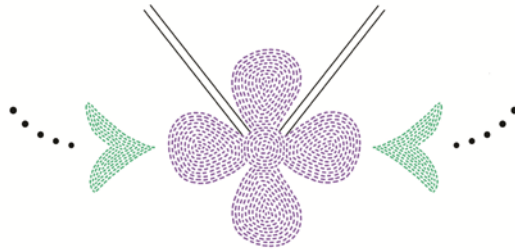


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



Enquête nationale
sur les femmes et les filles
autochtones disparues et assassinées

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Canalta Hotel
Ponoka, Alberta**



PUBLIC

October 15, 2018

**Statement - Volume 504
Tara DeLeeuw,
In relation to Candace Tracy Bridger
Statement gathered by Kerrie Reay**

ROYAL REPORTING SERVICES LTD.
#300-2010 11th Avenue, Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 0J3
E-mail: info@royalreporting.com – Phone: 1-800-667-6777

II

Table of Contents

	Page
Statement of Tara DeLeeuw	1
Court transcriber's certificate	95

Ponoka, Alberta

1
2 --- Upon commencing on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 1:33
3 p.m.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. So we have the
5 audio running, and the video is now running. This is
6 Kerrie Reay. I'm a statement-taker with the National
7 Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and
8 Girls. Today we are at the Canalta Hotel in Ponoka,
9 Alberta. Canalta is C-A-N-A-L-T-A Hotel, Ponoka,
10 P-O-N-O-K-A. The time is 1:33, and the date is October
11 the 15th, 2018.

12 With me today is Tara DeLeeuw. That's
13 T-A-R-A, D-E, capital L-E-E-U-W, and Tara is here today to
14 speak of the death of her cousin Candace, C-A-N-D-A-C-E,
15 Tracy, T-R-A-C-Y, Bridger --

16 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Bridger.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Bridger, B-R-I-D-G-E-R.
18 Candace was born on October the 23rd, 1960, and passed away
19 in a fire on December the 15th, 1972, at Mastqui, B.C.
20 Mastqui is M-A-S-T-Q-U-I, and Candace was a member of two
21 bands, one just north of Kamloops, the Barriere band as
22 well as the Kamloops area. The Barriere First Nation is
23 S-I-M-P-C-W First Nation, and the second one is
24 T-K'E-M-L-U-P-S; second word is T-E; third word is

1 S-E-C-W-E-P-E-C.

2 Tara has done a lot of research over the
3 last number of years and is concerned that the findings of
4 the cause of the fire were incorrect or that the
5 investigation was not sufficiently completed. Tara is here
6 to -- to share her truth today, and, Tara, you are here
7 voluntarily?

8 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yes.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And that you are aware
10 that we are video-taping you and audio-taping you as well.

11 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** My nose is running.

12 Thank you.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Well --

14 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Thank you for that
15 introduction. Should I go ahead?

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** You bet. It's your time
17 and your space.

18 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Okay. I'd first like to
19 talk about my cousin Candace, what I do recall and what my
20 father's compiled about her history. We believe she
21 is -- well, we're pretty sure her [Candace's mother] was of
22 the First Nation of Barriere, B.C. in Kamloops. We're not
23 exactly sure. My dad did a bit of research.

24 Candace -- they never really seemed to get a

1 break, those children. She lived with us when we were
2 younger. She orphaned at a young age, but I don't recall
3 those days. We were just as poor as them, and I had a
4 mentally ill mom. It's complex.

5 Candace played -- we played a lot together
6 when she come to stay with us, so we were fairly, fairly
7 close, but when Candace -- Candace passed away in a
8 fire -- the fire, the family really was never really
9 settled after that. My father, who was very close to her
10 father, brothers, basically never did -- did -- were never
11 satisfied with -- with the findings because the physical
12 evidence -- my uncle -- my father did feel the physical
13 evidence matched the -- and conclusions in -- yeah.
14 So -- and my father wrote about [Candace's father], and I
15 wanted to share a little bit about that.

16 This is a book that my father wrote, and
17 it's -- does -- it's quite a comprehensive history. I'll
18 try not to cry. So anyhow, Candace is -- and then the
19 Bristow (ph) -- the Bristow comes from I believe the
20 father's side whereas -- or from the Kamloops nation, and I
21 believe that the -- [Candace's mother] was from the -- the
22 Barriere Nation.

23 Where was I going to write here about
24 the -- the death of Candace was a terrible experience for

1 the whole extended family. Particularly, it was very hard
2 on [Candace's father]. Soon after Candace's death,
3 [Candace's father] started to lose his hair. He told me
4 later that his hair fell out in large patches. There was
5 no uniform pattern to the hair loss, but there was areas
6 where a patch of hair was missing surrounded by still
7 growing. [Candace's father] and his doctor attributed to
8 the stress and nerves brought on by Candace's death, and
9 there was no cure other than medication to help [Candace's
10 father] overcome his stress. [Candace's father] never
11 regained his hair.

12 Some years later, the loss became near total
13 with a uniform patch, and [Candace's father] was not at all
14 self-conscious of the appearance as he was for the years
15 immediately following Candace's death.

16 In 1973, [Candace's father] and [Candace's
17 step-mother] had decided to go to -- to leave Abbotsford
18 and put the death -- Candace's death behind him. Oh, my
19 God, the snot coming out of my nose. Okay. But -- but
20 there should be something else in here about the fire.
21 There's a -- there's -- 19 -- the years 1967, '71 were
22 possibly some of the happier years of [Candace's father]'s
23 life. The extended family that [Candace's father] and
24 [Candace's step-mother] had assembled were now starting out

1 on their own world.

2 I should back up. Candace's
3 mother -- Candace's mother became a -- Candace became
4 orphaned. My dad was estranged at that time with his
5 brother, so the clear cause of death -- of Candace's
6 mother's death is not clear, but it was reported as cancer.
7 It was estranged at that time, I guess, because of just
8 location where they lived and maybe possibly lifestyle.

9 So, anyhow, I think I'm jumping all over the
10 place again, but --

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** No.

12 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** -- there's a whole
13 chatter here, [Candace's father]'s bad times. That family
14 had bad times, that's for sure. The fire was one thing,
15 but, like I say, the family never really settled on the
16 conclusion, and -- I'm going to read: The fire broke out
17 early in the morning between the time [Candace's father]
18 and [Candace's step-mother] left for work at the café and
19 the time they always phoned to get the children up for
20 school. [Candace's brother] was there. He was [Candace's
21 brother's age], and she was 12. I believe that [Candace's
22 father] left to open the café around 5:30, which is not the
23 right time on his statement. After getting to café, they
24 would phone [Candace's brother] and Candace at 7:00 a.m.

