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Truth-Gathering Process
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Bridget Perrier

Statement gathered by Francine Merasty, Commission Counsel

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NOTE

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Statement gatherer: Francine Merasty, Commission Counsel

Documents submitted with testimony: none.
MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: All right.

Okay. This is Francine Merasty, Statement Taker with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. We’re in Toronto, Ontario. The date is October 11, 2018, and the time is 10:42 a.m. Today, I’m speaking with Bridget Perrier of the Long Lac 58 Nation, and she resides in Toronto. She’s here to tell her truth about herself as a survivor. And also, she’s going to be speaking about Brenda Wolfe, who was a victim of Robert Pickton. And present with us also in the room are --

MS. SHANNON BENNETT: Shannon Bennett, and I’m here to support Bridget.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: And as a health support --

MS. SARAH JANE COMMARDI: Sarah Jane Commandi (ph).

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. Okay.

Bridget, you are here voluntarily to provide your truth as a survivor. And you agree to the video taping and audio taping of your truth?

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: I do.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. So what do you
want to share with the National Inquiry, Bridget?

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: Like --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: So you can just start wherever.

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: Yeah.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Maybe, just introduce --

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: Yeah.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: -- yourself, and --

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: Okay.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: -- yeah.

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: So my name’s Bridget Perrier. My spirit name is Wasaya Kwe. I was born in Thunder Bay, Ontario to -- from a -- my birth mother, her name was [BIOLOGICAL MOTHER], and I was placed up for adoption with the recommendations from her that I be adopted into a non-Native family. I was placed right away at birth. And I was adopted at five weeks of age to [MOTHER] and [FATHER] from Thunder Bay. They’re French-Canadian. My mother, my adopted mom, comes from a very large French-Canadian family, and my dad comes from a small -- it was just him and his brothers.

I had a good childhood. And my adopted parents always told me who I was, what my background was. And they said -- they said I was quite funny because I used
to tell people, “I’m Native. I’m an Indian.” Well, back then, we didn’t say we were Native. I would say, “I’m -- I’m an Indian.”

And, I guess, you know, the first dealing of discrimination, you know, my parents went through was with their church. My mom would do a new parent’s resource, kind of, group with other mothers, like, I guess, they’d go pray or whatever. And I wasn’t allowed to -- I wasn’t allowed to play with other kids. Like, they were pretty upfront with my mom not to bring me. And, you know, that was when, you know, I think my parents realized --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: How old were you at that time?

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: I was, like -- she said I was nine months old. And then she said there was more problems. My mother and -- my father was the head of Social Services in Thunder Bay, so he was the head guy at Welfare. And he was really good at what he did. And he also did after hours Children’s Aid worker. So, you know, like, we were brought up proper, like, that we were Native, we were adopted, but we were given up for love.

Like, and by fluke, I met my biological family. Thunder Bay is a small town, and my aunt [AUNT], her kid -- my cousin was in class with me, and he would go home and tell his mom, “I look like one of my siblings.”
And he would say she’s at school with him. And it just
happened that my mother was also -- to keep our -- my
culture alive, I was involved with [S.S], another really
respected Indigenous woman from our community, and we just
happened to be with her one Sunday and my aunt was there.
And my mom was, like, “[BIOLOGICAL MOTHER’S LAST NAME]?”
And my mom said, “Oh, my daughter is a [BIOLOGICAL MOTHER’S
LAST NAME]. I -- she was -- I adopted her.” And at that
moment, I appeared, and my aunt knew that was who I was.
And it screwed me up.

They -- they allowed them -- the -- my
biological family, to meet with me. And my mom said that
my biological mom seemed forced. Like, her sisters were
all, like, gung-ho, but my mom could tell that she didn’t
want this -- like, that she had given me up. And she never
expected to reconnect, and that it -- like, it was -- like,
it was clear that she wasn’t cooperating. So I went
through that. And my mom asked for the help of child
welfare, and they said just let her -- let her meet them,
it’s good. And I always had that fear because I seen how
they ran their households, and my parents, like, we were
kind of spoiled. I came from a little bit of a well-to-do
family. And, like, we all had our own bedrooms, we had a
nanny.

Also, during this time, my mother ran a
support group for clergy abuse survivors through the Catholic Church. And my adopted mother, she allowed one of them to move in. And you would think, with their background, that we would -- they wouldn’t do that. But I -- the abuse started. He would go after -- his name was [PERPETRATOR 1], and he would go after the -- like, my baby brothers, and I would tell him, “No.” And I, kind of, went. Like, it just happened that he started abusing me.

And we had a -- we had a nanny, a woman that took care of us, but she was Caribbean, and she didn’t say much. She knew what was going on, but she was afraid to be sent back. So she just, kind of, like, you know, she was the only -- she was just doing her job. She would try to keep us away from him, but the abuse, it only took a few months for it to really start. And he stayed there for a good year. And I remember, like -- like, behaviour-wise, just, like, you know, like, having to apologize to him.

And, like, what he did to me, like, trying to get me to, like, abuse my brothers, and I -- I would refuse, I would hide them. I hid the babies from him. I would hide them, like, in the cubby. Like, my parents had this huge house in Thunder Bay, and it was, like, a -- a -- like, a -- I don’t know, it was a nine-bedroom house, so I would hide the kids from him. And, like, I would do things, like, when he would come down around my parents. I
would tell my siblings to throw things at him. And my mom
would make me, like, ‘cause she was, like, one of those
proper parenting ladies, you know, you go in your child’s
face, and you say, like, she would make him crouch down and
make him say sorry -- made me say sorry to him. And I just
hated him. And then it, like -- he was there. Like, I
would do stuff like pee the bed, so he wouldn’t bother me.
And I would sleep with my parents. And, like, he would,
like, he was there. They would leave us ‘cause they were
so involved in their fucking religion.

I started acting out and, like, also, like,
I would act out, and they would be, like, “Well, the --
she’s Native.” Like, that’s why -- like, “That’s how
Indians act.” Like, that’s what I got. And I remember,
like, being at this thing and it was Palm Sunday, and it,
like, we come from, like, the family -- the, like, my mom’s
family, there was, like, I think there was 47
grandchildren, and we, like, took over, like, the
children’s liturgy at St. Agnes Parish in Thunder Bay. And
we had to make our hands as palms. And, of -- of course,
we gave -- we made our fingers, like, gave, like the
finger, me and my cousin. And it was, like, she didn’t get
in trouble, I got in trouble. And I remember the sister,
like, holding my arm, and I yanked -- when I yanked down,
she fell down. And, like, she called me, like, she was
saying, like, “You fucking little Indian.” And my mother was, like -- like, “You don’t talk to --” Like, she stuck up for me. But it was stuff like that.

Like, I remember keeping my hair up. My babysitter putting my hair in a French, like, twist, and the sister at the school I went to ripping it out, and saying, “That’s -- that’s how kept women are.” And I didn’t understand what a kept-woman was. She -- and she said it was a (Speaking Native Language), which was, like, kind of, like a -- like -- like a mistress. And I went back and told my nanny, and she -- and my nanny went there and, like, cussed her off. Like, she was Jamaican, and she said, like, “There’s a reason why you don’t have kids. You’re evil.” Like, ‘cause I knew I was going to get it when I went home with my hair undone. Like, I was going to get a whooping. And the nanny was so upset that she did that to me. She humiliated me. She would, like, purposely humiliate me as soon as they found out I was Native. Like, they would just -- anything went wrong in the classroom, if I -- you know, I was standing there, I was to blame. So it started, like, I just started hating them all and acting out.

I really started acting out at around 11.

And my parents, they put me in a group home for Native kids. I have to face these men in the work that I do. One
of them’s a Chief. And it was called [NAME OF GROUP HOME].
And I went through at 11 years old. I didn’t look like an
11-year-old, I looked like a 15-year-old. I went through
early puberty. And I -- I remember my mom packing me up
because she coloured coded all six kids, and I was the kid
with the red suitcase. So, like, I had red, red suitcase,
red bedspread, like, that’s how she did it. And I remember
being dropped off.

And I remember, like, just having, like, all
of a sudden, like, the -- the male staff, they were, like,
“Oh, we didn’t know that you’re a -- a kid.” And, like, it
just started. It was like within a week of being there
that they were bothering me. And I always knew I had big
boobs. I hated them. Like, I used to wear double bras
and -- I played ringette, so I bound myself. And it was
summertime, and it was like my mom put me in a bad
situation. And I remember the female staff, like, were
inappropriate too, but I remember the -- the two male
staff, one named [PERPETRATOR 2] and one named [PERPETRATOR
3].

And I remember [PERPETRATOR 3] was really --
it was scary. I would -- my parents would go to the
cottage, they had a cottage. And, you know, they would be
gone. And there wasn’t, like, a phone. So he would say,
“Oh, I’m dropping her off.” And I would go to his house
with him. And I remember one time he dropped -- he drove
with me up in the -- when the first, like, when the sexual
stuff started happening was, they drove me and two other
kids up on the mountain, and then they -- we were coming
down, and they shut the lights off. And he -- he was,
like, “Touch me, and I’ll turn the lights on.” And those
kids were so scared. And the -- it was, like, I don’t
know, it was a -- a blue minivan. And those two little
boys were so scared. And he was, like, “Tell them to touch
me.” And it, like, and those boys were telling me, “Just
touch him, Bridget. Just touch him.” They were so afraid.
So I touched him, and he turned on the lights. Like it was
cracy driving down that mountain. And it happened a lot.

And he would, like, everyone liked him, all
the other staff. And I hated him. And those boys knew
what was going on. Like, one of them, his name was [J1],
and he knew -- he knew, like, he -- we -- our rooms were
side-by-side, and he said, “I heard.” Like, I remember him
telling me, “I heard you crying.” And I would just tell
them, like, you know, they would tell me, like, “Oh, we’re
going to tell your parents not to take you home.” And they
kept me. And my mom -- and then, had no idea. Like, none.
And even, like, they would take us, like, we’d have to go
to the bush to do ceremony. They would be bothering me.

And I remember one time, I’d fractured my
hand at cheerleading, and I -- I went, like, the group home picked me up. Of course, I was known -- it got out that I was living in a group home. And the female staff were so hard on me. That it -- like, I told them my hand was sore, and right in front of the female staff, one of the male staff, like, put my hands on him. And he was, like, “They’re not sore for that.” And, like, the -- you know, like, just it -- I knew it was wrong being in there. And I tried to run away.

And I remember running. I got -- like, they locked us in there. Like, I turned 12, and I took off, and they had caught me on Red River Road, and I was, like, running down it, and I got into a car full of white guys. And I just told them, “Get me the fuck out of here.” And they just drove with me, and I didn’t want to go back. And we went to my parents’ house and, like, nobody was there. And, like, I went to my aunt’s house, and I didn’t want to go to my grannie’s house ‘cause I knew it would stress her out. So, like, and nobody was home because it was summer, and everyone was out at their cottages.

And I went -- those guys dropped me back off. And that staff, he took me to his house. And I remember I’ve -- something I just -- my mom called, and said, “Where -- I want to speak to my daughter.” She was in Edmonton. Their house was getting -- asbestos was
getting removed, so they were in Edmonton. And they said, "She’s with her parents." And my mom said she knew. And she drove home. And it -- what would have tooken (ph) her three days, took her a day and a half. And she came and removed me, and then they put me in foster care.

And, you know, I couldn’t tell. Like, I just didn’t, like, know what to do. And then I stayed, like, for the first time in awhile. I was in a foster home on [ADDRESS], and she was the most loving, nicest person I ever met, her and her husband. And it was just -- it -- school time had started, and they -- they put me in school. And they -- they asked me what school I wanted to go to, and I was, like, "I want to go to [SCHOOL NAME]." And they were so nice. She liked me ‘cause I never complained about her cooking ‘cause her food was so good. And her name was [FOSTER MOTHER].

And she had shown me -- she had had photo album of every kid that went through her doors. And she had showed me she had 200 kids. And she had a -- like, she would take your picture with a Polaroid of the day you go, and the day you leave. And she always made sure you left with like a -- not a garbage bag, but she would buy -- she would either go to the Salvation Army or buy you a suitcase. And she was so sweet.

Like, I would -- they had, like, chores.
They were really strict. They were Dutch. And I liked mowing the lawn and that was, like, a punishment. So they couldn’t -- they couldn’t punish me ‘cause I liked -- their punishment was go and do the yard work, and I liked doing that. So they were like -- and I never acted out. Like, if I was late, I would call them. And I called them, Grandma and Grandpa. And they loved me. Like, they were, like, “This kid’s amazing.” And she knew, like, she would, like, she showed us, like, how to cook. Like me and the other girls, we’d go in the kitchen with her, and she’d show us how to make bread. And she would ask us, like, “Were you ever touched?” And, like, the girl -- and then she’d give you, like, she’s -- she said, she had a book, and she said, “You can write it down, if you don’t want to tell me.”

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** How old were you?

**MS. BRIDGET PERRIER:** I was, like, 12. And I -- I waited for the other girls, and -- to leave. And every night she made a -- a point to kiss the kids. Her and her husband would, like, we called them, like, either Ma and Pa, our -- our Oma, like, the -- the Dutch word for Oma and Grandpa and Grandma. And I called them Grandma and Grandpa. And her and her husband would come in, they were Christian, and they would say -- and, like, the kids would be, like, “What the fuck?” Like, they hated them, but they
were nice. Like, she would shut off the T.V. at, like, 10. And you had a T.V. room. And I got to, like -- I kind of was the youngest they took. So they, kind of, treated me a little bit babyish. And they would come in, and they didn’t care, they always made it a point to give you a hug and kiss goodnight. And, like, and even the kids said it was weird at first, but they loved it.

