9 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** M'hm.

10 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** That was a biggie.
11 The Red Dress Project. That was, like -- that was actually
12 first done at the University of Winnipeg by Jaime Black in
13 the university. And I remember how impactful that was on
14 me, just seeing these red dresses hung up around the
15 university. And I'm just, like, what's going on here? Why
16 are these dresses hanging around here? And then when I
17 understood, I was, like, oh, you know, oh, my God, yes, you
18 know. And just, you know, having something, you know, like
19 that, you know, the artists, supporting artists who are
20 doing this, you know, great, amazing work, you know,
21 through, you know, the red dress, through the moccasin
22 vamps, you know --

23 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** M'hm.

24 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** -- through their
25 art projects, you know, through paintings, you know. Just

1 that has been making an impact, you know, out east. And I
2 feel, you know, it's slowly making its way out here in the
3 west. Yeah. Supporting artists is a biggie because a lot
4 of them are self-supporting, you know, and it's
5 controversial topics, obviously, and subjects --

6 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

7 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** -- you know,
8 they're trying to address through their art. I feel like
9 there should be more support for that. Obviously, the
10 inclusion in history books. There needs to be more
11 Indigenous focus, you know, of our history coming from us
12 versus, you know, teachers who are non-Indigenous trying to
13 say, you know, this is your history, you know, being
14 paternalistic. No. I feel like it's time that, you know,
15 our history is included from our perspective.

16 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** In the Canadian history
17 books?

18 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yes.

19 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

20 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Not --

21 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Not as a separate --

22 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah, not
23 just -- yeah, provincially, where it's, like, you know, oh,
24 we'll set our own rules over here and over here and over
25 here. No, it should be, like, mandated across the board,

1 you know?

2 Yeah. Those were the, like, main ones
3 was -- yeah. I felt like those were making changes back
4 east, and I -- I feel like there needs to be more of that
5 out here, you know, in Winnipeg, especially, because, you
6 know, we're apparently the most racist city in Canada and
7 murder capital of Canada. So it's just, like, ugh.
8 There's a reason behind all that. And it needs to be more
9 emphasis on the positive and how we're being innovative and
10 making changes towards addressing those issues.

11 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** And that -- yeah.
12 Definitely. Thanks for that. Here I go again. I just
13 want it on the record that you mentioned your friend
14 [Friend1] a few times. What's his full name and when did
15 he go missing?

16 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** [Friend1], November
17 26, 2010. Yeah. Yeah, he went missing -- he was last seen
18 near Broadway and Portage. Yeah. Yeah. It's very hard,
19 you know, every year because his, you know -- his
20 disappearance is coming up next month. And then his
21 birthday is in December, so it's just, like, you know, his
22 birthday is right before the holidays, right before
23 Christmas, you know, and it's -- it's always hard every
24 year since he's gone, you know, disappeared. And I
25 relate -- I relate to, you know, the families who are

1 missing loved ones out there. And I know the pain.

2 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** So you grew up with him?
3 Childhood friend?

4 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** No. No, he was
5 a -- he was my ex. He was a boyfriend --

6 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** M'hm.

7 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** -- at one point in
8 my life, and it didn't work out, but we, you know, stayed
9 friends, you know, throughout the years. And --

10 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** He was one of the good
11 boyfriends?

12 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Huh?

13 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** He was one of the good
14 boyfriends?

15 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. Yeah, he
16 was. He was -- he was funny and kind, and yeah. He was
17 likeable, but, you know, he ended up getting involved with
18 the wrong people, getting some bad addictions and, you
19 know, surrounding himself with those people who supported
20 those addictions. And I just -- I just felt so sad when,
21 you know, I heard he was -- you know, he was disappeared,
22 and then hearing in ceremony, you know, he's gone.

23 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

24 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Oh. And coming
25 back to the other question about --

1 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** The recommendations?

2 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah.

3 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Okay.

4 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** A big thing for me
5 to help me get through, like, like, these years of trauma,
6 this abuse, you know, this -- I feel like it's a bit of a
7 hell I have had to grow up in. What's basically kept me
8 more insane -- sane has been the, like, mental health
9 supports. Like, therapy, you know, just being able to go
10 to therapy and having that covered by, you know,
11 non-insured health benefits with Treaty status. But I feel
12 like it should be extended more. There should be more
13 therapy services covered by that, because I know there's
14 some, like, psychologists or psychiatrists that aren't
15 covered. And I don't know. Just in specialized fields
16 like, you know, PTSD or depression, which I suffer from.
17 Yeah.