1 Only [Candace's brother] and Candace were home at the time,
2 which is another thing that we're not sure of because we
3 knew[Step-brother], after the fact, was in the house. We
4 don't know if my grand -- or if my uncle was protecting
5 [Step-brother] or --

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Who was [Step-brother]?

7 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** [Step-brother]
8 was -- would have been the one that would have been blamed
9 for the cigarette. He was the one that put about his
10 cigarette on the report.

11 Oh, gosh. I'm going to -- I'm going to blow
12 it because it's going to be easier.

13 So -- like, past times in [Candace's
14 father's] life, no sooner would things start improving,
15 then there would be another setback. On December 15th,
16 1972, [Candace's father] had to suffer the loss of his
17 youngest daughter, Candace, in a house fire that all
18 destroyed -- [Candace's father] and [Candace's step-
19 mother]'s row house situation -- all but destroyed
20 [Candace's father] and [Candace's step-mother]'s row house
21 situation (indiscernible). The loss of Candace was
22 terribly for the whole family, but to [Candace's father],
23 it seemed like the end of the world. Of course it did. My
24 father never really got over the pain of his brother, and

1 he really -- I can remember my father just so -- so loving
2 towards his mother. Compassionate.

3 The fire broke out (indiscernible) that
4 [Candace's father] left for work, yet the fire started so
5 fast and destroyed the house so quickly that Candace died
6 in her bed on the second floor due to smoke and fume
7 inhalation.

8 [Candace's brother] who was also sleeping in
9 the second floor felt the heat and smoke and broke out his
10 bedroom window and jumped about 14 feet to the ground.
11 Suffered a broken leg and a ruptured spleen in making
12 escape. He was fortunate that his bedroom was further away
13 from the source of the fire and that he woke up before he
14 was overcome by the fumes. The (indiscernible) say the
15 fire destroyed the unit, and the fire department stated
16 that they were lucky to have contained the fire to the one
17 unit.

18 The fire marshal's office reported the
19 fires -- reported all the fires started -- that they
20 suspected the source of the fire to have been the
21 instant-on TV, and that was located in the living room
22 directly under Candace's floor. I suspect the fire was
23 poorly investigated and the investigation was done poorly.
24 This is my father speaking. [Candace's father] would have

1 had grounds for a lawsuit, but being poor and no resources,
2 this couldn't be. To my knowledge, there was very little
3 communication between the fire marshal's office and
4 [Candace's father] after the fire, so [Candace's father]
5 was never absolutely sure of what caused the fire. So my
6 uncle basically went to his grave with that in mind.

7 So I wanted to back up a bit about
8 Candace's -- she orphaned -- she was just a -- 2, 3 years
9 old when she orphaned, and my uncle ended up getting with
10 his sister-in-law, which she was married -- [Candace's
11 step-mother] was married to a Bristow, and -- which would
12 have been [Candace's mother] which is Candace's mother.
13 There's [Candace's grandmother], and there's [Candace's
14 mother] [Candace's Father] and [Candace's step-mother] or
15 [Candace's father] and [Candace's mother] had Candace.
16 [Candace's mother] passed away. [Candace's step-mother]
17 ended up marrying [Candace's father], and she had a large
18 extended family, as when [Candace's father] married
19 [Candace's mother]. Four people before -- four children
20 were born to [Candace's mother] before she got with
21 [Candace's father], and I don't know if that's including
22 [Candace's aunt] and [Candace's mother] or there was four
23 others, but in total Candace's mother had
24 four -- seven -- eight children.

1 So [Candace's step-mother]
2 raised -- [Candace's step-mother] raised Candace probably
3 since she was 5, 6 years old, so [Step-brother], who was in
4 the house, who was blamed for the -- the fire was also a
5 cousin but a step-brother, so that -- there was a lot of
6 kids in that family, and [Step-brother] was visibly
7 minority.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Can I ask a question?
9 Just for the context. So your [Candace's father], your
10 dad's brother --

11 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Right. [Candace's
12 father].

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** [Candace's father].

14 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** He was not Candace's
16 biological father, then?

17 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yes, he was.

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

19 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yes.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So -- I'm just trying to
21 understand. How was Candace orphaned?

22 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Her [Candace's mother]--

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

24 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- died when she was 2.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. So her mother
2 passed away when she was 2.

3 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** But [Candace's father],
5 her father, didn't pass away until after Candace passed
6 away?

7 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Oh, yeah. He was an
8 older -- he was in his 60s.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. Sorry.

10 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Because when I think of
12 orphaned, I think of both parents --

13 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Oh, right. Right.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- being gone.

15 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah. I should say that.
16 Yeah.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. Yeah, okay.

18 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** No, that's okay.

20 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** That's okay.

22 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** So -- so, yeah, so
23 it -- it was a blended family, and, yeah, we never really
24 did get over, and as my father stated in his -- and

1 written, there was a lot of -- actually, my father said the
2 fire commissioner's office was downright rude and had
3 covered and -- and really made it very difficult for my
4 uncle to get on with because we as a family were
5 past -- promised -- as in the documentation, there had been
6 inquiry.

7 So, basically, that didn't come to be, and,
8 of course, as a family that is blended, and there was lots
9 of rumors and there was indications and there was lots of
10 unsettledness, and -- and -- my uncle really wanted that
11 public inquiry. He really did. Like my dad said, we all
12 wanted it. We wanted to -- because watching -- my father
13 said that it was just terrible watching his -- the pain of
14 his brother.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

16 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And -- and he wanted a
17 break for this family, but it didn't come.

18 So I want to -- I wanted to talk about
19 searching for Candace's information, which I've enclosed in
20 the documentation. In 1996 -- 1996 previous, we had
21 voltage irregularities, which is -- was very severe.
22 Severe, like, really dipping down to nothing, and it seemed
23 to be patterned on long weekends, or it would basically go
24 away and it'd come back, and --

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: Is that here?

2 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Yes.

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: In Ponoka?

4 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: That would have been out
5 in my REA.

6 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

7 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Out there, Battle River,
8 and we had put in complaints -- like, I'll give you a good
9 instance. Our microwave would run, but our food would not
10 heat. We had a surge fire in our barn. There was -- there
11 was lots of things, so we had this horrible fire. We were
12 confined husbandry of pigs, which I would never do now. I
13 love animals. I don't -- and so my -- I just couldn't even
14 imagine doing that now, and -- so we had this accident, and
15 so I asked for an investigation. Right away, the
16 electrical company, we had some information about the
17 electrical company, you know, and their actions of that
18 night or their lack of actions. I mean, our -- all our
19 pigs suffocated, basically. It was a very unlucky night
20 because we never stay out. We ended up going to a party
21 and staying up at -- it was a July night. Of course in the
22 summer, it was always worse, and...