And, like, she would get our clothing money, and it was date night. They would say it was date -- “Okay, [FOSTER BROTHER] going on Wednesday.” And she would write it on the family calendar, “Date Night.” So the boys would go with him, and he would go buy them -- like, let them pick out anything. And Sears was, like, big to -- Eaton’s and Sears.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M’hm.

**MS. BRIDGET PERRIER:** And it -- they would take each kid separately. And it would be, like, special. And you would do something, like, either go for an ice cream. And they would -- they told us that they were retiring. And they also adopted mass amounts of children, too. And I was their last kid, and they had asked to keep me. And my parents, for some reason, felt that I needed to be in a group home, and I went into the girls’ home. And I remember, you know, her being really sad. And -- because she knew that I shouldn’t have went.
They knew that I still was like a little girl. Like, you know, like, they bought me kids’ pajamas. Like, it wasn’t like, you know, like, teenagers wear like shorts, or whatever. She -- like, when we went shopping, we shopped at Sears in the kids’ section. There was no, like, if I wanted to wear something, like, she got me fitted for my bras. Like, she was, like, “Whoa, you got big boobs.” And, like, she just explained, like, and, like, I had already had my period, and, you know. Like, she was, like, explained it to me. And I was, like, “Why is this old lady explaining it?”

So all of a sudden, now I’m being -- I’m doing well in school. I’ve been there, like, you know, I’d babysit for her other children. Like, I’d go babysit, like, I was well behaved. I never, ever, ever -- I got suspended once when I was there. I was behavioural at school, too. And I remember it was ‘cause the teacher called me a bitch. And I was, like, I just didn’t -- I wasn’t going to stand for it. And he came, and I thought, “Oh, shit. I’m in trouble.” Like, he showed up. And he was, like, “Why are you guys say -- “ Like, he was, like, “No. I know her.” And he had a Dutch accent. And he was, like, “What did you do?” And I said, “She called me a bitch.” And the teacher tried to say no, and he said, “You’re a liar. You don’t call --” Like, he stuck up for
me. I was, like, “Oh, I’m not --” And when we drove home, he got me -- like, he went and got me, like, McKellar Confectionery and a milkshake. And he said, “She was a bitch.”

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M’hm.

**MS. BRIDGET PERRIER:** Like, I thought, “Oh, shit. Like, I’m going to have to -- I’m in trouble.” And he was like, “No, you’re not in trouble.” And they were really upset that I was going into the group home. And they -- my parents, they were at a big plan of care. And then it was -- wasn’t Crown ward, you could -- I was a society ward, so it would either go society ward or Crown ward. And I was a society -- my parents relinquished their rights, but they still had rights. And if they had been Crown ward, if I had been Crown ward, they would have kept me.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M’hm.

**MS. BRIDGET PERRIER:** My life wouldn’t have went the way it did. And my mom felt that I was being, like, I was taking advantage of them. Like, I was manipulating them. They had a hundreds of kids before me. They adopted crack babies, they, like, you know. They had, like -- they had like 16 children. Like, how the hell was I going to manipulate them? They were a lot more -- they were strict, but I think what I needed was to be, like,
nurtured. Like, not have, like -- 'cause my adopted parents, we were their babysitters, right. You know, like, they would have children and, like, a lot of children after me and, like, just leave and I raised my siblings. So I think, like, she just didn’t see that I could be good for someone else while they had control of me. And I liked their rules. And I didn’t screw up. And I never, ever talked back to them, or even sassed them in any way.

So I got put in a girls’ home, and I went. And she was, like, this woman would -- the -- would -- the foster mom said to them, “I’ve seen kids like Bridget.” And, like, you know, “I don’t think a group home’s for her.” And they were retiring after, like, 42 years as foster parents. They were, like, “I don’t think that that’s --” And -- and, like, my mom was, like, “You’re not a psychologist. You don’t know what’s for Bridget.”

And, like, I -- I would see -- I had to see this child psychologist in Thunder Bay and that was the weirdest guy ever. He would talk about sex the whole time. [PSYCHIATRIST] and rub himself. Like, I hated going to see him. And his things was too, his -- when he had told my mom and the CAS was to put me in this group home, and I told the foster mom what he was like. And when I told her what he was like, she sat in the meetings with him. She refused to let me go in to see [PSYCHIATRIST] alone. After
I told her that, that was one of the things I wrote. And she said that other kids in her home had wrote -- ‘cause you know in Thunder Bay, it’s so small, there’s only one psychiatrist, so she knew. And she was, like -- she -- I remember her, and she never swore, in that meeting, she swore at him. She said, “Bullshit.” She said, “You’re bullshit.” And we’re -- I was, like, “Whoa. She just swore.”

And my life would have been different. I would have went to Holland, and I would have probably married a friggin’ farmer. And, like, shit, like, that followed wouldn’t have happened. It only took two months in that group home for me to be talked out of -- talked into running away and turning a trick.

And I remember living in [NAME OF GIRLS’ HOME] and it was, like, the staff were, like, dysfunctionally okay. And they had one male staff, which he was weird, and we all knew he was a pervert. And we, like -- we all banded together, the girls, to make his day working there hell. And, like, the staff, like, you’d have to chores, whatever, and all that stuff.

And [NIECE] was born in -- so my -- one of my siblings was in there, my biologicals. And she was pregnant. So we, like, you know, there -- I went in, it was in -- it was a week before Halloween, and I remember
going in there. And I, you know, I was the youngest, yet again. And my -- my biological sibling was there, and she was big and pregnant, and it -- she had [NIECE] in -- in December. And by January, that was when I was inducted into prostitution. And I remember running away.

And the first time -- like, the first time I ever turned a trick, all the girls ran away from the staff, and it was so cold. And they knew we’re -- we went to Port Arthur. And he was an old diamond driller, and he liked the new girl. And the -- the new girl experience was -- everyone sit around and manually stimulate him and laugh. And the more you laugh, the money you made. And it was, like, we made $400 from him. And it was, like -- like, you know. Do you stay in a group home, or do you just, you know, with staff --

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** How -- how old were you?

**MS. BRIDGET PERRIER:** I was -- I was 12. I was 12. It was in that year. That’s when I turned -- busted out. And the thing that was different for me, was I was bilingual. So I could -- I could speak French. And the -- like, so they would bring me the booze can, and I could negotiate, and I knew, like, how to speak. But they also -- a lot of the girls didn’t have, like, basic manners because, you know, they had went through hell in their own
life, and I had manners. There was me and one of the
doctor’s -- [DOCTOR]’s daughter. And we were taken at 12,
and I was approached.

We were on Court Street in Thunder Bay.
There was this bar called, Zagrams (ph). I don’t know how,
like, at 12, we could get served at a bar, but we did. And
we -- we would get served at the Polish Legion and at
Zagrams. And we met a Madam. She came in the bar, and she
would -- she would say, “Don’t drink that.” Like, we are
-- we thought we were big drinking, like -- I think we were
drinking, like, vodka and peach juice, or peach schnapps
and orange juice. And she was, like, “No, no, no. Get
this drink.” And we were, like, “Whoa.” And she was,
like, this French Madam. And, like, she drove, like, a big
Lincoln Continental. And one time she let us drive it.
And she really liked me. And she realized I could speak
French, so she would speak French to me.

And she knew. She knew my weaknesses. And
my weakness was, you know, I wanted my mom. Like, I told
her I was abused. I told her about it all. And, like, she
treated me like her baby and, like, she knew. And it
didn’t take long for me to be flown out. And I remember --
this is how manipulative she was, and you’re from Thunder
Bay, so you remember this, in Victoriaville there was this
drug store called, Berks (ph) Drug Mart. And they had
these dolls, they were Powderpuff. These dolls, they were big dolls, they were called Powderpuff dolls. And you could only get them -- and they were expensive, and she bought me one. I still was a baby.

I -- she manipulated me to go to Halifax. And I even, like, remember it was Canadian Airlines, and the flight cost $772. And there I am in Thunder Bay airport buying a fucking ticket with her standing there, and we’re buying a ticket to go to Halifax to her -- she owned a brothel in Halifax. And there we are. And, like, no one questioned me. Like, no one questioned it. Like, I think if I worked for, like, one of the airlines and the -- a kid came in a bought a ticket, I’d be, like, “Whoa, wait a minute.” No one questioned me. There I am with a Powderpuff doll, and I flew to Halifax.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: What year was this?

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: Well, I was 12. So I was born in ’76, so it was around ’87, ’88 -- ’88, ’89, yeah, ’88, and I flew from Thunder Bay. And I had to -- the flight went to Toronto, and I had to transfer, and I did it all by myself. But because I flew before with my parents, like, I remember flying to Vancouver and then, like, going to Nanaimo. You know, going out to the States with my parents, like, so I understood, and I, like, went by myself on the plane.
And my girlfriend didn’t go, the other girl. [FRIEND] didn’t go. And this Madam had told me, “You can’t --” Like, I shouldn’t hang around with my sister ‘cause my sister was a drug addict. And back then, they used to shoot-up Talwin and Ritalin, T and Rs. And she said, like, “That’s really bad for you, and you’re too pretty.” And, you know, she had -- she had put in -- she had done it, like, just, you know, “Your sister’s struggling, and you being there is putting more --” So she got me away from my sister and that other girl, and she had sent me to Halifax.

And I remember going into the brothel, and I had that doll with me. And all the women that were working there were angry. Because, back then, how they would -- like, the men would come in, and there was, like, you go in and there’s like a big foyer, like, grand. It’s in Halifax, and a lot of, like, shipmen, boat men. So there I am, and they would have all the girls parade down the staircase. We’d meet and go down. And stand there in your, like -- like your lingerie. And I wasn’t allowed to do that because, like, it basically was like a menu. Because I was underage, I had a different purpose, and a lot of the women didn’t want to work with me.

And she never, ever used, like, physical violence with me. She didn’t have to because, to me, letting her down hurt me more than being beat. And I
remember one time, I was -- the client -- the -- the sex buyer was in the room with me, and I had a script, so I -- I went -- the Madam calmed me down, and it was her business partner, and I didn’t stay at the brothel because the women had problems. They were like, “Uh-huh. She’s underage.” Like, and I was scripted. So if the police came, always say I was waiting for her, she’s my aunt. And I stayed at the -- the owner’s house because I could fit in with her daughter’s best friend, right, and say, like, you know, “I’m just sleeping over.”

So she -- I remember she had me come in and -- and, like, come down and she had given me explicit, like, I hadn’t really experienced having intercourse for money. It was a lot of, like, blow jobs, hand jobs, like, that kind of stuff. I hadn’t really -- ‘cause I wasn’t even used to it. And she had dressed me up in like this shiny red friggin’ jogging suit. It was, like, had bows on it, and she’s -- put my hair in -- I don’t know if you remember -- remember the hair ties that are, like, woolen, pieces of wool? Like, they were long. They put my -- she French braided that in my hair. And she said, “No makeup.” And they, like, wiped off the makeup. And they were, like, about my boobs, like, they were, like, “(Unreportable Sound).” ‘Cause I had these huge boobs. And they were, like, “No, no, no, no.” And they were,
like, “Stand like this.” And she was, like, “No, sit
down.” And they had to put me in this jogging suit and
with these ugly running shoes and -- to make me look like a
little girl. And that was the first, like, so, basically,
she said, you know, “You got to pretend your name’s
[PERPETRATOR 4’s DAUGHTER].” And I was, like, “What the
fuck.” And it was -- ’cause [PERPETRATOR 4’s DAUGHTER] was
his daughter. And I was, like, whatever he said -- she
told me, “Whatever he says, you do.” And she kissed me on
the head.

And he was a sadist. He was so rough with
me. And I was, like, it wasn’t normal, like, you know. He
kept on, like, I remember, like, it was basically he was
paying to violate me. And whatever he did to his daughter,
[PERPETRATOR 4’s DAUGHTER], I was -- it was being done.
And I remember, like, the condom, like, breaking, and him
getting angry at me. And, like, it was just horrible. And
I handled it. I handled it, like, a lot more while --
like, she thought I would be, like, freaked out now after.
I just said, “I need a shower.” And I regained myself.
And I knew, like, either this was going to break me or make
me. And I demanded him to give me more money. Like, I --
I turned into this very strong Bridget. And I was, like,
“No, no, no. You’re going to give me more money. You’re
going to give me way more money than this.” Like, and, you
know, she realized that, “Okay. She listens well, she
doesn’t, like, defy me.” And it was, like, boom. And the
other girls, like, when I would have contact with them,
they would tell me, “Go home. Like, what are doing here?”

And I was introduced to a ship captain in
Halifax, and he was known to come to Thunder Bay. And they
said he was a rough, like, he was known to rough up the
girls, but I knew how to play him, and he didn’t rough me
up. And when I was in Halifax, I met a -- like, we had
free time. It was, like, more like a group home, kind of,
to really think of it. So on my free time, I met this
black guy, and she had told me, “Watch out for the black
men.” And he was one of the [LAST NAME] from North
Preston, Nova Scotia. And we just secretly talked. Back
then, I had a pager. So that was, like, he would page me,
and I would call him, and, you know, we’d talk. And I
continued to fly back and forth, and then work in Toronto.
And then one time I -- I called him, I was in Toronto, and
he wouldn’t let me leave the hotel room.