18 It's been a struggle, right now, to finding
19 someone specific to PTSD, and I want to get help. And
20 programs like anger management should be covered and free,
21 you know. Cultural supports. You know, I -- I've been,
22 like, reaching out to different organizations, and
23 it's -- I mean, it's amazing now what's available out there
24 now since coming back --

25 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** M'hm.

1 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** -- because when I
2 left, I just felt like there's not much out here. But now
3 that I've been searching, there's a bit more culture -- you
4 know, culture activities and events and supports out there.
5 And I feel like that should be supported, you know. There
6 should be, you know, constant, you know, funding for powwow
7 clubs, you know.

8 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Yeah.

9 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** To continue that,
10 you know, connection for the next generation. You know,
11 even my nephews, you know, they got into a powwow club at
12 their school. And I was just so proud, you know, seeing
13 them this year, you know, dancing in their regalia. And it
14 was just -- reminded me of going back to my childhood when
15 I got into powwow club, and I got to dance in regalia for
16 the first time. Yeah. And language classes, drumming.
17 Yeah. Those powwow clubs, you know, connecting to the
18 culture.

19 The ceremonies, definitely the ceremonies.
20 I'm trying to work on, you know, getting more people access
21 to ceremonies because as a person who's low income with no
22 car, it's really hard to go attend ceremonies. So yeah.
23 That's -- that's why I want to work towards that, but I
24 also feel like, you know, this should be a higher level of,
25 you know, government support that should be making this

1 mandatory or available.

2 MS. TIAR WILSON: M'hm.

3 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: He's hungry.

4 (Laughter). He says I want to eat now.

5 MS. TIAR WILSON: Oh. Okay.

6 MR. FRED CHIESEL: Someone asked me if you
7 want (indiscernible) --

8 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: Yeah.

9 MS. TIAR WILSON: Oh.

10 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: Are you hungry? Did
11 you want anything? We can get you something to eat.

12 MR. FRED CHIESEL: (Indiscernible).

13 MS. TIAR WILSON: I just have one more
14 question.

15 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Okay. Yeah.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. I'm just
17 wondering. I just wanted to see -- (indiscernible).

18 MS. TIAR WILSON: Is there food for them?
19 Or what is there?

20 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: Is there any --

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm just wondering
22 if we (indiscernible). We can get food for you guys.
23 There's no rush. If you still have a lot, like, if you
24 need more time, you can take more time. But I just want to
25 check in. If you feel like you need a bit more time, maybe

1 someone (indiscernible).

2 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: I think we're
3 almost done here.

4 MS. TIAR WILSON: I just wanted to
5 ask -- yeah.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah?

7 MS. TIAR WILSON: Are you feeling like
8 you're almost done?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'll let you guys
10 keep going. I just wanted to make sure.

11 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Okay.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. I'm just
13 out here anyways.

14 MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON: Okay.

15 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: Just before we
16 close, too, because I don't want anybody to take her
17 story --

18 MS. TIAR WILSON: Yeah.

19 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: -- because her words
20 carry energy, too.

21 MS. TIAR WILSON: Yeah.

22 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: I want to make sure
23 that we smudge everybody, because it is hers.

24 MS. TIAR WILSON: Yeah.

25 MS. MARLENE CARRIERE: Okay. Thank you.

1 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** I mean, I don't know if I
2 can think of the right word other than amazing. And your
3 trauma is not amazing, but it's just -- I feel good in this
4 space. You know, you've -- you're -- you're articulate,
5 and you can, you know -- and you've talked so much about
6 everything. But, you know, one of the things I kind of
7 save for the end, the most important, and you don't have to
8 talk about her, but your daughter.

9 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** (Laughter).

10 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Like, where is she right
11 now? What's -- what's going on? Who -- who is she? You
12 know, she's your inspiration.

13 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Well, my daughter
14 is [Daughter]. And yeah. She's -- she's just been my
15 inspiration, you know, for change, you know. I've always
16 wanted to, you know, be a better parent because of her, you
17 know. I was quite self-aware of, you know, of my mom and
18 dad's parenting and how I knew I didn't want to parent. So
19 I -- I knew how not to parent from them, you know?