23 So I put a complaint in, and then I started
24 investigating in my neighbourhood, in my community, and I

1 started getting all these different experiences with the
2 electrical company. I started getting people providing me
3 with photocopies or copies of -- of basically damages to
4 their equipment, may it be farm or home, and -- and then,
5 yeah, lots of bizarre stories about liaisons of
6 communication, and -- and I included that in the package.
7 I have one --

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M-hm.

9 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** I have one statement from
10 a man named [Government Employee 1] (ph). I -- I have
11 multiples. I have multiple statements of experiences with
12 it, and people with, yeah, electrical surge fires, so I
13 basically went back to my -- to the different people that I
14 had put a complaint in, and -- and it was -- how that
15 process was administered alone was a very, very harsh,
16 harsh -- it was a terrible process, and I think I sent a
17 picture of that guy. I had to deal with that horrible man,
18 and he was one of many. We still have them out there.

19 So I asked for a comprehensive -- and I have
20 that in here -- of an investigation in our neighbourhood of
21 electrically ignited fires and questionability, and I
22 provided names. Questionability for electrically ignited
23 fires weren't being investigated properly; a man by the
24 name of [Government Employee 2] he asked me to put that in,

1 so I basically -- you know, I was given all this
2 information thinking people were interested --

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

4 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** -- in this information.

5 So I asked about that, and I -- you know, I asked about the
6 liaisons, plus some of the workers that -- in transmission
7 lines provided me with valuable information, so I provided
8 all this to the AEUB, and --

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** The who, sorry?

10 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** The Alberta Energy and
11 Utility Board, the National Energy Board, the energy
12 minister, the REAs, the Farmer's Advocate's Office, and it
13 goes on and on and on and on, but I just became in this big
14 caldrion of spin, and really, really bad things happened to
15 me. Like, I started feeling intimidated -- I'd showed
16 you -- I sent those pictures of you where they put this box
17 in because I was -- started getting voltage irregularities
18 again where I was going, sitting in the dark, and then I
19 would phone and they'd laugh at you and say, oh, Tara,
20 you're just -- your mind's going funny, and then you start
21 doubting your mind and you start playing -- it was a -- it
22 was a -- it was psychological torment. It was horrible
23 torment.

24 So, you know, and then I sent those

1 pictures, and those people would walk in my yard, and
2 they'd piss on my yard and they'd throw garbage, and then
3 I'd phone -- you know, and phone these people, I thought,
4 what -- but what they were doing is they were actually
5 collecting a dossier on me.

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And who's "they"?

7 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** The Alberta Energy and
8 Utility Board --

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

10 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- the National Energy
11 Board, the energy minister, and -- I didn't realize at the
12 time, but they're trying to discredit you with all this.
13 Then I started getting these infiltrated stupid information
14 things coming in, basically that were coming in to -- and I
15 wrote that, it totally disorientated me, and you can see
16 my -- hear my anger now, hey? You can hear that I'm so
17 angry that I was caught up in -- like, I thought when we
18 provided that information along with our own that there was
19 going to be a thorough investigation and we would be
20 vindicated, but it never worked out that way. Never worked
21 out that way. There was -- all the names I provided, none
22 of the people said that anybody contacted them or -- you
23 know, there wasn't any of that happening, and this was
24 pre-Alberta Pool. Now there's Alberta Pool, and there's a

1 restructuring. So yeah. So I basically -- it just became
2 a horrors. So I never did really forget Candace, so I went
3 looking for her information. Well, that was another
4 horrible experience.

5 Now, I didn't ever know when I thought maybe
6 possibly they gave me that information as -- as -- in
7 partial just to agitate me, like, because there was
8 constant -- there was always constant prodding, and the
9 thing is is that I was so silly at the time when I thought
10 this person could help me, I thought this person can help
11 me. Like, I had a terrible dependency on, like, the
12 [Minister], to make everything right, but meanwhile, the
13 same people that are purposely trying to
14 character-assassinate you, so -- and, you know, the whole
15 process was bizarre, but I think it was meant to be bizarre
16 because I wrote in there, too, because you're silent, you
17 sound crazy. You don't want to speak -- what, what are you
18 going to tell people, the electrical company's screwing
19 around with your lights? People say, oh, jeez, you know,
20 Tara, you know, (unreportable sound), you know, and -- my
21 husband's -- it affected my marriage. It affected my
22 relationship with people in my life. My husband's
23 like -- you know, we had a bunch of damage as a result of
24 after, like, these dipping and stuff. My husband's saying

1 to me, oh, yeah, well, this -- you know, this is you
2 causing trouble, and -- you know, trouble and -- even some
3 of the REA members that do -- that -- she sent that
4 picture. You know, they were taking my husband to side and
5 saying, you know, get Tara, you know, to back off,
6 and -- you know, the -- there was -- there was -- I
7 had -- I didn't have a lot of -- I had support from my
8 community in, you know, letters and -- and testimonials,
9 and some of my friends came to REA meetings with me,
10 and -- but it was not pretty. It was not pretty.

11 So one of the letters I did get was -- in
12 the mail is that -- that -- that there was money being
13 embezzled and -- between federal, provincial transfers of
14 electrical companies or for -- from the electrical
15 companies, and I didn't know a lot of times that -- you
16 know, these -- back then, I didn't know -- generate a
17 response as part of the dossier-collecting, and -- so I
18 reported that. I reported that to -- to the energy
19 minister. I always -- always believed the time would come,
20 and then -- when I started to hunt for Candace's, sort of
21 less focussed on mine and focussed on hers, and -- yeah,
22 just -- it was horrible. Absolutely horrible.

23 Then I started, you know, trying to
24 understand the utilities acts, the acts that affect the

1 liaisons and -- and the relationships, because I've always
2 felt knowledge is sort of my -- my well-being or my ticket
3 to well-being because I wasn't feeling very healthy at that
4 time, and I was afraid, and then you get the RCMP involved.
5 That even -- even tormented me even more. They --

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Why were -- why were they
7 involved?

8 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** They were -- I placed a
9 complaint.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

11 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Couple of complaints. I
12 placed a complaint, first of all, about TransAlta
13 Utilities, electrical company, taunting me and coming on my
14 yard and doing things to -- I felt -- like, leaving
15 garbage, and I found them down in my barns, and -- that was
16 one, but the other is that I basically said that I have
17 found enough evidence that would question if they were
18 providing us with an electrical supply that was causing us
19 damage or harm or public safety. I filed that with the
20 police, or I thought I did. I don't know, because the
21 police behavior became just really rude, too, and there
22 was --

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So did you phone them and
24 make a complaint, or did you go into the police station,

1 and did you go into the Ponoka police station?

2 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: No. I went to the
3 Bashaw. Bashaw police station.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And you're
5 unsure -- so if I understand correctly, you felt -- and
6 there were signs on your property that the TransAlta had
7 been there, and were they damaging your property?