I went and I met him. I figured ‘cause I’d
been talking to him and, like, he knew, like, “Oh, you’re
in Ottawa this month.” Oh, you’re in this. He knew,
“Okay. Now, I’m going to have a turn.” And I went and saw
him, and -- and he had phone --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: So -- so you were
going to all these different cities?

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: Cities, yeah.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: To work?

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: To work in the sex industry in high-end escorts. And I never went on a stroll. I had to go inside 'cause I was young. And at that time, there was a child in need of protection order out on me.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: So I was in -- I was around 13 now, so by then I would have been -- been about eight, nine months in it. And I turned 13, and I was -- still was -- like, I would turn myself in and go back to the group for rest and then leave.

And I went to see him in Toronto, and he wouldn’t let me leave. And I was, like, “Oh, shit, I’m in trouble.” And I talked him into letting me go back to Thunder Bay. And I told him, “I’ll bring you more girls.” And I went back to Thunder Bay, and in it -- I went back to Thunder Bay, it wasn’t -- like, I just didn’t go back to Toronto, was sticking in Thunder Bay. I didn’t think anything of it. Got pregnant, you know. Not with him, with another guy, with an older guy, and had the baby. Gave her up for adoption. Gave her up for adoption and was back here in Toronto.
And I went back with him. And he strong-armed me. He was, like, super violent. Like, it was, like, he was a lot worse, but at -- by then, I must have become more seasoned because I saw him for what he was, and I hated him. And there was really young girls. Like, even though I was, like, 13, 14 -- I was going on -- yeah, I was -- because -- yeah, I was -- I was turning 14, I still felt like I was older. I looked older. And he had really young girls. Like, girls that were, like, not even you -- like, he was a kiddie pimp. And I remember, like, I was -- we were laughing 'cause we were driving by -- I showed her my corner because that’s when he put me out on track. And, like, I didn’t work kiddie track, I worked high track. So he would beat me. He would, like, beat me to the point where, like, he had ten of us, and I think four of them were pregnant.

And he -- one time he beat me -- he beat me because I bought tampons and left them in my room. Like, we were -- we were told when to eat, we were told when to sleep, we were told how many tampons we were going to use. We were given instructions, he would buy big chunks of sea foam, so when you had your period, you still serviced johns. You stick it up you, and, you know. And then he used to always say, “’X’ marks the spot.” ‘X’ marks the spot where we had to stand on the corner. And he would
literally go and put an ‘X’ there, of where we had to
stand, and he would always walk by and say, “Ten toes. Ten
toes meets ‘X’ marks the spot.” Your ten toes are supposed
to be planted there. If you were off the ‘X’, you were
getting beat. If you were on the ‘X’, you were fine.
Like, he would beat you. Okay, that night, your quota
would be, like, a thousand. “Bring home a thousand.” If
you didn’t bring home a thousand ‘cause they were doing
sweeps, you’d still get beat. He beat you for everything.

One time, he starved us to the point where I
remember getting in a trick’s car, and this how powerless I
was, I said, “Before --” I couldn’t even have sex, I was
so weak. And I said, like, “I need food.” And the guy
felt bad, and he went to Harvey’s and he got me three
burgers, and I woofed them down. I woofed them down, and
he had big little chicken, I woofed that down. And the guy
felt so bad. I was, like, “Okay. I can do it now.” He
was -- said, like, you could feel my ribs and everything.
And he was, like, “No.” He’s like, “I’m going to pay you.
Just come stay at my house tonight.” And I remember
saying, “Well, it’s going to cost you 2500.”

And he, like, took me to his house. And I
was telling him everything. And he was sitting there, and
he was, like -- like a business. It was a white guy. But
he’s, like, sitting there, like, just mortified. And I’m
at his apartment, his condo. And I’m telling him what’s going on, and -- and then I said, “Yeah, see.” And I showed him, and I had boot imprints on my back from being forced to eat dog food. And he was, like, “What’s your real name?” And I told him my real name. And he said, “I’ll --” He said, “Do you want to sleep?” And I said, like, “I can’t, like, take your money and not have sex with you.” ‘Cause I’m so young still. Like, if I was older, I would have been, like, “ Fucking, okay.” Like, but I was so young, and I said, “I have to have sex with you, he’s going to know.”

And he couldn’t. Like, he said, “I can’t, Bridget.” And he felt so bad. And I remember him at, like, 5 in the morning, he said, “You got to call, like, can I call your parents?” And I said, “No.” And I said, you know, and I had a cellphone, like the big fucking big clunker cellphone, and I said, “I have to call him to come get me.” And he said, “Bridget, you taught me a lot. I’ll never buy a girl again.” And I just, like, you know, like, I ate, though. I was in his apartment, and I was, like, eating. I was putting butter on crackers. And he was, like, just watching me eat. Like, holy shit, this girl -- like, she -- I have $900 shoes on, and I’m like fucking eating like a pig because I hadn’t eaten.

Like, he would, like, give us like a half a
piece of bread. Like, he was so controlling, that pimp. And I remember, like, going back and, like, just hating him. Like, you know, he would force us to have sex. And, like, you know, you’ve been out turning tricks all night, and you don’t want to have sex. And he was really well endowed, and I just hated him. I hated him. I would pretend to, like, just -- like, I could go into dead sleep back then, like, you couldn’t wake me up, and he would still have sex with us. And he wanted to get everyone pregnant, and that was how he kept his -- his stable.

And I remember one time, he beat a girl. She just wanted to call her mom, and I let her call her mom. And he beat her so bad in front of me, and I thought she was dead. He was standing on her head. He was just horrible. And she just wanted to call her mom. And I knew I had to get away.

And he worked airport security, so I knew I couldn’t get a flight home. And he knew where I lived, see -- ‘cause, stupidly, I told him. And I remember it was around Christmas time, and I went with him and -- to North Preston. I went back with him home. And I got, like, strep throat. Like, I always got strep throat ‘cause I had tonsillitis, and I went and I had strep throat. I was really sick. And I woke up -- like, I must have slept for, like, a -- a good long time. Like, I was really, really
sick, I had a fever. I woke up, and he was having sex with his sister. And I was, like -- and I caught him, so I was, like, (unreportable Sound). And I immediately said to him, "I want a flight back to Toronto." And he put me on a plane back to Toronto thinking, "Okay, you’re -- we’re not --" He was, like, "Bridget, like, don’t ever say anything." And I was, like, "No." But I used it against him 'cause I did tell other people.

And I realized I was taking my power back with him. And what was happening was, I was maturing. So I wasn’t, like -- I was still making my own money and stashing half of it, telling him, like, you know. Like, he would try to do that starving thing, and I would be, like, "No. We’re going to eat. It’s our money." And, like, he was, like, (unreportable Sound), like losing it with me.

And it was in May, and I -- I convinced my mom to come get me from Thunder Bay. And I said, "Just come. I need to come home." And my mom and her sister came, and there I am. And, like, he worked airport security, so I knew his schedule. So I had hidden my clothes in a garbage bag, and put them in the parking garage. And I got my mom in. She came down, put the clothes in her car, and we took off back to Thunder Bay. But I convinced her, I said -- and on top of it, I robbed him. I convinced my mom to drive the northern route, not
the Sioux route. So they’re -- my mom is like this religious lady. I’m, like, “Yeah, let’s go the northern route. I want to go --” I think I said, “I have to go to my band anyways.” So we went the northern route. And I was so scared ‘cause, you know, they had a green car. And I was, like, “Shit, he’s going to find us in this green car.” He didn’t. We got to Thunder Bay, and I just -- I remember, like, pulling in on -- on Cumberland and just getting out of the car and telling my mom, “Bye.”

But I also robbed him. I stole all his crack, and he had a -- like a big brick of crack, and I stole it. I didn’t even know what drugs was. And I’m, like, giving it out in Thunder Bay to all my cousins. And they’re, like, “What the fuck.” But, like, you know, that’s just the naïveness. But what I did when we were leaving, this is how smart I was, he had had two girls handcuffed to the water heater of his condo. Like, the water -- and I -- when we were leaving, I told my mom, “Pull over.” And I called 911 to the address. And he was charged for child, like -- like, exploitation. So I was, like, (unreportable sound).

But he still came to Thunder Bay looking for me. And I remember -- I went back. Like, I never stopped prostituting. And he had come looking for me, and in this process, my parents and the Children’s Aid didn’t know what
the hell to do with me. He had come back to Thunder Bay
and got told to leave, ‘cause the bikers and all that.

At 14, I was brought to Duluth. So my mom,
this is how stupid I was, she convinced me to go to
Minneapolis with her. And I was, like, “Okay.” And I went
to Minnesota. Back then, they were taking Canadian kids,
and it -- putting us in, like, institutions. So I -- they
had already got my sister in there, so I was, like, the
next kid. So the group home said, “Yeah, your mom’s taking
you back to school shopping.” And I’m, like, “And why is
she taking me in July back to school shopping?” What the
fuck?

They brought me there, and they locked me up
in [MEDICAL CENTRE]. And I -- me, there was,
like, okay, so they had a, like, Native staff that came
with us. Like, they had to have -- they -- American Indian
People came once a week to visit us. But there was a bunch
of us Native kids, and kids -- so they called it, Canadian
Extended Care. And we had -- they were -- I -- I had a
really good psychiatrist. I loved him. I didn’t want to
leave that place. But I ran away, and I ended up going on
a tour in the States. And then I came back to Canada when
the earthquake had hit. It scared me, being in the States.

And I had come back, and there was no
supports for me. Nothing. Like, I was trying to be good,
but there was nothing for me. Like, by then, I was so
seasoned that Simpson Street was, like, it was like a walk
in the park. I could work anywhere in Canada, I had no
problems. Like --

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** What -- what is
Simpson Street?

**MS. BRIDGET PERRIER:** It was where all the
prostitutes -- it was a street in Thunder Bay that where
all the girls, like, where a sex -- prostitution happened.
The sex industry flourished. So I also hid my identity, my
ethnicity, because I learnt pretty straight forward in
prostitution, that if you’re Native, you weren’t making as
much money as the white girls. So because of how I looked,
I was able to -- like, I had blonde hair, like, I was able
to hide my ethnicity. And Simpson Street was rough. And
I -- I just kept on. Like, I kept on. I had my corner, I
had my turf. I -- I was, you know, I knew -- I was well
known by Thunder Bay Police.

I also, by that time, had started sleeping
with the Crown attorney, Agnew Johnston. He was a big
pervert. He liked little girls and little boys. And he
would pay us. So we had, like, some kind of in. Like,
there was a high -- there was a underground sex, like,
okay. So there’s, like, a underground sex club in Thunder
Bay. It’s -- a lot of the Crown attorneys, judges, and
high-end business owners, so realtors, and a lot of people
don’t talk about it. I’ve talked about it because it’s
affected me with my children, and all that. So I -- I had
met the Crown attorney, and he -- he was, like, what we
would call a -- a regular. Like, in the -- in -- and he
was a pervert. So I was seeing him.

And I was dealing with a lot of other
customers, and I got introduced back onto the ships. And
that was around 14, 15. Well, I had already been a couple
times on the ships out in Halifax. But this time, it was
the same shipman, the captain, [SHIP CAPTAIN]. And he had
me -- basically, he paid me a lot of money. I was to go to
Duluth and -- I think they go back up -- back up to Thunder
Bay. It was -- they were delivering potash. And I went on
the ships. And there I am, I’m young, I’m with the
captain. And there’s like a mess hall in it. And when I
walked through the mess hall, there was a bunch of girls
from Thunder -- like Native girls. And I was, like, they
weren’t even prostitutes. They were just, like, always in
the bar.

And -- and I remember like -- like -- ‘cause
you didn’t have to buy the beer, like, you just paid the
deposit. Like, so you’d pay 10 cents. So they were all
partying. And I was, like, “Whatever. I’m up with the
captain.” He was, like, “Okay.” Like, we’re not in --
'cause the shipmen, it’s basically, like, a row of beds, but they have, like, bunks, but they have, like, curtains. When you’re with the captain, you have your own cabin. So I was, like, “Okay. I’m fine here. I can deal with this old fart.” And one -- when we were, like, we were -- we’re in bed, like, we’re sleeping, there was a knock. And they’re, like, “Get her down here.” And he’s, like, “You need to go downstairs.” Me and him went down there, and those Native girls were fighting with them. And I’m, like, “Well, like, what do you expect? They’re all drinking.” Like, and I was, like -- like, trying to calm one of them down. I brought her to the -- to where I was staying in the room. I said, “Can I --” I, like, she was freaked out. And, like, she was bleeding, and I -- you know, I -- I said, “I need to see her in the room with me.” And she had -- her uterus was coming out. He -- her cervix was pulled out. And I’m, like -- and that captain’s, like, “You better shut her up.” And I’m, like, “Well, what are you going to do?” And he’s, like, “We’re going to throw her overboard.” And I’m, like, trying to calm her down. And I’m, like, telling her, like, “It’s okay. I’ll be okay.” And they recognized me. They were, like -- and I told the other ones, “Just shut up.” And, like, I got mad, and they’re all, like, “Everyone smarten up.” And her, I’m, like, “Calm down.”
And I asked them, like, “Can we put her somewhere, like, close, where we can -- I can watch her? I’ll still go back to bed.” And he said, “We’re going to be going to Duluth.” And I said, “She needs medical attention.” I didn’t know what was going on, I was young. And I said, “I’ll bring her to the hospital ‘cause we can -- we have medical in the States.” And he was, like, “Okay.” So I brought her to the hospital. And I was, like, “Screw that, I’m not going back on there.” I had all my stuff anyways, I brought with me. I brought her -- and I brought her to the hospital. I gave her a hundred dollars, American, to get home. ‘Cause he had already paid me. I just tooked (ph) off.