20 And so I did everything I could to not
21 parent like them and to love her unconditionally and to,
22 you know, give her space but not too much space. Give her
23 boundaries. Give her rules. Teach her responsibility.
24 Not spoil her, because I know there's some parents out
25 there who have one child, and they spoil them like crazy,

1 and they're, like, little brats when they grow up. I was,
2 like, I'm not going to have a brat for a kid. So yeah.

3 It was -- it was hard, you know, especially
4 dealing with my mom. You know, my mom was always trying
5 to, like, co-parent, you know, for the first, like, four or
6 five years, thinking she knew better. "I raised four
7 kids." But, you know, I don't know. She did her best. I
8 know she did.

9 I'm glad she got us out of the system when
10 she did, because, you know, I've seen other people who just
11 left their kids in the system and didn't try, you know,
12 hard enough or they were too caught up in their addictions
13 or their traumas, and they gave up. And I still see that
14 in my family, and it's very sad. But yeah.

15 I -- I raised my daughter. I -- I raised
16 her right. I made sure, you know, she worked to earn, you
17 know, her clothes, her -- her cell phone. You know, made
18 sure she had a curfew. Made sure she, you know, got to get
19 involved in sports that she loved and encouraged that and,
20 you know, supported it.

21 And, you know, she even, like -- she even
22 got into cadets for two years when she was -- I'm not sure
23 if she was 10 or if she was 12. I think when she was 12
24 until she was 14. And yeah. What was it? 10 until she
25 was 12. Well, she was in cadets for two years, and that

1 really helped a lot with her responsibility and discipline,
2 something I probably wouldn't be able to, you know, give
3 since single parent and whatnot. But I felt like that was
4 the part, you know, I felt, like, was missing from the
5 father role.

6 I also got her a Big Sister. That was
7 another organization that was, you know, instrumental in
8 helping me with [Daughter] was getting her a big sister
9 from the Big Brothers Big Sisters program here in Winnipeg.
10 And she's still in -- in -- you know, in contact with her
11 Big Sister, and she's been a really good role model for her
12 because I felt like I can't be her only role model, you
13 know. That would be sort of biased. So -- because there
14 was still no one else in my family that was, you know,
15 going to school or doing something with their life. And
16 yeah. Her Big Sister, you know, kept her, you know, on the
17 right track. She had somebody she could go to.

18 And my daughter, you know, she stayed in
19 school. She didn't drop out. I was so proud of her for
20 that. And, you know, she was -- she was the -- I think she
21 was the -- like, one, two, three -- fifth -- fifth or sixth
22 person in my whole extended family to have finished high
23 school. And now, she's the -- she's in university now.
24 Yeah. And she's in her third or fourth year at university
25 now. Wait, she's 22. 18. Yeah. Fourth year of

1 university. And yeah.

2 She struggled for a bit, but, you know, at
3 least she had me because she, you know, I'm the only other
4 person besides -- maybe, actually -- yeah. At least she
5 had somebody she could talk to about, you know, going to
6 university besides, you know, her Big Sister. She has her
7 mom, and yeah.

8 I remember this one time, she -- she wrote a
9 paper about, you know, who your role models are, are you
10 heroes back in junior high. And I -- I never forgot it.
11 And she talked about me. And I even reminded her about
12 that earlier this year. She's, like, what, really? And
13 I'm, like, yeah. Yeah, you wrote a paper about me, who
14 your hero was, and you chose me. Yeah. And -- yeah.

15 It was tough, raising her, because of
16 everything I went through, I tried not to project all my
17 traumas on to her, and I tried to, you know, heal myself,
18 tried to get myself help. Yeah. I did my best, you know.
19 It was hard not to be overbearing and be a helicopter
20 parent because she's, you know, an only child. And, you
21 know, knowing she's an Indigenous woman, but I also saw
22 because, you know, she looks more Filipino than Native, I
23 felt like there was that protective barrier for her, you
24 know, that kept her from being, you know, preyed on,
25 because she looked less Native than, you know, than me.

1 She looked more, you know, Asian. So I felt like Asians
2 aren't as, you know, preyed on. They're more, like, seen
3 as respectable and hardworking and hands off, you know. So
4 I felt in that aspect, you know, she was protected.

5 So -- but I still, you know, as a mother, I
6 still felt very protective of her, and ensured, you know,
7 curfew and all that. Yeah. And made sure she, you know,
8 lived out on her own when she was 18. I didn't want no,
9 you know, failure to launch. (Laughter) living at home
10 with her mom.