8 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: No. It was more taunting
9 type of thing.

10 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

11 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: But that --

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: Sort of a harassment?

13 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: We're here, we're big, we
14 can -- we can walk all over you.

15 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

16 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: There's nothing you can
17 do.

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: So --

19 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: And --

20 MS. KERRIE REAY: When you --

21 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: And --

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: Just if I can --

23 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: They all curl together,
24 too, you know? They all -- they all curl together, they

1 all drink together, they all -- small-town communities.

2 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

3 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: It's just your typical
4 thing.

5 MS. KERRIE REAY: So when you went into the
6 police station, did they give you a file number?

7 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: No.

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

9 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: I -- they actually came
10 to my home. I had a molhab [sic] cocktail. What did they
11 call, those crude bottoms?

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh, those Molotov
13 cocktails?

14 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: I had one of those one
15 morning, I woke up, you know, and I -- there again, I
16 wished I didn't phone the police.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: M'hm.

18 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: And just -- I think that
19 was probably -- I hadn't FOIPed that one yet, but that is
20 a -- another memory that really bothered because we were
21 really confused, my husband and I. That was
22 definitely -- I would like for that to --

23 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

24 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: -- that to be summons, but

1 I basically -- they embellished it, and he was going,
2 like -- he'd say, like, look, there's Mom and Dad on here,
3 because it was a bottle, and it had Mom and Dad on it, and
4 it had -- you know, and he's like, is there anybody
5 that -- you know, you have any enemies? And I said, well,
6 you know, I have a little bit of conflict with -- but I
7 think it's going to work out with the electrical company.
8 Like, I was -- I was totally confused what was going on.
9 This -- this process, there was nothing -- I provided
10 names.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

12 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** I provided -- all they
13 had to do was go investigate it. I -- I said to the
14 RCMP -- even if I didn't get a file -- I said, I want you
15 to go -- maybe I'm not credible, and I may be coming across
16 crazy, but I want you to talk to all these other people,
17 and I want you to talk to these -- yeah, these people that
18 know what -- but it -- yeah. I --

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So this Molotov cocktail,
20 where did you find it?

21 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** In my yard.

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. Now, do you
23 remember the date that you made that report, roughly, the
24 year, the month? Was it -- was it summer or spring, or was

1 there snow on the ground?

2 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** No, I --

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** No? Okay. No.

4 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** There was -- there was so
5 many incidences that --

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

7 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- from the electrical
8 company.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** One of the things
10 we'll -- we'll do when we're -- when we're -- when you're
11 finished your truth and -- is we'll talk about the -- the
12 family information of the liaison unit to help you about
13 your -- to get your information that you're looking for.

14 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** For -- yeah. Yeah. I
15 just -- I could use some help getting some -- because I
16 want to write -- I want to put my cousin's story in
17 binding.

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

19 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** I want to write it.
20 So -- so yeah, it was -- it's -- and that's what was
21 unfortunate with Candace's is that when I went looking for
22 her information, that was in the middle of this
23 information.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

1 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** So it -- it all -- it all
2 interrelated because it was with the utilities again, and
3 then -- and then I got this letter in the mail -- I got two
4 letters in the mail -- three letters. Three letters. One
5 was just blank, but I don't know if that was supposed to be
6 intimidation. You don't know how to interpret -- I got a
7 lot of veiled intimidation in the end. Like, I -- I felt
8 forced to back it up.

9 Now, where the Ponoka RCMP comes in is my
10 son was getting harassed, and I couldn't differentiate if
11 that was because I put a complaint in. I wasn't sure.
12 It -- your mind isn't set to think this way. You're
13 not --

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

15 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** You could get all
16 paranoid and hypervigilant, which I think at a point I was
17 to a -- but not really because it was such a veiled thing
18 and -- and nothing was happening, and there was -- you
19 know, and -- also what happened was -- very destroying is
20 there was this purpose, intent --like, because the RA's
21 local -- to divide me from my community.

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** When you say "RA," what
23 are you referring to?

24 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Rural Electrification

1 Association.

2 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

3 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: And they
4 were -- they -- they were -- in 1980s, local boards were
5 the big thing in -- in Alberta, and that was because they
6 were absorbers to -- so they told me, first of all, when I
7 put the complaint in and asked for the investigation, they
8 said you have to go back to your REA. Now, talk about good
9 old boys' club. These are your -- these are your good old
10 boys that are pointed to the Conservative boards, and that
11 picture -- and I got your picture of [Government Employee
12 3] there. He was right there. He was the -- he was
13 the -- the master -- him and -- and [Government Employee 4]
14 (ph), and the other person was -- I can't even remember his
15 name now.

16 MS. KERRIE REAY: So just help me
17 understand. So you're -- you're filing a complaint with
18 the RCMP, and you -- they're telling you you got to go back
19 to an association to --

20 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: No, and I filed it with
21 the Alberta Energy and Utility Board and the National
22 Energy Board --

23 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And they --

24 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: -- and the energy

1 minister.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. And they --

3 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And they said I had to go
4 back to the board, and that's --

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Which is that rural
6 absorption --

7 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Rural Electrification
8 Association.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

10 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** That [Government employee
11 3] was the (indiscernible).

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. And -- and can you
13 help me understand and the commissioners understand, why
14 did you have -- if you were laying a complaint, why did you
15 have to come back to this board?

16 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Good question, especially
17 a serious complaint like that, because that's what you did.
18 I think because they knew that there was voltage irregular.
19 It -- time. It was time.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right.

21 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** That -- they wasted so
22 much of my time. They -- I'll give you another good
23 example. The Alberta Energy and Utility Board -- and this
24 is one of many examples -- invited me up to the city to,

1 you know, lay out my evidence, and I went up there, and
2 they put me in a room that was darkened, that had -- it
3 was, like, a storage room that -- because it -- they don't
4 want you to make -- it was all about disintegrating my
5 self-esteem or placing doubt. That's how serious the
6 Alberta -- they knew darn well that voltage irregularities.

7 When I went and gathered all those stories
8 about -- that -- that there was no way, and a lot of them
9 had -- and that's what I asked the Alberta Energy -- a lot
10 of them had -- had gone to the -- the utilities company,
11 so -- so basically I believe when it went back -- because
12 they were foot soldiers. The [Government Employee 3] and
13 the [Government Employee 4] -- I got physically assaulted
14 by [Government Employee 4]. They took their job very, very
15 seriously.