I had -- I knew someone that lived in Duluth, and we drove back. They drove me back to Thunder Bay. And I seen her after that, and she had told me what -- medically was wrong. But that scared me. And then the next time I had a dealing on the ships, I went on with my cousin, [COUSIN]. And we took a beer, I don’t even know what -- ‘cause I was pretty seasoned. Like, I was -- and we were -- it was like at 11:30 at night, we woke up to the -- the engines being turned on. They drugged us. They were going to leave. And I, like, got her up, and we went up. And they were just about to pull the -- the bridge, and we ran across -- I -- actually, on the way up, I told
her, “If you have to jump, swim out away from the -- ‘cause the propeller will pull you under.” I said, “Swim out from the boat. And make it to the -- ‘cause the deck -- the dock -- to -- going the other side of the dock and pull up.” And she was, like, “What the?” She was so scared. And I said, “We’ll jump together. Just follow me. Fuck your shoes, everything.”

And we ran across. We got across, and the security guard had called a cab. I was, like, “What?” And he was, like, “This isn’t the first time.” And then after the -- the Thunder Bay Police would warn the out of town girls, “Don’t go on the ships.” Like, not -- not -- to stay away from the ships.

Another time -- like, and during this time, like, my parents still, like, they would report me missing. And my father was told -- okay, so one time my dad was reporting me missing, and he was told -- okay, when he gave my description, he said, “She’s Native.” And the police officer said, ‘cause he knew my dad, said, “Larry, don’t say she’s Native.” And my dad’s, like, “Why?” And he’s, like -- thank you -- he’s, like, “Because we won’t look for her.” And that -- that scared my dad. That scared my dad because, you know, he -- he knew that I -- he knew that I was very vulnerable. And he said it bothered him. Like, you know, don’t -- you know. The first thing they ask you,
“What -- what’s her race?” And, “She’s Native.” Like, you know, imagine being told, “Don’t say she’s Native, or they won’t look for her.”

My -- my -- I had this connection with this Crown attorney, and he -- you know, he was weird. Like, he also knew my parents. Like, they knew each other because, you know, they went to, like, they did things, like, golfed with them. He knew my dad. And I, you know, it would bother me. He’d be, like, “Oh, my wife and your mom are at, like, something.” And I’m, like -- some meeting together. And I was, like -- he was weird. But he was really weird. Like, really pervertedly weird. He never did things to hurt us, but he had, like, weird sex drives. And he liked to have, like -- we would dress him up as a woman, and he would get all drunk and stupid.

And I remember one time we dressed him up and he fell, and he split his eye open. And he got -- gashed himself, and we had to drive him to the hospital. He was bleeding everywhere. And I got pulled over driving him. And Thunder Bay Police was, like, “What the fuck?” And they didn’t say anything. Like, the -- underage girl, on the run, is driving the Crown attorney’s Jeep. Like, we would drive his Jeep for days, leave him tied up. Go back, check on him. Like, he was weird. But, like, nobody would say anything.
But they’d have these, like, big sex parties. And, you know, like, imagine you have to see that judge after. And they would, like -- and there was female lawyers there. And they wouldn’t -- like, we would have to see these people. Like, one was, like, our Children’s Aid lawyer, one was my ex’s lawyer. Like, one was my, like, you know, these are high -- these are people put in politically that could do -- you know, that are supposed to be there to protect you, but they’re there, you know, doing cocaine off your ass. Like, I never said I was going to ever be a drug-addicted prostitute. Like, you know, and I really kept that away from me. I also travelled a lot in it, you know.

I ended up -- my -- my parents thought it would do me good to -- I ended up in Oshawa, trying to, you know, figure things out in a home in Oshawa, and I met my real dad, and all that. And it didn’t work out. But I met -- I ended up meeting someone involved in organized crime in a -- or in a huge biker family, one of the heads’ sons. And I ended up pregnant with this young man. And I came back to Thunder Bay. And I actually requested -- ‘cause it was either go to jail, and I just knew that, like, I wanted better for my baby, so I said I needed to go to rehab. ‘Cause I would rather go down to Minneapolis, where the staff knew me. So the police officer, the young
offender cop, brought me to -- they brought me back to [HOSPITAL NAME]. And because I had a job there. Like, I left the first time -- I left -- I got actually paid job, so I went back there. And my shrink -- I wanted my same shrink, like, I had a really good rapport. And they were, like, "He’s dead." He had committed suicide.

So I went back into treatment. And they, like, they take pregnancy tests, like, it was part of your admissions. And I didn’t know I was pregnant. Like, I kind of sensed I was, but I wasn’t telling anyone. And the -- one of the workers who knew me really well -- I was so tired, and she came in, and she said, “Get the fuck up.” She said, “We’re going for an ultrasound,” she was, like, “you little jerk.” And I was, like, “What?” And she was, like, “You’re pregnant.” And I was, like, “Oh, shit.” And sure enough, I was 18 weeks pregnant.

So there I am, back in [HOSPITAL NAME] -- but I was safe there. See, that’s why I went back there. People were, like, “Whoa, was it -- did they mistreat you?” Actually, in [HOSPITAL NAME], them and the young offender centres in Thunder Bay, were the only places I felt safe. So, like, and I was, kind of, treated -- because the staff already had had me for, like, nine months, they loved me. So I was treated -- I was around -- I was 16, so they were, like, they treated me different, right. Like, I was, like
-- I even asked to be on the locked ward, they’re, like, “No. We’re not putting you on the lock ward. We’re putting you --” You know, like, they just, like, were really good to me.

And I -- I didn’t want to go back to Thunder Bay. But what had happened was, the young offender probation officer showed up, and they’re, like, “Why are you down here?” Because the police didn’t tell the judges, anyone. They actually, for my own sake, brought me to treatment. So there I am back in the States in treatment. And I’m, like, “I don’t want to go back to Thunder Bay.” And they -- they -- it was, like, a big, big scandal. Bridget’s in -- in -- but the reason why that cop did that, why she brought me there, was because she knew the Crown attorney bullshit, and she was trying to keep us away from him. They were trying to build a case.

So I -- I went back in and I had to go to, like, I got sent back home. And I remember going up -- I had been raped the year before by a -- by a man on Simpson Street, and it was a brutal rape. And brutal enough, that I had to receive I think it was 32 stitches inside me. He ripped me open. His name was [N.D.]. I didn’t know him as a trick, he wasn’t a client, a sex buyer. I knew him from -- I actually babysat his kids. They were -- they lived around the corner from my parents. And all of a sudden,
like, I guess, he was -- lived somewhere else, and he had
seen me on Simpson and said, like, “What are you doing?”
And then I was, like, “Oh, I’m just looking for my friend.”

And he sexually -- he held me captive for 43 hours. And his plan was to kill me. He had lye, he had
wire snips. I tried to talk him out of -- like, at one
point, I was, like, telling him, “What about your kids?”
Like, “You know my parents. They’re going to miss me,
right?” Like, you know, that’s what you -- you know, no
one prepares you how to talk your way out of getting
murdered, right. And he was so angry, and he strangled me
with his gun. He -- I had had in -- because I was flying
in and out from Toronto, blonde extensions sewn in and
glued in. He had ripped them out with parts of my scalp.
And he -- you know, he was -- it was brutal. Like, I’ve
never experienced something like that. I was -- I really
thought, “That’s it. I’m dying.” Like, you know?

Like, and my parents aren’t going to find me
because this guy’s a bush man, and he has lye. So, like,
so there I am, and it -- I escaped. The whole way --
reason why I escaped was because CAS -- he had a visit that
weekend with his kids, which he had sent them away. They
were supposed to come in and do a pop-up visit, and I guess
they -- they had -- had done some, and some visits they
didn’t come. Well, I guess he got comfortable, and it just
so happened to be that visit they were popping in.

And it was -- it was [SOCIAL WORKER] (ph) from Thunder Bay Children’s Aid. And I remember he -- at one point, I hid in the bathroom. Like, I -- but he had ripped apart the bathroom door. So I had, like -- I was lying beside him, and I could hear him sleep. Like, you know when you hear someone falling asleep, like, his breathing was getting -- and he was starting to snore, and I knew. But, I -- also, I swear, I’m, like, okay, like, I’d ask God, like, “Get me out of here.”

I heard someone knocking. I was, like, “Fuck, someone’s knocking.” And I ran out. And there was my worker. I opened the front door, there was my social worker, [SOCIAL WORKER], who was his social worker, and I ran, and I jumped in her car. And she -- and he heard me going down the stairs. He came flying out. There she was, standing there. He ran back upstairs. She slammed the door. She jumped in her car, but her car was broken down, it had stalled. But she had already called C -- CAA, and she was, like, CAA’s coming. And I seen a tow truck driving. I jumped out of that car. He was coming out the door, but the tow truck driver stopped, and I, like, opened up the tow truck, and I jumped in, and I’m butt naked. And the tow truck driver grabbed a wrench, like, a big thing, and he said -- and buddy ran in the house.
And it was a big biker from Thunder Bay’s Satan’s Choice. So I’m, like -- he’s, like, “Bridget?” Like, what the -- the worker jumped in, she’s all scared. Like, the hell, and I’m bleeding everywhere, like, I’m beat up, but he knew it was me. And he put his jacket over me. And the cops came. And you know what the cops did? Thunder Bay Police put me and that [N.D.] in the same cruiser. They put him in the back, and me in the front. And he’s, like, “I’ll --” And he was, like, insane, like, headbutting it. And the tow truck driver opened up the door and pulled me out, put me back in the tow truck. And he said, “No.” And he was, like, “No, no, no.” And he was, like, “I’ll kill you.” Like, the tow truck driver was telling him he was going to kill him. And I’m, like, freaked right out. Like, just, like, get me out of here.

And they took me to Thunder -- [HOSPITAL NAME] to do my rape kit. It was weird because in Thunder Bay they only have two rape nurses, it just happened to be my friend, [NURSE]’s mom, and my family doctor, her husband, was the emerg doctor. So he called his wife in ‘cause he seen me, [DOCTOR 1], so she did my rape kit, and my friend’s mom was the nurse.

So after treatment -- like, so I, like, in that process, I’d went to Toronto, got -- Oshawa, got pregnant, went to treatment. In that process, I guess,
they were looking to--for me for that trial, and I’m pregnant. And I went--they found me in Minnesota, brought me back. I had to do that trial. And I remember I was so big. Like, I was so big with that pregnancy that they had asked--they--like, I didn’t even fit clothes. Like, my--I had to wear my dad’s, like, sweatpants and a men’s shirt. Like, I didn’t fit female clothes. And I went to trial, and it was Agnew. And I had seen Agnew, like, Agnew was my client. And Agnew had paid to have sex--he wanted to have sex with a pregnant kid, so he paid to have sex with me.

And we were going into trial, and he said, “Bridget, I’m going to have to send this to my co-worker. I can’t--because I love you.” And I was, like, “What the fuck? Well, if you love me, you--” And he goes, “No, no, no.” He won’t get time if--and, I guess, Agnew had gotten information that he was being investigated, and he wanted that man to go to jail. And he said, “But I will be at the court with you.” Fucking Agnew Johnston sitting with my mom in court, like, explaining her the process.

And my dad, [FATHER], came. And we were in the Federal Court, and for some reason, like, they were--they were, like, he ended up coming face-to-face with my--and--the man that raped me, and I’m big and pregnant. And that was the year they couldn’t use, if you’ve had a
sexual -- like, if you were a prostitute, or any of your
sexual -- that year, it changed, in ’93. It was in
January. And my dad -- the guy, [N.D.], told my dad, “I
screwed your daughter in the ass, and she squealed like a
pig.” And my dad was, like, “What the fuck?” Like, my --
they had to restrain my father, who, like, if anyone knew
him, he’s very stoic, and he’s a kind, good, man.

And the trial, they lost all the evidence
that they gave, like, all the rape kit. Like, how the fuck
does Thunder Bay Police lose a rape kit? It -- if it
wasn’t for the nurse who knew me from kindergarten, and my
G.P. doing my rape kit, he wouldn’t have gotten sent away.
His lawyer kept on bringing it back that I was in
prostitution, which wasn’t the case. That -- that
shouldn’t have even been brought into court. He only got
two years for what he did. And because of what he did, I
couldn’t give birth to my son.

I had given birth -- I gave birth at 35
weeks to my son, and he was 11 pounds, 15 ounces. I had an
incompetent cervix. And to go through what any of us on
the streets had gone through, to even have to sell sex when
you’re pregnant, is the most humiliating thing. Your
pregnant body is supposed to be sacred. You’re giving --
you have baby in you, and you’re still turning tricks. And
I still worked. I worked up until I was seven months --
'til -- and then I saw Agnew, and I just got money out of him. But I could barely even stand up, I was so big. I had a big, big baby. And I gave -- like, I worked up until about 30, 32 weeks, and then I had to get sewn up. And I remember just, like, being so big. And going through, like, you know, like, it just was horrific, like, you know. And then I couldn’t push him out ‘cause by then, I had damaged my body. Like, I have an incompetent cervix. And the -- I have trauma womb, you know, so my body doesn’t work like how women’s bodies should work.