11 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** And she's going to school
12 here?

13 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. Yeah. She's
14 going to [University]. And she's majoring in Native
15 Studies. Yeah. And she wants to become a teacher. So I'm
16 very proud of her. And I can't wait until she -- she gets
17 her degree, too. And she's already doing good work here in
18 Winnipeg. She's, you know, been working in the recreation
19 department for the City of Winnipeg in the summers, and
20 working with Ka Ni Kanichihk, throughout the school,
21 volunteering at working at restoring the sacred. I'm so
22 proud of her. Yeah. So --

23 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** So I just want to check
24 in, you know. Part -- one of the things we have to ask is
25 how you're feeling right now, if you feel like you've been

1 heard today.

2 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

3 I feel like -- totally, I -- I feel like I got everything
4 out, you know. It's on the table, you know, just out
5 there. It's there.

6 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** M'hm.

7 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** You know. I'm not
8 sure how, you know, this is going to impact others, but it
9 seems like whatever I do, there's a ripple effect somehow,
10 and the interesting thing will be waiting to see how, you
11 know, it's going to impact others. But, you know, I know
12 I'm not alone. I know I'm not the only survivor out there.
13 I know I'm not the one fighting, you know -- the only one
14 fighting to survive. And -- and I feel like I have a
15 lot -- I have built up a lot of resilience because of all
16 these experiences.

17 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Definitely.

18 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** So I tried to, you
19 know, always take the silver lining --

20 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** Yeah.

21 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** -- out of all this.
22 You know, there's got to be a silver lining in there
23 somewhere. Like, I'm more resilient, you know. I feel
24 like, you know, I can live anywhere now.

25 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Those -- those are some

1 very powerful words, and just hearing them, it sounds like
2 you -- you know, you'd be open to having a public
3 statement. So here's my concern, though.

4 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Okay.

5 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** With the public
6 statement. I just -- I'm just concerned about your
7 daughter. You mentioned that you had her from rape. Have
8 you shared this with her?

9 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah, I have. She
10 doesn't like it. I -- and I just recently told her in the
11 last year, and she was upset about it. But, you know, I
12 wanted to keep that -- you know, I wanted to protect her
13 until she was old enough to understand.

14 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** M'hm.

15 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** But that's the
16 reality of the situation. You can't hide from the reality
17 of the situation, you know. She has to learn to deal with
18 that on her own. Like, I can't tell her how to, you know,
19 deal with the fact that, you know, you were conceived from,
20 you know, rape, and that, you know, the guy who fathered
21 you didn't want to be a father to you, you know. She knows
22 about that. But she didn't know about the rape. And it
23 was just -- it wasn't the right time to tell her, but I
24 don't know. That's the truth, you know. She needs to hear
25 the truth. And she needs to deal with the truth in her own

1 way.

2 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** All right. Definitely.
3 So if she knows, then -- and you're willing for it to be
4 public, I recommend public. This is, like, such a -- like
5 I said, it's -- you moved me today. And, like you say, you
6 got smarts, definitely.

7 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** M'hm.

8 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** And I -- I could just sit
9 here all day and keep picking at your brain all day, but --

10 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** (Laughter).

11 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** -- I think we're all
12 full. And I, you know, you're in a happy place, a good
13 place, right now. So we're okay with ending today?

14 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Yeah. Yeah. I'm
15 good.

16 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** Okay. So it is 6:27 PM,
17 Commissioners, on Tuesday, October 2nd, 2018. It's Tiar
18 Wilson, and I've just had the honour of sitting here all
19 afternoon with Chantel and her -- and her support, her
20 boyfriend, as well as Marlene, Marlene Wright -- sorry.
21 My -- I'm -- my mind.

22 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** That's okay.

23 **MS. TIAR WILSON:** I'm starting to get
24 silly. So anyway. Yeah, like I said, the time. I said
25 the time, right? See, I can't even remember the time.

1 (Laughter). 6:27 PM. We're at the Fort Garry, and we are
2 ending this statement today. Thank you very much.


3 **MS. MARLENE CARRIERE:** Thank you.

4 **MS. CHANTEL HENDERSON:** Thanks.

5 --- Upon adjourning at 6:27 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jessica Caudron, 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.

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Jessica Caudron

October 26, 2018