16 But I went to [Government Employee 4] house.
17 I said, listen, [Government Employee 4], there's people all
18 throughout this community that have damage, have had
19 voltage irregularities, have questioned about basically
20 their liaisons with the liaisons and their complaints with
21 the company, you know, and he just -- he -- he pushed me,
22 he pushed me real literally off it, and he said, you get
23 away and that, but these guys, we called it the whiskey and
24 water. They had always patronage of the Conservative

1 Party. Like that[Government Employee 3] , he -- he had all
2 kinds -- the -- [Government Employee 4] these are the
3 boys -- these are the guys that had, you know, the little
4 Indian boys, you know, orphaned or, you know, foster kids
5 work hard on their farm, and, you know, they're
6 just -- they're good old boys from way back.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So what I -- what I'm
8 gathering from -- from what you're saying is that personal
9 experience when your farm burned and you lost --

10 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah, it was power
11 outage. Yeah, and we lost all our hogs.

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And -- and what I'm
13 hearing is is that you're concerned and you believe,
14 because you've got your own experience and statements of
15 other peoples around, that -- that there's a problem with
16 voltage going into buildings, residences, whether it's in
17 the rural area, and perhaps -- is this the link back to
18 your cousin --

19 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Exactly.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- it's -- it's back to
21 are the utility commissions and the use of the hydro or
22 electrical --

23 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** See -- yeah.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- is -- is it not being

1 properly maintained, and is it playing a role in fires?
2 That's what I think I hear you're saying.

3 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: M'hm.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: And you've gone out to
5 advocate for an investigation --

6 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: M'hm.

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- and you've received
8 harassment from people associated with those utility
9 commissions?

10 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Oh, that's an
11 understatement. Yeah.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

13 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: And not only that is
14 that -- public utilities, as -- as -- when I went looking
15 for Candace's information, and I think -- you know, when
16 you look through this information, it says -- and I don't
17 know what the experience -- I'm a nurse, and observation
18 has a huge, huge impact on how statements or how things are
19 clarity, and the first initial was that it was a -- it
20 was -- it was electrically ignited. It states there. It's
21 electrically ignited fire, and they don't have to be
22 accountable, utilities. There was no information here in
23 utilities that could even put account into it. They
24 just -- they're very powerful, one of the legislations, and

1 the -- I saw that, and not only did I see that and
2 experience it, but our legislation would say that they
3 don't have to be accountable, they -- that they've written
4 the laws that they're only responsible up to the
5 transformer. You know, anything after that is -- they have
6 accessed all these -- these shapen of legislation and laws
7 that puts the onus on the person like myself or my yard or
8 whatever, but they don't have to be responsible for their
9 supply where in the States, it's a -- it's -- they have
10 negligence acts. They have acts of how consumers can make
11 complaints and follow, like -- so I had multiple parties:
12 I had the utilities companies, I had REAs, I had the
13 Alberta Energy and Utility Board, National Energy Board,
14 and to the point that they belittled me and condescending
15 me and -- and when I would be really upset about something,
16 they'd say, Tara, were you molested as a child? You're
17 acting like a molested child. You're acting like you've
18 been sexually assaulted and -- but that was part of the
19 disintegrating of my mind, right? That was -- like, and it
20 was, like -- you know, I was just -- it just made you
21 shroud, like, down to -- what, because I wanted an
22 investigation into what I provided you with these other
23 people -- you know, it -- it was -- it was extreme, extreme
24 abuse, the process.

1 And then, of course, my husband, I'm
2 fighting on the other avenues with my husband and my
3 family. They're like, you know, you're putting us in
4 jeopardy, you're putting us in harm's way, you're
5 putting -- you know, my husband still has issues
6 about -- because that [Government Employee 3], I wanted to
7 call him out -- big fight. Like, oh, don't do it, Tara,
8 because, you know, people are going to be bringing things
9 up to me, and -- you know, because that's how rural Alberta
10 lives, and they still live that way today. They
11 care -- they care what -- so -- yeah, so by the time I got
12 Candace's information and I seen the -- the lack of
13 accountability -- so -- so, okay, I want to talk about
14 searching for Candace's information.

15 So I went to the logical places of -- the
16 FOIP, and I got a lot of -- yeah, time. I think I had to
17 FOIP a couple times, and, oh, they lost the papers, and
18 they do this, and that's why I believe I had to go back to
19 the board, is because it's just a big time thing, hey?
20 It's just a big time thing, and they can put things in my
21 yard, and they can do things, and -- you know, they
22 can -- they can build their structures to humiliate you in
23 your community.

24 So basically, yeah. I -- under the FOIP, I

1 got that, so I went looking for others, and -- you know --

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Are you talking about

3 Candace's --

4 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Candace stuff, yeah.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah. Okay. So that was

6 in B.C.?

7 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** B.C.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And --

9 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** And I found the same

10 thing out there.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. Same thing.

12 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Very pro utilities, very

13 pro utilities and pro -- now, I don't know why I

14 received -- received it the way -- I always wondered why I

15 received it in part. Did they expect that I was not going

16 to respond, that I was not going to be moved to action?

17 Did they expect that I have two conclusions because I want

18 your people to know there's two conclusions, the first

19 original one and then the last one with -- with the

20 suspected fire? But we were supposed to have an inquiry,

21 and when I spoke to my [Candace's step-mother], she -- I

22 shouldn't have -- I don't know if she pretended, but she

23 basically didn't seem to know any knowledge about the

24 cigarette, but she also said we were harassed by the fire

1 commissioner's office, too, so -- you've got to remember,
2 these people -- like, your [Government Employee 4] and your
3 [Government Employees]-- with the whiskey and water, these
4 guys got a lot of -- they got a lot of reciprocal
5 agreements, privilege in their -- with their ability to
6 distract people like myself or -- they don't really look
7 after their own. Conservatives don't really look after
8 their own. They look after whatever financial or -- but
9 yeah, I just -- I found B.C. --

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** I -- I got -- I -- yeah.

11 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- was just as -- B.C.
12 was just as bad.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And -- and when you were
14 dealing with B.C., because that is where Candace
15 perished --

16 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Right.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- who -- who were you
18 looking at for getting information? Was it the utilities
19 companies? Was it the fire -- the fire marshal or
20 whatever --

21 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah --

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- they referenced?

23 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** The fire commissioner's
24 office.

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: Fire commissioner's.

2 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Anywhere --

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: And what kind of response
4 did you get?

5 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: I don't know. I think at
6 that point, I was pretty broken.

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: M'hm. Okay. Okay.

8 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: It was pretty -- it was
9 exhausting, and -- I was very exhausted, and I was -- by
10 that time, I was pretty well done.

11 MS. KERRIE REAY: The fire -- the fire at
12 your home, what year was that?

13 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: As a childhood fire in my
14 home?

15 MS. KERRIE REAY: The fire that destroyed
16 the hogs that really got you --

17 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Okay. Well, that was a
18 power outage, but I did have -- we did have a surge fire in
19 our barn when -- in my (ph) complaint process, and I don't
20 know if these were veiled intimidations.

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: So roughly when was that?