It -- I had my baby, and as soon as I stopped bleeding, I was standing on a corner. You know, never mind, like, you know. And these men that feel privy to buy women, they don’t care if you’re, like, nursing. Like, I didn’t want any men touching my breasts, so I’d wear a double bra with my breast pads. And they didn’t care. I remember -- though I had some regulars that were good, like, they would drop off formula. But, like, there was just that no care.

I had seen some stuff -- I had been almost murdered twice. And when I say that, the second guy that went after me had -- yeah.

MS. FRANCINE MERA STY: Before we get into that --

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: I --
MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: -- do you want to take a break?

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: I have to pee, actually. I’m kind of going (indiscernible).

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, I had to. I didn’t want to --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: All right. Then I’m just going to shut this --

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: It’s the pee break time.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: And I might need a cigarette.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. And it’s -- --- Upon recessing --- Upon reconvening at 12:46 p.m.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. It’s on. And that’s on. So we were on a break. It’s 12:46 p.m., and October 11. So we’re going to continue with the statement.

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: So when I -- I was talking about, you know, my sexual assault case, and the Crown attorney in Thunder Bay, and how that man only got two years. And the only reason why he got two years was because my family doctor and the nurse knew me and were able to come and testify.
MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: And this is [N.D.]

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: [N.D.](ph).

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: -- -[N.D.].

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: -[N.D.].

MS. BRIDGET PERRIER: -[N.D.]. And he -- so he went and did his two years. I gave birth quite a few weeks after testifying. And I gave birth and -- to a -- a huge -- a 11-pound, 15-ounce baby boy named -- and who I named Tanner. He was the light of my life. He was everything. And even though I was stuck in prostitution, you know, and told what a bad person I was by everybody, he was something I did in perfection. He had this big head of dark hair, and these beautiful brown eyes, and these big chubby cheeks. He was like a little -- I can’t, you know, we always say niche babies with the big hair, and the -- he had that. Like, he was just, like, you just wanted to bite him.

I -- I loved being a mom. My son’s father was abusive, and he was young himself. And he was spoiled, and privileged, and he acted like a jerk. And that’s when I knew I didn’t want to be with him. After I had Tanner, I had to go back into prostitution because I couldn’t live on 800 or $900 a month back then, or I think it was more than that. But I just -- it wasn’t sustaining me. And, you
know, I would -- I would leave him at the sitters. I would drive, drop him off.

He had a babysitter. She was an old neighbour of mine, and she had watched me go out, so she would take him. And she would make sure that we’d come get him. Like, she knew. I told her that if I didn’t come back, that I’d probably be dead. Like, she either knew I was partying because I hung out with her kids too. So -- but, you know, and I -- I always gave her strict orders, “Don’t give him to my parents.”

And my Uncle [Uncle] -- I had a -- my biological uncle, he was a -- he worked for the -[Personal Information], and he always checked on me. I -- he had no kids, I was his little brat. He was my birth mom’s bio brother, and he always, always, you know, showed me, you know, love, unconditional love. [UNCLE], everyone knew who [UNCLE] was. All the girls out there, that I hung out with, he was all of our uncle. He always made sure, you know, everyone -- he’d take me and all the girls out for dinner. He was an awesome man. He loved us, you know, unconditionally. And that was what he said would get me out free.

By then I was protected by organized crime, so I was owned by the bikers. And I was able to do whatever I wanted. I was a renegade. I could go wherever
I wanted without worrying about being kidnapped by another pimp 'cause no one wanted to screw with the bikers. And I -- during my time in, like, my son was, like, little, it wasn’t just, you know, the streets we had to fight, we had to fight social services too, so that was Children’s Aid, especially. So even though I still was a child, they should have been protecting me, they were there trying to take my privilege as a mother away from me.

And, I don’t know, one time they -- they did -- they would -- she, the worker, would come over, and she was, like, 26, and she was, like, very privileged, white privileged. And back then they had these blue, like, folders, like, file folders. And you knew if they had the blue thing, that they were CAS. And she knocked on my door, I was living in the east end, and she came in, and she said -- she wouldn’t sit on my couch. She’d never sit on my couch, she’d stand there with her big ass diamond ring. And, you know, I don’t think she even lived life. I think she married -- she was Italian, so she married the guy, her first boyfriend. Like, and, she’d be, like, “Oh, your baby’s really cute.” And, like, she wouldn’t even hold him.

And one time she came over and I said to her, “He doesn’t --” He was really cranky, and he wouldn’t settle. And she came up to me and said, “He -- I need to
check him.” So I said, “Yeah, because he has bruises.”

And she looked at my baby and you could go like this to his cheeks and he would bruise. And he had handprints from burping on him. He was around six months. And I -- he wasn’t sitting up, he was still really, like -- and he was big. So -- and I was nursing. So she was, like, writing down in her little folder. I wanted to bonk her in the head with it. And so I showed her the bruises, and there was a red rash on him. And she said, “I have to -- oh, I -- I just got to go in my car for something.” And we seen her on the car -- the cellphone. And there was one car -- per car -- four cop cars showed up. I knew. They were taking him.

They apprehended Tanner. And I called my [UNCLE]. I didn’t know what to do. They took him. They wouldn’t tell me why they took him ‘cause he had these bruises, so they -- which they thought were -- I assaulted him. And -- and I -- I was nefarious for being the baby whisper. I could put any baby to bed. I was good with babies. I’d raised many babies from my adopted family, so I was always -- you know, I liked to babysit. Like, I loved children. So I was, like, “What the --” Like, they were painting me as a monster.

And we went through court and that, and the judge said -- my uncle came to court. And [R.H.] came to
court with me in Thunder Bay. And these are judges that we
know in a different level. So, like, I can’t even, like --
so, basically, the judge said -- my uncle stood up and
said, “I’m taking her to Red Lake to live on McKenzie
Island.” And [R.H.] said, “She’s not abused the baby.
We’ve noticed that he’s, like, a little bit lagged on with
the -- with development. And we know --” Like, they
vehemently came on my side. So the judge said, “Okay. You
go to Red Lake, Bridget, and I’ll give you your son.”

So my uncle moved me to Red Lake. And I
even went to high school. So my uncle was traditional
and -- very traditional. And they were doing stuff, like,
shaking tents and stuff. And he had a sweat lodge on our
property, and I was, like, “Oh, God.” I would wake up,
sunrise ceremonies. So I was introduced to ceremony. And
I knew better, you know. I knew I came from a, you know,
an uncle that really -- he worked with the Jesuits before
he worked with this fancy job. And my uncle always, like,
he would always stick up for me.

So, you know, there I am, and they had --
they were, like, he knew about the Crown attorney. He had
actually picked us up from his house. So he was all, like,
he -- he hated him. So he would say, like, you know, if
there was ever at man in my house, he’d be, like -- an

[UNCLE] never swore, and when he did, it would meant when
he was mad. So he’s, like, thrown out johns out of my house, a few that worked for MNR that were known in the community, Native men. A Chief from [FIRST NATION RESERVE], he threw out of my house because he was all high on drugs, and my uncle was, like, very stuck to his ways.

So there I am in McKenzie Island, and I’m normal. For those three months, I’m normal. And I’m going to high school, Tanner’s coming to live with us. And one weekend, he’s, like, “We’re having a sweat. We’re having --” And he was -- oh, he had a girlfriend from -- I think she was from north. She’s Oji-Cree, she didn’t speak English. The only -- how we talked was through soap operas. She’d say, “Tansi.” and point to the T.V., and I’d turn on. We watched General Hospital, Y and R. And she would talk to me in Oji-Cree. It drove me nuts, but she, you know, and she’d show me stuff, like, how to make food. And she’d always laugh at me. And we’d go to bingo. She’d sneak me into bingo with her. So there I am in bingo with her. And her name was [UNCLE’S GIRLFRIEND], and I liked her.

And they were doing these ceremonies so that -- she was getting me ready to help them with the ceremony, so I did, like, the -- the feast food. And, like, it was normal for Uncle to drum in the house, and water -- like, that was just normal. It embarrassed me,
but it was normal. So I was getting ready, and they were preparing the moose heart and all that. It was so gross. And I, like, she would just laugh, her and her sisters would just laugh at me because I’d be, like, gagging. And they’d be, like, “Stop.” And I’d be, like, “I can’t help it.” And, you know, and they -- they were laughing because she want -- she wanted me to show her sister my butt. I have an eyeball tattoo on my -- and she was, like, it was big, like, you know, these old Cree ladies laughing at my tattoo. And, like, they were just amazed with it and, like, just, you know. So we had a good laugh with these ladies. And they were preparing for a shaking tent and sweat.

And I was all right with the sweat, making the stew and all that. And they -- like, they would speak their language, look at me and laugh. And I’d be, like, “Fuck, they’re laughing at me.” And she made me beautiful moccasins and she had my regalia beadwork done. Like, she would just -- I would come from school and my beadwork would be all laid out. I’d be, like, “[UNCLE’S GIRLFRIEND] what the hell?” And she just -- you know, and giggle away.

So there I am, and the ceremony starts -- the shaking tent starts, and I mean, it was dead calm. We lived on McKenzie Island, it was calm, and all of a sudden it was windy. And I swear I seen something, and I ran back
into the house, and I said, “It scared me.” And I went to bed. And I’m sleeping, and my grandmother who passed away, my [UNCLE]’s mom, visited me that night. And she said, “Tansi,” You know, “You think the world -- the road is not like this, what you want, straight. It’s like this and like this. Your son needs you, go to him.”

That morning, I woke up, my uncle was fully dressed, and he said, “I’m driving you back to Thunder Bay.” And I was, like, “Okay.” He’s like, “My mom visited. I can smell her perfume.” And that night -- he dropped me off in Thunder Bay at my sister’s, and we went out to Simpson Street to the -- that was the track where all the prostitution happened ‘cause I needed to make money ‘cause he only left me with 80 bucks. But he was smart ‘cause he knew we partied. And I could, if I needed anything, he would just send me the money. So and I didn’t want to overwhelm him. But it was weird, that drive home, we didn’t even, like -- I was so quiet back to Thunder Bay that day, like, it was not his usual -- he used to let me listen to whatever I wanted to. We listened to pow wow music all the way back. And he was, like, “Just be safe, my girl. Be safe.”

And that night, when we came home from prostitute -- from out, we -- me and my sister were going back to the apartment, there was police outside, and I
thought -- my sister looked at me, and she said, “Who did you rob?” And I said, “Who did you rob?” And we’re arguing about who -- what we both did, what we didn’t do. And they had said, “Bridget, there -- your son.” And I knew, “Oh, shit. Here we go.”

These were cops that abused us, ritually, you know. We would be abused, shaken up, forced to do things with them. They -- I could tell in their faces, there was sadness. And I asked them, “Is he -- is he dead?” And they said, “No, he’s alive.” And they went to the hospital, the Port Arthur General, with their sirens on with me in the car. And when I walked into the pediatric unit, they were pushing platelets in my son. And my son was diagnosed with leukemia. So those bruises were not because of child abuse, they were a sign of acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

And I phoned my [UNCLE]. [UNCLE’S GIRLFRIEND] had answered the phone, and he wasn’t home yet. And that was the first time she ever spoke English to me. She said, “Holy shit. Okay. I will tell him.” She had done that, so she could bring back the -- the language back to me. And we were airlifted back to -- down here, down south to Toronto. And I was brought to the oncology unit and, you know, Tanner went through chemo, and all that, and radiation. His cancer went testicular and he had radiation
on his little man parts.

And -- but you would think that I’d be stuck in the hospital with my child. I was, all day. But at night, I would go down and I would go and -- out to high track and prostitute myself because I couldn’t live on the $20 a day I was given by the Northern Travel Grant for food. And I didn’t, like, they arranged for me to eat meals at the hospital. Well, you can only eat hospital food so much. And I -- I would work and -- so that me and Tanner had whatever we needed. And I would go out -- and it -- and when I say, work, it’s not like going out to your job, but at that moment, that’s what I felt was my job. I didn’t realize doing what I was doing, I could expose him to illness that could kill him.

But I had to do -- and the security guard at Sick Kids, he knew what I was doing. So he would hold my normal clothes, like, my pajamas. So I would leave, get dressed in the bathroom down in the atrium, give him my -- my duffle bag with my normal clothes, and he’d have a cab, and I’d go out, and I’d prostitute. I’d leave at, like, 11:30. And I would go out and I would be back by 5 in the morning. During one of these times, I was picked up by a police officers, and they were going to bring me down to Cherry Beach. And they had told me, “Put out or get out.” So I got out. And they were going to hurt me. They were
actually known, even other cops knew what they were doing.
And I remember selling, my grandmother was in my ears
telling me, “Get the fuck out. Run.” And I -- they didn’t
think I’d get out. They thought I would put out. And I
got out fast, and I got my high heels off, and I darted.

And back then I was smaller than I am now.
And it -- there was a junkyard, and I slid through the --
through the gates. They were chasing me, and they couldn’t
catch me. And I slid through the gates, and they -- all of
a sudden, there was -- I look, and there was, like, these
big ass dogs. And I’m, like, “Fuck, I’m dead.” Like --
but the dogs, like, went at the cops and were going crazy.
And the one dog came, and I held onto it, and it took me to
that little house in the junkyard down at Cherry Beach.
And the old man, he was an old black man, he said, “Just
stay here.” You know, “You got to hide because the last
girl didn’t almost make it.” And I was, like, “Shit.” And
they left. They finally left, and he got me out of there.
I got to the hospital and I was all scared. He even gave
me money.

And then I went back out again, and I got
arrested. And I had a parent’s pass, and they were going
to charge me for stealing out of Sick Kids ‘cause I was
scared to say anything because I didn’t want Child Welfare
to be called. I ended up, like, I knew that Tanner was
having a procedure the next day that needed me to sign
for -- for him to have anesthetic. So I finally told --
and it was the morality unit, and I told them that I had to
sign to get the -- to call his nurse and get the forms
faxed. They released me because that nurse, that was
Tanner’s nurse, was their lieutenant’s wife, and I was
released.

And the next day, they showed up at Sick
Kids, and they asked me where Bridget was. And I was,
like, “I’m right here.” And they were, like, “You’re a
little kid.” And, you know, that was the first time I had
a positive dealing with police. And one of them was -- his
name was [DETECTIVE]. He was a dick. He was known to be
mean to us girls. Like, he would, like, prevent us from
getting in cars and pull us over. But he never did it with
me. He liked me. He -- he liked -- he liked the fact that
I knew hockey, I knew about fishing. And, you know, he
would talk to me about the men, the men that I seen. And I
would tell him things, like, “They’re weird.” Like, you
know, you go to some man’s house and, you know, he’d tell
you he has a kid the same age as you, or you’d see their
pictures of their spouses.

You know, one time, I was picked up and the
guy was smoking crack. And I -- I heard, like, cooing and
there’s a little, like, two-year-old in the car seat. And
I’m, like, “What the hell.” So I got him to pull over, and he had no pants on, and I, you know -- and I told this detective about this story. ‘Cause what had happened was, I flagged down a policeman, and I stole buddy’s phone. And he was all high. And I had the little baby in my arms. And I’m standing there in big hooker heels. They’re, like, looking at me, and I’ve called already his wife. And she’s, like, “Oh, you’re not the first one.” And I said, “You better come.”

So they were going to charge me for kidnapping. And they were, like, trying to -- and I wouldn’t give them the baby. I just hung on. I knew if I gave them the baby, I was in problem, like, there was going to be a problem, so I held onto that baby. And that baby was screaming. The man had locked himself now in the car, and he’s, like, still smoking crack. And I’m, like -- it was bizarre. And [DETECTIVE] came. [DETECTIVE], like, “No, no, no. She’s not at fault.” And he got really angry at them. He’s, like, “Why are getting mad at her?” He’s, like, “She did a good thing.” And the wife came and, you know, that was how our dealings were.

Some of these police officers would, like, pull over and, like, want to check what we’re wearing, or, like, they’d frisk us and, like, molest you, put their fingers inside you. It was weird. Like, they weren’t
there for -- as police officers, they were terrorizers. And if you didn’t give them what they wanted, they could be very, very violent. And, you know, like, I, one time, got pulled in for a police party, and it was brutal. Like, I had to, like, it was, like, I almost had to fight my way to get paid, to fight my way to, like, you know, like the way they had sex with us was horrible. You know, spitting in our face, and stuff like that.

The johns did damage to me, you know. The johns, the sex buyers, they weren’t, like, I -- I can never say I ever felt how I feel like when I’m intimate with my spouse. There was never that moment. It was disguising, it was dirty. I hated them. To this day, I hate them. There’s nothing good about these men. They are parasitic in my eyes. I, you know, they knew we were being trafficked. They seen the bruises on us. They never once said, “Are you safe?” You know, the guilty ones, you know, you’d have ones where you’d have sex with, and they cry after, and you’re, like, “Fucking weirdos.” Like, I hated them.

And another thing I hated about standing on a corner was, the people who drove by us and looked at us like we were shit, are the kids at grad in their stupid limos. You know, I -- I hated prom season. It was hazardous. They’d throw piss balloons or pennies at us,
you know, drive by in their limos. One time, I jumped in the limo, and I made them call their parents, and I made the parents give me money. I said I was going to take their kids out. Their -- this one girl, I was, like, “She’s gone. You better come give us money.”

The women that you prostitute with, you develop a sisterhood. But even in that sisterhood, if her pimp told her to beat you up, she’s still going to have to. We would fight each other because of our pimps or what happened on the corner. We called it the corner rules. But there was a sisterhood, and we always got along. Like, when I would hide from the pimps, we’d hide with the trans -- the tranny stroll. So we’d go out -- ‘cause none of the black pimps would go near them, so we were able to still sell sex, but we were protected. There was never this divide that there is today.

I hated prostitution, and I became something I hated. I became an addicted prostitute. I ended being fed Percocets because I have physical issues, uterine fibroids and that, due to being used so young by men. I once was picked up in Thunder Bay by a man, he was -- what was he, Egyptian, in a Mercedes Benz, and I had been in that car. I’ve been in that car. Not with him, with his wife, who was -- she worked for [FAMILY CENTRE] with babies, like moms and babies program coordinator. And he
was a -- he was [PERPETRATOR 5], he was -- worked for [SCHOOL NAME]. He was probably one of the worst dates. He was -- he hated women. He was Muslim. He was plan -- he had actually harmed and raped a few other girls. He got me in his car, and I fought back. And I see a police officer came and intervened. And he was -- his plan, he was going to hurt me.

During this time, I had lost my best friend, two of them, in a month span. Jamie McGuire was killed outside Winnipeg, and my best friend Stephanie (ph) was found dead in the east end. She had been beaten. They had to wait for her hands to defrost. It was a really, really cold day that year, and I had flown in from Toronto. My mom had flown me in for my son’s first birthday. And we had driven, all the girls, we had some -- we had just said, “Screw it. Let’s all just go out drinking.” We had money. I had made -- we all made money. And we thought it was a new girl, but it was her. She had went from blonde to brunette. And we had drove past her, and I wish we had stopped because she was murdered that night.

The man who murdered her had raped his wife prior. And the only -- so the reason why I’m bringing her and Jamie up, is they found Stephanie’s killer because she was white. But Jamie McGuire was found pantless in a ditch, and they still haven’t found her killer. But we
know who killed her. We knew it was the bikers in
Winnipeg. We knew because she had HIV, and it was told to
some of us. It was told to me. I had dealings with one of
those bikers, and he had actually told me he had killed
her. And I have talked to the ICE Unit in Winnipeg about
what I had experienced with Jamie, hearing about her
murder. See, I grew up with Jamie McGuire. Jamie
McGuire’s parents were -- lived down the street from my
adopted family. She had come on camping trips, had come
out to the cottage. She went to school with my older
sister. They were friends. Jamie McGuire and me did some
modelling together. Like, her older sister babysat us.
So, like, you know, her dying, and it was, like, Stephanie
got a whole page, and Jamie got a little page.

And -- and it -- you know, it always pissed
me off about that because they both were beautiful women.
But I knew the difference. I knew the difference from when
one of the Asian girls down here got murdered to one of the
white girls that got murdered. I knew that there was
racism in the sex trade. And knew right in the beginning,
when I was getting paid, and I would never disclose my
heritage because it could be life and death for me.

I hated the men so much that I became very
brutal. I -- I was known to be very -- I hated them. I
would have temper tantrums. I would -- I started drinking
heavy. I started to use cocaine, abuse Percocets. Because the Percocets were given to me by a doctor in Thunder Bay. You know, he was writing me scripts out, 300 a month. I was only 18, 19. My mom actually came to the doctor’s with me and said, you know, “Why are you giving my daughter this?” You know, “Let’s try giving her surgery, or something, laser.” But I had such bad endometriosis. And what I know now is because of the sex trade, because of being harmed, you know, it threw -- it threw me off.

I ended up, you know, losing my son. And on his death bed -- well, just before his death bed, I had been incarcerated about a -- before he died. We were actually planning to go on the Wish -- his Make a Wish from Wish Foundation, and I got arrested for extortion, and just stupid stuff. And to humiliate me, they -- they did some horrible stuff, and I -- I was abused by the guards. And they put me in isolation, and I started losing my mind. I started to the point where I was, like, you know, like, I’m not a religious person, but I had to pray because it was the only thing that was keeping me safe.

And the guards were -- were brutal. And they would come in and they would take away my mattress, and they would take away my clothes. And they would have me sitting there naked. I’m naked, and I would pray at night that they wouldn’t come and hurt me. And there was
times that, you know, stuff would happen, being dragged in
the shower by my hair and, you know, like, put in the
scalding showers and stuff like that. That wasn’t normal.
And, like, to know, like, you know. They would put me in a
regular range, and then they’d pull me out again because I
would -- wouldn’t rat out the bikers. And, you know, and I
was going through a stressful time, I knew my kid wasn’t
doing well.

And one night, I prayed ‘cause we -- what
was going on, it was, you know, horrible. And I -- I don’t
talk about God in my -- in my -- like, I’m not someone
that’ll go to church. Believe me. Like, you know, I’m
pretty angry at him. And he -- he told -- basically, I had
a conversation with him. He sat with me. He was in my
cell with me. And he told me, “Bridget, you have to be
silent, and you have to listen, and you have to pay
attention. And there is purpose for you in this world.”
‘Cause I was going to end it. I was done.

And I went to court the next day, and I was
already pled, so they gave me bail. And, you know, my mom
had to fight. She had to pull the -- I -- I’m lucky
because I have that privilege. I had privilege. I had
parents that were white, and that were well respected. And
I got out of jail that day, and I got to be with my son.

And I’m lucky I got to meet with him
because, you know, he was everything to me. He was five. He was -- this is -- and he was -- Tanner was an amazing child. He -- he was amazing. And he would tell you, “I love you”, to “Fuck off” in one breath. And I liked that, you know. He had tenacity and he never -- you couldn’t tell him I was bad. He’d tell you to ‘eff off. And, you know, he had been taken away from me, put in foster homes, and given back to me, you know. You know, I watched what they did to him. And he never, ever spoke up against his mommy.

And I remember one of the drivers for Dilico saying, “This kid breaks my heart.” He would cry when they would come, and -- and visits. And she said, those are the kids she -- that she knew would go back. It was the kids that just would be, like, “Bye, see you,” and not cry, she would cry for. But he ended up -- he -- so I got out of jail, we had Dilico workers at the house. We actually threw out -- I told the -- they had a psychologist coming to prepare him. I was, like, “Get out. Get that driver -- [DRIVER] here, he liked her.” So --[DRIVER] helped me, and I got out of jail. And [DRIVER] had been there ‘cause Tanner was, like, a definite Indian baby. He liked his macaroni tomato soup. He liked certain things. Like, you know, they had to -- everyone had to appease to him.

But I had that three days with him, you
know. Everyone around should have known that I was going
through hard times having him. They shouldn’t have locked
me up. They should have worked with me. I had three days
with him, and I asked him -- I told him I was sorry. And
he said, “It’s okay, Mom. Pinky swear you’ll never go back
to work.” So I told him, “I’ll never go back.” You know,
and I didn’t. And I pinky swore with him. And he died
three days -- he -- the night he was -- the night before he
died, we watched G.I. Jane, and he said, “Mom, tell those
men with big muscles and wings to leave me alone.” And I
went, “What?” And he said, “Tell them to leave me alone.”
And I knew there was -- he was dying. And I took him back
to his -- back to the hospital, Mckellar, where he was
born, and to his nurses that he could swear at, they never
judged him. And he passed away.

And he -- it was hard. And when he died,
they wanted to arrest me. They were going to put me back
like a caged animal. And I -- I told that cop, she had --
female police officers were horrible to us. And she wanted
to arrest me because the bail order was that I was to be in
arms length of my mother, unless we were at home. And my
mom had to stay with the body, and they had to give me,
like, valium or something. And it was with two people,
like, a biker and his wife. And they were in emerg and
they were going to arrest me. And that biker, he pressed
the button on the elevator. The cops were there. And his wife was, like -- I was sitting in a wheelchair, just lost my child. I was only going there to get the medication, so I wouldn’t go psychotic. And he pulled me in the elevator and slammed it on the police. They came up to arrest me at the pediatric unit. And at that point, I was back there holding my dead child. They photographed us at this funeral. They, like, it was like a bunch of criminals. They had no business.

So what I did was, I ran. I ran away from Thunder Bay. I left, and I called [DETECTIVE], and I went to treatment. I went to treatment out in Winnipeg, but it wasn’t, like, it was fucked up because I thought I -- “Okay, this is it. I’m going to heal.” And I couldn’t heal because I went to the [TREATMENT CENTRE], and what had happened was all the -- the -- I told them, like, this was it. I was going to go on and live honestly. So I told them, “I have a drug habit.” ‘Cause, and they go, “How?” And I said, “Well, I prostituted myself.” And they were, like -- and all of sudden, the female staff treated me like shit, and the male staff were trying to abuse me, rubbing up on me. So I took off to my friend’s house, her house. I took off. I just walked out. I told Tony, I said, “I can’t. I can’t stay here.” Like, it’s fucked up.
So I went to her house in Winnipeg and stayed there, but I was really home sick, and I went to my uncle. And I met a guy in Timmins and he was Arabic, and I ended up hooking up with him. And I found out I was pregnant again. And I knew I couldn’t go back to Thunder Bay. I knew that if I went to jail, I was going to die. I knew. I knew that if I went and did my time, I was going to die. So I came to Toronto, and I started over. And I also knew that I couldn’t tell people what had happened to me. So what I did was, I just basically said I was escaping a domestic violence situation -- a violent situation.