22 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: That -- that was
23 July 1996.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: So for 20 --

1 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** I think the 18th.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** You -- you've
3 been -- you've been down this path for -- this journey for
4 some 20 years trying to get answers. So --

5 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** No. No, I left it.

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah, okay.

7 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** I left it. I was
8 intimidated. I -- I was intimidated. I felt into abandon
9 any searches or anything. I basically was told that it
10 would be -- if I pursued any more, I was basically going to
11 pay -- you know, that those REA members used -- I got
12 physically assaulted. I got physically threatened. I had
13 no confidence. I can still not call the police. I had no
14 confidence in the police by their bad behavior. Yeah, I
15 felt my son was threatened. I felt my -- my home was
16 intimidated. It was -- it was a horrible experience. It
17 was horrible. So I -- I felt forced to abandon.

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. And this has come
19 back for you because of the opportunity --

20 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yes --

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- to come and speak about
22 Candace, the loss of Candace, and how -- what I hear you
23 saying is is that it wasn't properly investigated. Your
24 family doesn't believe it was properly investigated.

1 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** We were treated terrible.
2 They were treated --

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And you were treated
4 terrible because she was Indigenous?

5 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Well, I know one thing,
6 that [Step-brother] was visibly a minority, and my
7 [Candace's step-mother]-- I don't even know if
8 she's -- she's -- I think she's [Nationality], but she
9 looks [Race], but her husband was --

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah, but that Candace
11 is -- is -- Candace has her background, is --

12 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Her mother was, yes.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- is Indigenous.

14 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Yeah.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And so as a child that
16 lost her life in a fire, I guess the question that comes to
17 mind is, given all of the investigating that you've done,
18 given your own personal experience in Alberta, that there
19 was that connection to coming back to the B.C. loss of
20 Candace --

21 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Exactly.

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- and the fire.

23 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Exactly. It triggered
24 me --

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And the question --

2 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** It triggered me. Yeah.

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And the question is, was
4 the investigation closed down quickly and not investigated
5 because Candace was a 12-year-old Indigenous girl? That's
6 the question, you know, that --

7 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Well, they were
8 definitely poor.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

10 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Definitely poor and
11 visible minorities. Candace maybe not totally, but --

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

13 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** But she definitely -- my
14 - [Step-brother] would have been visibly [ethnicity] (ph).

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm. And it was - [Step-
16 brpther] was her step -- half-brother? Step-brother?

17 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Step-brother.

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Step-brother.

19 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** [Candace's step-mother]
20 from another married but first cousin.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm. Okay.

22 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** [Candace's mother]'s
23 brother was married to [Candace's step-mother].

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. So there was no

1 outcome with the fire at Candace's. Like, there was
2 no -- it was deemed -- you said there was two findings --

3 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah, two findings.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And so what were the
5 findings? There was the official finding.

6 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** That it was electrically
7 ignited, and then at the end, it said suspected cigarette.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So the -- you have a -- a
9 document that says -- that starts out that it was an
10 electrical fire --

11 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yes.

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- and then concludes that
13 it was a -- it was a cigarette?

14 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** A cigarette. Yes. Yeah.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And are you providing
16 that -- a copy --

17 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yes.

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- of that document --

19 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- in that package? Okay.

21 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** I can show it to you.

22 It's quite amazing, actually, but -- and I'm thinking, oh,
23 yeah, because they -- at that time, they were doing
24 anything and everything to harass me, so I'm thinking -- I

1 don't even -- you know, there again, when you go through
2 all this, you don't know what's true and not true and --

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** No. No.

4 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- what document -- like,
5 I would get that stuff in the mail, like, the -- and that's
6 very important to say about because I live on the border of
7 [community] just about. It's -- well, it's a close
8 neighbour, and, you know, when you get things in the mail
9 that, oh, the voltage irregulars due to -- to embezzlement
10 some money from federal to provincial funding. Like, how
11 do you -- how do you respond to that?

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right. Yeah.

13 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** How do you -- how do you
14 respond to that? You say --

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** I wouldn't know how to
16 respond.

17 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** No. It's like -- so I
18 give it to the people that --

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

20 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- you think, the Alberta
21 Energy and Utility Board --

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right.

23 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- and the National
24 Energy Board, and that's why I wrote the First Nations here

1 because don't trust those shysters. They're -- they're as
2 horrible as horrible could be. So here, Kerrie, there -- I
3 just want to show you here. I sort of started there. It
4 says "a thorough examination of the burned area," right
5 there where it's starred, and then...

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So it says
7 here -- just -- I'll read the point that you've asked me to
8 read: (As read)

9 A thorough examination of the burned
10 area and the debris was made without
11 finding anything that would assist in
12 determining the cause. In view of the
13 fact electricity appeared to be the only
14 source of ignition, I had the electrical
15 inspector examine the scene, as well,
16 and his report is attached. However,
17 apart from his findings, it is quite
18 possible there was a malfunction within
19 the combination TV and radio that could
20 have caused the fire.

21 And we're reading from page 2 of a document
22 written by A. H. Taylor (ph), Inspector, and it looks like
23 it is -- it's not dated here.

24 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** That's where -- the front

1 there. There's -- there's two dated. There's --

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah, this is --

3 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- just read the -- read
5 the -- the date of the fire.

6 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And I -- I would like to
7 mention that this documentation --

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh, this was
9 actually -- sorry, my apologies.

10 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah. Yeah.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yes, it was -- it's dated
12 March the 1st, 1973, and signed off on March the 1st, 1973.

13 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** But this is the
14 original -- I think --

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** In the top there, it says
16 date of the report, 15th of December, '72. Okay.

17 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And then this is how it
18 ended here.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Well, and I notice -- I'll
20 take --

21 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And just for the record
23 here -- and what I will be doing, just so you know, is I
24 will itemize all of your documents for the commissioners --

1 information, you know, is just not there. Now, here, 2018,
2 because I've never really -- I revisited it, and just
3 sitting back and waiting is not my thing, so I sent this
4 year to see if I could find anymore.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

6 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And they started playing
7 their games again.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Hm.

9 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Four months later, they
10 wanted \$380, you know?

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh, money. They wanted
12 money.

13 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Well, it's -- it's
14 another -- what I found from before using the *FOIP Act*, and
15 I spoke extensively what I think of the *Privacy Act* --

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

17 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- is it becomes a money
18 game because it's so entrenched into political associations
19 and affiliations, and so before, they just kept exhausting
20 my money. I put out a lot of money looking for different
21 information for -- but it just becomes time-consuming and
22 financially exhausted, and that's what they've used the
23 *Privacy Act* now for is --

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

1 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And they're, you know, in
2 between -- and you'll notice -- what I wanted to know
3 is -- or put down here is that with Candace's information,
4 even though it's all -- half of it's missing, there's so
5 much we can glean from it.