And I -- I went to a shelter that was run through the YWCA. And they were really good, but they could only keep you so many months. And they wanted to keep me forever. And I -- I knew I couldn’t go to rehab. And I was honest with my obstetrician that I was fleeing. And he said the warrant wouldn’t touch me down here. So I was able to use my health card. And he followed me, and I -- he said, “There’s a flag.” They had a flag on me. That if I was to give birth, they were to take that child. And he goes, “I don’t believe in those because you’ve been honest from the get-go.” So I was so honest with him. And I ended up getting into transitional -- in Native housing here through on Diane (ph).
And I gave birth to a baby very early. She was the best thing. She was 19. And it was hard because I -- you know, straightening out. Now, I have to live. Now, I have to either figure it out fast, so I’ll -- I -- I just complied exactly with every rule. I didn’t want to get kicked out. I didn’t want any rejection. And I would see some shitty things staff did, the lateral violence. But I had an Elder. And when I had [DAUGHTER], I couldn’t hold her. I could hold her, like, you know, burp her, but to nurse her, it was, like -- and the Elder saw that. And she said -- asked me, “Where you sold?” And I told her my story ‘cause I knew you’re safe. And then she told me, “Don’t tell any of these staff. They’re dysfunctional here.” And I didn’t tell. Actually, I -- she knew, and they had a sexual abuse counsellor that ran a group, and I went for therapy.

I ended up meeting my part -- my ex when I was living in this place, and he was a single dad with two little girls. And I became, you know, I became their mom. What had happened was, they -- he had come back from out west, and I was introduced to him because I needed a job, and his mom was dying of ALS. And I was -- I knew how to do feeding tubes, and I knew how to do care lines, and I knew how to clean them from having a son. So I became his mom’s caregiver. And he had these two little girls, and
they were really cute. And me and him became in a relationship. And his mom passed away, and me and him started dating. And my daughter -- his daughter, older one, she was around six, and she would ask me stuff, like, “Are you Catholic?” Where the hell do you get this? But I fell in love with his children.

And their mom was out west. And he would say some horrible things about her. And I knew that that was his anger to her. And my -- I would tell them, “Your mom loves you.” And I got contact with Brenda Wolfe, and I told her the first time I spoke to her was, “I’m not here to take your place. I’m here to love your daughters. And, Brenda, you can abuse me all you want on the phone right now, but after we’re done this, I’m going to bathe your children. So how you treat me, you don’t want me frustrated and carrying that to your children.” I just wanted her to know that, you know, I got it. I understood she was sick. And she was, like, “You’re right.” I said, “It has nothing to do with me and him. It’s the fact that your little girls cry for you, and they love you. And I’ve told them that, you know, that you love them, and that you’re not -- you’re just sick right now. You’re sick.” Like, you can’t explain to a six-year-old and a two -- three-year-old about addiction.

So my little girls, I had them, and I was
pregnant again with my -- my other little girl. And, you
know, we would have these calls, and we would do them
sneaky. So I got a 1-800 number, so she could always call
me and call her children. And what had happened was, the
calls stopped. So I had to tell my ex, like, you know,
Brenda’s calling, and I allow her to talk to the kids.
And, you know, by that time, he was a little bit more
understanding. And I said, like, you know, “I’m watching
them talk to their mom. Like, she not saying anything --
she’s asking them about Dora.” Like, I said, “But, like,
the calls just stopped. She hasn’t called in, like, three
weeks.” And he said, “She’s probably in jail.” And I
said, “No. We have a 1-800 number.” And he was, like,
“What?” I said, “So if she was in jail, she would have
access to call me whenever.” I had a 1-800 number. She
would be calling more. And he said, “I don’t know. Maybe
she’s missing.”

And I -- it just didn’t sit with me.
Something wasn’t right, you know. My kids were suffering,
they were crying for their mom. At least they had her --
Brenda calling them. And I tried to ask her family, and
her mom was very angry and has issues. So I said -- I knew
her birth date was October 20th. I didn’t know what year
it was, but I knew it was October 20th. So I called
Vancouver Police ‘cause they had a missing women task
line -- no, they had a line that you could call. So I
called the police in downtown B.C., and as I gave them my
name, so this detective gets my name. And I’m giving him
my name, I give him her name. I go, “But I don’t know what
year of birth.” But by this point, he’s pulled up my
criminal record. So he’s, like, “And why are you calling?”
He’s like, “You won. You have her kids. Like, who cares?”
And I said, “Because her kids are missing her, and it’s not
like her.” Because I had called the Balmoral Hotel, and
they said we hadn’t seen her for a few months. Like, by
this time, and it -- now, it’s coming on with a month -- a
few months. And they said that there was a welfare letter.

So I’m, like, “Somethings not right.” Plus,
I knew she took Tylenol 3s, so I’m, like, “Well, call
the --” You know, and I said, “Well, she hasn’t picked up
any of her scripts, like, you know.” He told me, “Listen,
lady, you’re sounding crazy. Don’t -- don’t worry. Her
kids deserve better, and maybe --” He goes, “And as I’m
looking at your -- your record, you’re somewhat better.”
And, you know, “But you’re not a junkie. So just leave it
be.” And it bothered me. And it bothered me because my
daughters were suffering. Like, they were angry and, you
know. You know, my three-year-old daughter would call me
step-mother -- step-mozer (ph).

And one day [DAUGHTER 2], she woke up and
said, “Mom --” She started talking to us, me -- my family and I, about people knocking on our door with a shiny tape recorder. And I’m, like, “The hell you talking about this dream.” Like -- like, she said, “Yeah, and they put it right here on your table.” And my mom and me were, like, “Ah, kids tell the damn -- darndest story.” And I’m, like, huge and pregnant. And sure enough, knock, knock, knock. And, like, about two weeks later, and it was a missing woman task force. Exactly what [DAUGHTER 2] had described. They had showed up, and they wanted DNA from the kids. My dad was, like, “Hell, fucking no. Get back to Toronto.” And, actually, they had pulled my dad aside and said, “Bridget has a warrant here in Thunder Bay.” And I had just been in -- we were in Thunder Bay for a funeral, for my grandfather’s funeral. And my dad’s, like -- and they’re, like, “She’s to deal with this, or we’re bringing her in.”

And, like, already the kids have lost their father because I split up with my ex ‘cause of addictions, ‘cause he was using again, and I got the kids. And my parents were, like, “What the hell?” So I had to go and deal with all my charges, which was a good thing. They told my nine-year-old daughter about her mom’s jawbone being found in a pig trough. You know, [DAUGHTER 2] used to draw pictures of, like, pig troughs, like, and draw
bones. Like, and she wanted to know everything about it. And we let her. I came and lived in Toronto to assume a new -- new life, which I tried my hardest. Very hard raising kids in that spectrum. We also were battling CAS on a constant. They had taken [DAUGHTER 3] from me, the younger sibling, [DAUGHTER 2]. They took the kids from me. And at -- [DAUGHTER 2] ran away, was missing for two months and had found me. And we were not giving [DAUGHTER 2] back. I -- I told the workers to shove it. And that their laws didn’t pertain to us because the damage that was done to those kids in care -- she was sexually abused, she was -- and I’m, like, “Are you joking?” And the reason why they didn’t want me to have the kids was ‘cause I had a prostitution background.

But by then, I was doing really good in University and not -- [DAUGHTER 2] was missing for two months. I knew that there was problems in the whole trial. We had went through that as a family. And I suffered a lot of the effects, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. I never, you know, and when my daughter started high school, I had went through a lot. I’m not here to tell Brenda’s story, but I’m here to tell my child’s story too, and along with mine. It’s bad enough when your child comes home and is not, you know, “I can’t play with so-and-so because my
mom’s a hooker -- a dead hooker.” I fought -- I would go right to the school and, you know -- I -- I kept -- I lived in an area in Toronto that was not downtown. Not the area I live in now. I lived at Yonge and Finch, very prominent, upper class. A lot of Iranians and Koreans. So very well to do. But we still suffered because of being the Indigenous. So going through high school, these little shit heads would have parties. My kid would get blamed because she was the only Indian kid, you know. And I, you know, I turned into, you know, like, this, you know, there is a purpose. There is a purpose because I, you know, I had to raise these kids without letting that systemic circle hit them again and with breaking that cycle. And with breaking that cycle, I had to keep them away from biological grandparents, biological fathers, and to raise them in a feminist forefront.

I’ve went on and -- and gotten my degrees, a master’s degree. I’m probably, you know, like, I speak on behalf of Indigenous women. My children are all, like, in it -- like me, like they don’t keep it in. I sat through one Inquiry with my daughter, with my oldest, and I watched her fight to erase that, you know, her mom wasn’t a prostitute. Her mom was a drug addict with mental health issues. Her mom was a human being. She was a human being, you know. I also had my -- [DAUGHTER 2] was faced -- she
was sexually assaulted. And we were on vacation, I had been on vacation and came home to her saying, “Mom, like, I can’t go to the police. I’m Native. They’re not going to believe me.” And I said to her, “No, you’re going to go to the police ‘cause they are going to believe you.” You know, I fought to keep my kids out of those same systemic barriers that I went through. You know, I always gave them everything they wanted. I, you know, took them out of the country, took them out -- all over globe trotting.

They all know my story. They all know that I still sleep with the lights on. I also, you know, my dealings with police and law enforcement, the last time I dealt with the cops in Thunder Bay, I had a officer punch me in the face and tell me, “I can’t wait to tell your mom that you’ve been murdered. When you’re dead, I can’t wait to be the one to notify her.” And I thought, “Fuck you.” And that stupid bitch social worker, I found out years later, the reason why she never sat on my couch was she thought that there was male ejaculate on my couch, on my furniture. She wouldn’t sit on my furniture. Like, she thought I let men pull one off on my couches.

I went back to change that because I went back to Thunder Bay to speak at that fucking officer, that stupid social worker, they were both there. And I don’t believe in revenge. I told my kids, “Revenge isn’t a part
of us. We’re not vengeful people, but karma is a bitch.”
And I’ll tell you something, I told that cop, “Thanks.
Your words -- your words made me who I am today.” And my
mom was sitting there, and I said, “When you punched me in
the face and you put out my tooth, ‘cause I have half a
tooth, you told me you can’t wait to tell my mother I’m
dead. Well, my mother’s sitting right there.” And I
thought, oh, my God. My mother was going to jump out of
her chair and strangle him. He couldn’t even look at me.

And then that worker was there. It was,
like, in one dish, I said, “[SOCIAL WORKER 2]” And she
thought I was going to say, “You’re a great worker.” And I
said, “When you wouldn’t sit on my couch ‘cause of male
ejaculate --” Her boss, made her go and get retrained.
Because that’s what we had to face with. That’s what --
where I came from, that was what was there, you know.

So I taught my children to stand in their
truth, never to get revenge, karma always wins. But I
fought for this, for this Inquiry. We fought for this as
families. We also fought that this, survivors, our voices
have to be in this. You know, I’ve survived. I’m alive.
I can sit here and say, “I’m here with my mind, my body, my
spirit intact. I have all my teeth. I’m not strung out.”
But I also have sisters that are strung out, you know. I’m
the first survivor of exploitation to be able to adopt a
baby, which I adopted a baby from Thunder Bay, born to an addict. He’s six. He’s going to be seven tomorrow. I never thought I would, you know, would ever, ever -- if you would have asked me, you know, “What do you see your life being?” I didn’t see me living past 30. I’m 42. I’ve sat at nine panels at the United Nations. I’ve been everywhere, you know, talking about this issue. Talking about, you know. Like, my sisters that haven’t, you know, aren’t found, or whatever.

I also, you know, my sister that introduced me to be exploited, she survived Robert Pickton. He picked her up. She said, “Grandma was -- Grannie was talking in my ear.” Same thing I’ve went through, she went through, “Get the fuck out of his car.” She got out of his car, and he told her, “It’s your lucky day. Today’s your lucky ‘effing day.” And she -- and she talked him out the car. And you know how we knew she was telling the truth? Because we actually were privy to what car he was driving, and I -- my daughter, [DAUGHTER 2], was, like -- like, you know. No one could tell my daughter [DAUGHTER 2] anything about my sister, she gets venomous.

My daughter’s now missing herself, right now. Like, struggling on the streets on drugs. You know, she’s not doing good, you know. But, you know, she knows that she has a mom that loves her. And that, you know,
even though her birth mom’s dead, you know, she has me. You know, I’ve tried my hardest, my hardest to not let psychos hit again, which they have perpetrated. And that’s why I fight so hard for our women.

I’m fighting everyday, you know, my old demons, like, you know. Like, I still sleep with the lights on. I still can’t go in an elevator and a white man walk in. I’m getting off at the next stop. Like, I will get off. I can’t stand them. If I’m alone, I can’t be with a Caucasian man because of all the damage. You know, my partner’s black because at least black men didn’t damage me like that and kill my spirit. But I’m still here. I’m still thriving, and I’m still here with all my teeth. But, like, you know, like to look at it, you know, people are, like, amazed, you know.