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

7 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** There's so much valuable
8 things to glean from it, you know, how -- and, like, they
9 were saying that -- how many Indigenous women they figured
10 were missing that they're not accounted -- or murdered
11 because there's nothing here to identify Candace as
12 Indigenous.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right. Yes. Yeah.

14 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** There's
15 nothing -- there's nothing here that says -- actually, just
16 even how they talk about some of the stuff is
17 disrespectful. You question -- you question the
18 evasiveness of some of the information, but we were told,
19 and I wanted you to share that (indiscernible), we were
20 told we were to get public inquiry as a family.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yes, I -- I do. I -- I
22 find that -- I find that quite interesting that the
23 inspector dated this report March the 1st, 1973, saying it
24 was undetermined, believed from an unknown electrical

1 source, and four days later, a fire report says it was a
2 cigarette.

3 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** I know. It's
4 (indiscernible) horrible. It's horrible. It's horrible.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. And is there
6 another one you wanted me to -- that you wanted to
7 (indiscernible)?

8 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And we were -- and that's
9 what -- and see, this takes us even over into the *Public*
10 *Inquiries Act*, and there should be -- there should be a
11 public -- there should have been a public inquiry with the
12 multiple parties, third-party involvement, and, of course,
13 you can pick and choose these --

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh, I see -- and I do see
15 here --

16 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And there's no --

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** It does say in this
18 document, that is office of the fire marshal, the fire
19 investigation report, that Coroner Kelly (ph) from Mastqui,
20 B.C., has ordered inquiry into this death, but so far no
21 date has been set.

22 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Set. And --

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And you say no -- no
24 inquiry was --

1 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** No inquiry. There was an
2 inquest.

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. That would probably
4 be what they were referring to, and that's --

5 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Okay, but there
6 was -- yeah. Okay. There's bits and pieces, but it looked
7 like it was a -- a very -- as I can see, a very non-depth
8 inquiry. It was just a formality. It was one of those
9 that -- we'll do it, but --

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. You know what, I'm
11 just -- I -- just because we -- we were reading this and
12 given that this document, the fire report stamped by the
13 insurance adjuster, cigarette is suspected to be cause, and
14 that's the last one that was dated March (indiscernible).
15 The Commission might be interested in knowing that the
16 investigation and the actual inspector who was there, it
17 does talk about that the young lad [Step-brother] revealed
18 he had been smoking while sitting on the chesterfield along
19 the north wall. The report says: (As read)

20 This area was not burned out, and I am
21 satisfied the fire did not originate
22 there.

23 So I think that's -- it's quite telling --

24 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Yeah.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- in terms of the
2 documents --

3 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah --

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- that you've been able
5 to secure through FOIPA legislation. When it came to the
6 insurance, it was -- it wasn't that it was an electrical
7 fire. They said it was a cigarette when clearly the report
8 said it wasn't the cigarette.

9 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** M'hm.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Well --

11 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** So you can imagine how I
12 felt as -- as I gathered around my neighbourhood --

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

14 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- and started picking up
15 these, you know, different stories and voltage
16 irregularities and damage -- lots -- thousands and millions
17 of dollars of damage and those liaisons and then going to
18 get my cousin's and it's like, wow, this is -- I've got to
19 share this.

20 So I took Candace's information. I shared
21 it with all the different bodies that I counted on
22 independent, and then I even went before the -- like, the
23 privacy commissioner's office of Alberta because they were
24 initiating and -- and using Candace's package of -- of

1 basically what families should not receive and -- and
2 basically the discrepancies and under the act that, you
3 know, (indiscernible) better compiling of information and
4 collection of information. Like, it shouldn't be
5 scattered. Family shouldn't be running all over looking
6 for their --

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right. Yeah. Yeah.

8 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- their loved one's
9 information --

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

11 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- in pictures, trying
12 to --

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right.

14 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And I think what people
15 should know is that there was -- there was a purpose, the
16 intent to drain me of money and time and energy and --

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

18 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- intimidation and
19 stuff, and I went through that commission -- precommission,
20 preliminary, and at that time, I cried a lot. I was -- but
21 nowhere did they state that they got my Candace's pile.
22 Nowhere did they state why I brought it before. They
23 actually made it look like I was just some blubbering idiot
24 that -- but what I wanted people to know is -- or what I

1 wanted is I wanted protection for people like myself,
2 especially under the *Archives Act*, but as I could see, they
3 tightened it. They made it more difficult for families --

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

5 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** -- to receive information,
6 and that's --

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Well, I think that's -- I
8 think that's important. You know, I think part -- the
9 inquiry, part of its role is, you know, to protect families
10 in the future, to protect Indigenous women and girls in the
11 future, and if -- if to learn that there are so many
12 barriers to finding out what actually happened to the lost
13 loved ones or, you know, in terms of not having -- being
14 able to get accurate access for families into
15 investigations when there's been a death or --

16 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Right.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- somebody is missing.

18 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** I saw that when I set up
19 in Edmonton. I couldn't because, really, I saw just me.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

21 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** I just saw -- saw me.
22 You know, these poor people looking for -- just looking
23 like, just, smoke. It's just horrible.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Looking for answers.

1 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Looking for answers and
2 dependant on agencies that not -- don't think it's your
3 right to have answers or implement laws to prevent those
4 answers, and there's a few laws that I -- I had pleaded
5 for, like -- like, the time I put into this to try to make
6 it better for the other -- next person was just met with
7 horrible, you know, circumstances.

8 So the -- I don't know for sure. I haven't
9 audited yet. That's one of my initiatives, but through the
10 *Archives Act* -- and I had to fight for Candace's
11 information, what little I had, under the *Archives Act*. I
12 want that expanded -- or even before, but keep it -- to
13 charge me \$380 after four months -- this should have all
14 been together. The pictures, everything should be
15 together.

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

17 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Now, the question is, do
18 they believe that I'm not direct enough to -- to have
19 access to that information? Okay, maybe I'm not direct
20 enough, but if there's evidence of criminal type of
21 behavior, then maybe, then, you should incorporate the
22 families into -- but that, of course, that -- that's why
23 we're having this now, this visit.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

1 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Because that's -- that
2 would have been in an ideal world of information collector,
3 but, no, they -- it was -- it was a horrible, horrible hunt
4 for the -- the information, and what I tried to -- because
5 that's how I heal -- try to make a better policies
6 and -- yeah, they just made them tighter and more limited.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah, you know --

8 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And they give you a
9 process this long, like my uncle --

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

11 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- because they can
12 diminish with time. They can diminish credibility of --

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah. It's putting up
14 those barriers constantly --

15 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Oh, constantly --

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- for families.

17 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Exhausting.

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And for Indigenous
19 families.