I -- a lot of my tears are I didn’t get to do the things I wanted to. I didn’t want to -- I wanted to be a nurse. I wanted to work with handicapped kids. You know, I didn’t get that. Now, I’m a social worker. You know, and I’m a -- you know, that’s hard-enough work. But, you know, I have opportunity. You know, the thing that saved me, I guess, was, you know, having that white last name, and having those parents. You know, they wanted to dangerous offend me. I was a dangerous offender when they didn’t even look at it. I was going through, like, I look
at it like this, a year of my life was, like, torture. I was tortured. Like, you look at people in military, like, the tactics that they use in war were tactics they -- that are used on prostitutes. You never knew what was coming up in that car or in that hotel room. You never knew, you know.

The worst is when, you know, the people that are put in place to protect you aren’t protecting you. You know, I go home and there’s a school named after that Crown attorney. He went to jail for what he did to us. There was a scandal. They made us look like we were the ones that ruined him. Even to this day, I get -- people go, “You know, you ruined the Crown attorney.” No. He was supposed to protect us. He ruined himself. There’s a school named after him. Like, you know, he hurt us. You know, he did stupid weird shit with us.

You know, every day, you know, I get up, and I thank the Creator that I’m here today, and, you know, what my purpose is. My purpose was to do what I have to do, and if it is to bear my soul and my -- my hurt, and my pain by preventing one girl from going out there and living this life, I know I -- my job’s going to be done. I don’t see myself that much longer in what I’m doing because it’s taken it’s toll on my body. I have chronic pain. But I’m here, I’m alive.
You know, I was given an award, the Woman of Distinction Award, very high from the YWCA here. So I’m given this fancy hoity-toity Woman of Distinction Award in 2006, and we’re standing in there. My kids are there, and my parents are there. Like, family members flew in. My parents, like -- like, for a table, it was, like $8,000 or something, 10,000. The head of [Bank], who was a trick, a sex buyer, shows up. A former client of mine is -- and comes up and congratulates me. And I’m, like, you know. Every day, you know, people go, well, you know. He was there. It was like having the offender in the room. Like, might as well just have him and all the other men that victimized me.

I go to give birth in Thunder Bay, one of my clients is there with his wife, looking all scared at us. You know, I have men that email me and say, you know, “I was with you.” And live -- like, you know, my -- I’m writing my book, and my mom’s, like, “What about their families?” I said to my mom, “What about your family? What about me? Did they knock on your door saying, “Can we pay your daughter to abuse her?” I don’t care about their families. I don’t really care ‘cause they know what they did. They know what they did wrong when they email me and ask me not to say their name in my book. I make sure I put a note down who their name is. You know, and exactly, I am
going to. Because I just think that there is so much
damage done. I still sleep with the lights on, 42, unless
my partner’s there. She sleeps in the room next to me.
One time, she turned off the lights, I jumped right up,
turned it back on. I can’t sleep, unless my spouse is with
me.

That’s the worst thing. The worst thing is
having to learn to be intimate. Having to learn to, you
know, let a man love you. My husband loves me. He’s
patient and he’s just a good man, you know. But he had
to -- I had to learn to let him in. And even now, he gets
shut out. He knows. When I go and bare my -- when I go
and bare my soul, he knows that I’m not going to sleep with
him. He knows to ask.

I can’t even handle surprises, you know.
There’s damage. There’s damage. You can’t sit there and
say -- people can’t sit there and say that, you know,
I’m -- 12 years in the sex trade, that there’s no damage.
I can’t be surprised. One time, my child surprised me. I
punched her. She was six years old. I felt horrible. You
know, my parents had a surprise birthday party for me, I
turned around and walked out. I was mad at them and sat in
the car and cried. And they didn’t get it. They -- they
don’t get it, you know. I can’t be surprised. I have to
know my surroundings. I’m weird now. I don’t like certain
things. I -- you know, there’s things that that bubbly
Bridget will never be.

But I will always make sure that, you know, I said, “Over my dead body will legitimate misfortune and
pain because it’s safety.” ‘Cause there was nothing in
safety, you know. We called them tricks because we have to
trick them. We, you know, can’t wear your hair down ‘cause
they’ll strangle you with it. You can’t wear long earrings
‘cause they can tie them around your neck. You know, I
used to go to hotel rooms, drop something, so I could look
and make sure that there was no one under the bed, or no
one hiding. You know, you never got into a car that was a
van because there could be other people hiding. You had to
be aware of your surroundings. And even being super, you
know, vigilant, you still were at risk of, you know, being
destroyed.

I look at my older sister and who is, like, a year older than me, and she looks about 50, 60. And who
just shoots up every day. You know, I look at my son whose
mom came from Thunder Bay, and who just was destroyed by
drugs. And, you know, his little eyes that shake because
she’s a part of that problem. You know, she’s a part of
that whole thing. And that, you know, his little brain,
will it ever be normal? I don’t know. He also was -- had
his neck broken. I also look at those social workers that
allowed all this shit to go down. That, you know, play
people against each other when, you know, there’s this big
white elephant in the room. And the elephant is that our
community is really fucked up.

You know, even to this day, I still get used
by my own people. I’m the token prostitute, right, that
made it. I got a master’s degree. You know, I’m not owned
by anyone, but still, they fight over, you know, who has
Bridget, and who’s -- you know. It’s hard. But that
fighting spirit’s still in me. And, you know, I might be
known to say, you know -- I can speak for myself. And then
I look at the men in our -- from our community that are
part of the abusing us, these Chiefs. Like, I used to make
the most money at -- when all the Chiefs would have their
Chief meetings. They would fly us all in. So how can we
go to the people that are put in place to protect us and
ask them -- when I see them sitting at these panels for
murdered and missing women, and I know [one sentence
removed pursuant to Rule 55].

I was in [FIRST NATION 2] speaking, and I
told the Elder, I -- I was stayed -- it -- it was a Chiefs’
-- all the Chief, it was a addictions conference. And I
got physically -- I was, like, “Oh, my God. There’s a few
here that I serviced.” And I got scared, and I talked to
the Elder and his wife, and I told them. I said, “I just
want to go home.” And he said, “Why?” And I told them the
truth. And he said -- and I said, “Guaranteed, when I
speak, they’ll stand up, the ones that had abused me, and
will want to leave the room.” And he goes, “Well, that’s
not going to happen.” So him and his wife stood at each
exit. And I’m speaking, one goes to get up, and he goes --
and the guy sits down. And one of them said, “I’m guilty
for hurting you.” And there’s, like, a CBC reporter, and
she’s watching this all go down (indiscernible). And
she’s, like, “Holy shit.” And she said, “You know, like,
it’s own men that flawed us. Like, we’re worthy. We’re --
we’re the real warriors.”

You know, I go to that missing woman thing,
and we got a Chief that I know he’s abused women. I know
he’s abused tons of prostitutes because, like, his name
comes up. And I called him out. I called him out. I
said, “No, no, no.” I said to him, “[CHIEF], stop buying
sex.” I said, “Stop buying pussy from our girls. Stop
taking it and buying it.” He was, like, “(Unreportable
Sound).” And the -- the people at the event were, like --
so, you know. That’s the issue right there is these men
are put in our communities to protect us, and they’re the
problem. And now, they’re a part of this. So who do we
trust?

I have a lot of balls to stand up and go --
because, you know what? I have good men behind me that
say, “Bridget, do it. Do it. It didn’t kill you then. It
ain’t going to kill you now.” Even when I testified at the
standing committee for Bill C-36, the stupid Liberals
invited the -- the Dancers’ Association of Canada, [Rule
55]. I had threats. I had to get my kids out of my house.
My kids had to be taken to safety. And I had to be -- I
was treated like, “Whoa. Like, do you want to still
testify?” I still testified because I know what I have to
do is I have to do this because there’s so many elements to
this. I call it like an onion. Like, you know, each
layer.

You know, I’m here today because this had to
be told. And I didn’t -- last night, I didn’t want to. I
was, like, “(Unreportable Sound).” My mom was, like,
calling me, saying, like, “Please don’t paint me as this
bad mother.” Which I try not to do because she did some
good to me. You know, they just didn’t know -- they didn’t
have the tools. They didn’t know how to deal with -- with
that. You know, one thing my parents -- my dad told me
was, those years I was out there standing on a corner, he
never had sex with my mom because he couldn’t do what was
being done to his little girl. And they suffered. Their
marriage -- they’re still together, but that’s a real
bad -- he couldn’t have sex because he knew what was going
on to his daughter. It was in his head.

You know, I’m sure he -- I bet you he’s thankful I’m gone -- like, I’m off the streets now. But, you know, even when I won my award, I called my dad collect ‘cause I didn’t have long distance on my cellphone. And he thought I was in jail. He’s was, like, “Oh. Oh, no, [MOTHER], here we go. She ---” And I could hear them. I’m, like, “Oh, shit. He thinks I’m in jail.” And he’s, like, accepts, and he goes, “How much is it going to cost me?” And I said, “Don’t worry. I’m not in jail. I won an award.” And he was, like, “Whoa.” And then he, like, laughed about it. But imagine living with that, that your child, if she calls you collect, she might be in jail. Like, that’s not normal. Like, you know, I -- you know, my -- they’re so proud of me, you know.

But that’s it. That’s all I have to say is that I really hope, you know, that we really need to practically look at what is really going on. Is that we are so fractured from colonialism and -- and that legacy that, you know, is that we have fractured people that are there, that don’t speak their truths, that hide their deviance, and they sit there and then they try to justify what’s right for us. You know, I know where I am and what I stand for on a daily -- daily basis. You know, I know that when I leave here, I’m going to go get my nails done.
I’m going to phone my partner. I’m going to go eat a steak somewhere because I have to do something for my soul. I’m going to have to smudge out the house, you know. But I know what’s -- what’s meant to be was me being here, even though I felt very scared to come.

I just hope that, you know, the Commissioners know that there’s a lot of hurt out there. And I can’t even put a -- you know, to sit with a therapist, believe me, they cry. They can’t handle something like what we’ve been through. So what I do is I have my network of survivors, my sisters out there. But right now, I’m the one that’s the most healthiest, so they’re all, like, looking at me and it’s hard. It’s scary, you know. It’s scary. You know, I’m -- soon, I’ll be on a beach in Barbados, and I know that that -- I have to look forward to that.

But there’s even, like, you know, a lot of trashing out here, and people hurting people. I don’t -- you know, I never -- I can be a bitch. I try not to be, you know. I’m -- you know, but I’ve had malicious, mean things happen to me, and it -- I just -- I don’t fight back for that. I don’t feed it at all. If they want to do whatever they want to do, trying to expose me or whatever. They think my life is so easy. I just laugh at them because, you know, there’s nothing.
You know, I go home and I’ll paint. We paint sugar head skulls. So we can, you know, feel good and, you know, it’s our therapeutic painting, you know. Or I hold my puppy for four hours, you know. I -- my life is very -- from doing my activism, I’m very simple. You know, once my husband comes back, it’ll be all right. Things are -- will be all right. I’ll be able to sleep in the dark ‘cause I know he’s there. But believe me, I sleep in the -- like, and people don’t -- they don’t get it. They don’t get it. I have to have every light on. I don’t go in the basement. I won’t even go in the basement. I’ll, like, send the seven-year-old down there. “Okay. Go look in the basement.” ‘Cause that’s where the abuse happened. Basements scare me. Like, big crowds scare me. I can’t be confined. If I were to ever go to jail, I’d probably die. I know, like, where, like, I get scared.

Last week I was in the emerg. Blood pressure was 220 over 117. They were, like, “What the hell? Why are you so --” Like, everything -- like, all my blood work, sugars, were normal. They were, like, “What’s wrong?” And I -- I was, like, “Oh, I’m under stress.” Because I was scared to come here. This was, like, really hard ‘cause usually I never cry. I never -- I rarely -- because I listen to these stories like mine every day. And it’s, like, I’m the one that, you know, helps girls escape.
And I don’t call myself a saviour. I’m far -- I don’t rescue girls. I just give them practicality, how to get out without dying. And that’s a big thing. And I see big -- I see people get big money for the -- and -- and it not working. And then there’s my little org, and we’re doing big things. And, you know what? I’m grateful for that. I’m grateful because, like I said, my spirit stayed intact. And that was, you know, very, very important to -- to do the work I’m -- I’ve done, was to keep our spirit and our lives intact. You know, and you can see when women lose their spirit. You see it. It -- that was when -- whether when -- mass addiction. You could look at their eyes and see it. I can see it. I’ve seen it lots when they’re just so lost. But I kept my spirit, and I kept my spirit alive because I had helpers, my grandma, my son, and my sisters that I lost before me.

And I always knew that, you know, I never thought I’d make it to this. I never thought I would make it to this. I -- everyone thought I would be jail -- in jail for murder or something, you know. But I made it. And then I fought, and I fought hard. Going to school -- going to school, being normal again, you know. Having money is hard, you know. Everyone, like, was, like, “How’s she going to do it? Is she going to be all right?” And I’m -- I’m here. And I still get judged. If I go to
Jamaica, “Oh, you’re out there --” No, I’m not there partying. I’m actually sitting on a beach getting sun therapy because I’m -- it’s the only way I feel healed is going and listening to the reggae and -- and eating, you know, sitting with a Rasta. And, you know, I have friends in the Caribbean and -- and seeing people that struggle. So I’m here now, and I can’t wait. We’re going to Barbados. But I’m done with my statement.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay. Well, it’s 2:08 p.m., and she’s completed her statement. Thank you.

**MS. BRIDGET PERRIER:** I want to blow my nose, but I’ll wait for the --

--- Upon adjourning at 2:08 p.m.
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST’S CERTIFICATE

I, Amanda Muscoby, 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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Amanda Muscoby

November 5, 2018