20 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Exhausted.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** It -- it -- you know, lack
22 of financial ability can -- can be another barrier, so not
23 only do you have the barrier of trying to get the
24 information --

1 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Oh, I did, yeah.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- then when you get
3 there, then they -- you have the barrier -- the financial
4 barrier because you don't have the money to pay. Not
5 everybody has that kind of money, but I'll tell --

6 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** No. I didn't back then.
7 I didn't have that money back then, no.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** I have to say what -- you
9 know, and I'll highlight this for the commissioners.
10 I -- I find these documents that you have managed to FOIPA
11 out of B.C. disturbing in the sense that it clearly says by
12 the individual who was the inspector on the fire
13 that -- that there was no evidence of a cigarette, and then
14 this -- this second fire report which actually comes out of
15 the department of attorney-general office of the fire
16 marshal says that it was a cigarette suspected, and --

17 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Thank you for that
18 validation. You're the first one ever.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** I -- I -- I --

20 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Ever, and I -- I went to,
21 like, the energy minister's. I asked the justice. I sent
22 this highlighted to the justice minister of Canada, the
23 solicitor-general, and asked for a review, a judicial
24 review of information, and I -- I got harassment from out

1 of their office.

2 MS. KERRIE REAY: Now, I -- I have [sic] sat
3 and read it all, but --

4 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Yeah.

5 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- clearly Inspector
6 Taylor says in his report --

7 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: And see --

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- that there was
9 absolutely no indication that the cigarette was the source
10 because the area where the cigarette was wasn't burned.

11 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: M'hm.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: That it -- that it had
13 become --

14 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: But [Step-brother] did
15 have it in his hand. He did say he had it in his hand.

16 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes, but it says here in
17 the report --

18 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Yeah, that it's --

19 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- that I am satisfied the
20 fire did not originate there, referencing the cigarette on
21 the coffee table.

22 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: There is a difference
23 between a smoldering fire and a -- and an electrical
24 (indiscernible).

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Anyhow, I think -- I think
2 what -- I think what is -- what is evident in what you've
3 found that's important is that this information contradicts
4 its -- is contradictory, and it does impact people's lives
5 because it -- the fire report is actually talking about
6 insurance and whether or not they can get the insurance. I
7 don't know what that outcome was.

8 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Oh, I don't think it was
9 good.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So --

11 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** It looked like they -- I
12 know what they do when they information-monger.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah. So --

14 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** They play with people's
15 heads. They played with my uncle's head. I know exactly
16 what they did to my uncle with the information, if it
17 was -- they went to my uncle without my aunt there, because
18 I know -- because they did this to my husband and I.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

20 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** See, you talk about
21 history and repeat, and basically, they'll -- they probably
22 said to my uncle, we don't want to make a big deal about
23 this, we don't want -- you know, but we believe [Candace's
24 step-mother's] son, which would have been his step-son,

1 is -- you know, the cigarette and that, and there was so
2 much love there that I don't even know if -- my dad said, I
3 don't even know if my uncle even would have told [Candace's
4 step-mother], my [Candace's step-mother], because she loves
5 her children. This -- this family has extraordinary love
6 and -- because of hardships, right?

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm. Yeah.

8 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** So we have a feeling that
9 he -- that the fire commissioner's office said, okay, we're
10 not going to make a big deal about it. You know, it's a
11 fire, let's just keep things going, rolling, and blah,
12 blah, blah, and basically my uncle walked away from it
13 because of his love for his wife.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right. Hm.

15 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And his step -- his
16 step-children. My uncle loved his step --

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And I think through this
18 process, you know, we've highlighted that for the
19 commissioners. They can take a look at it.

20 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** If they think that there
22 is something more that needs to be done, that will -- that
23 will rest with them --

24 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- in terms of their role
2 in the inquiry, but I think it was important to just show
3 how two official documents out of the same office report
4 within four days have different reasons for the fire.

5 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Well, I think, too,
6 you'll notice, too, that the times --

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

8 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- the times of -- on the
9 official, but then the -- so -- and that's important for
10 smoldering fires. They're very -- you know, to clinically
11 be able to -- be able -- smoldering fires take a lot
12 longer, right, and then --

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Well, it sounds like this
14 fire, from what you've described and what's written here,
15 it was very, very quick.

16 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** My -- yeah. My father,
17 actually, had written the First Nations -- just for a
18 thing -- but my father had said it was fast. It was
19 a -- it was a surge fire, it was quick, fast, rapid,
20 intense heat, and if you take -- now, if you take the
21 neighbour's account -- now, and I don't know if I read into
22 this stuff, but the neighbour's account, there was, like,
23 clanging of pipes, hey, clanging of pipes, and I believe
24 that's where the stray voltage went through. That's what

1 they could hear, it went fast, and it was just intense.

2 And you got to remember, investigated in
3 1973, and that was the time of the Bennett Dam, and
4 utilities were changing -- interchanging. Abbotsford's
5 close to the border. You know, there -- there was a lot of
6 utilities big-wigs happened, and you know, the Bennett Dam
7 and da-da-da-da, and utilities, it was becoming an economic
8 strong horse, and -- so my cousin passed away in times that
9 probably the utility companies had a very much upper hand.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Well, and -- and I
11 think -- the other thing that you raised, and that is is
12 that when you're out in rural Alberta and you constantly
13 get these sort of --

14 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Those were purpose.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** You know, the -- where
16 you're getting those surges and -- and things, and it's
17 sort of like, are they adjusting or what's happening with
18 the utilities, makes me concerned in terms of in the rural
19 areas where we have First Nations communities, and --

20 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** There's -- yeah. There's
21 no doubt in my mind that if I was from --

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- that are they being
23 impacted and -- and are things not being properly
24 investigated --

1 chosen and selected for high risk for safety issues,
2 so -- it comes in attitudes, so I -- I have no doubt that
3 First Nation communities were impacted with -- purposely,
4 intentional -- and that -- and that's one of the things
5 that I wrote here, and that's one of the things I wanted
6 way back then is I wanted an investigation into the proper
7 diagnosis of electrically ignited fires.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right.

9 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** But they weren't being
10 properly investigated, and I was just recently told and
11 reminded that regardless if it was voltage irregularities
12 that they have them -- the legislation and the law of
13 responsibility only up to the --

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** The transformer, you said.

15 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- the transformer, and I
16 said what --

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So where's the ethical and
18 moral responsibility?

19 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah. I said -- yeah.
20 And there's a huge amount in the States that went to
21 utilities, to the new laws and --

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm. M'hm.

23 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- into negligence,
24 determinant. They changed their -- their -- from a -- a

1 product to a service. Like, they -- they changed the
2 wording around --

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: Uh-huh.

4 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: -- so there was
5 less -- there's no doubt in my mind that there has to be
6 some financial --

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: M'hm.

8 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: -- and that there is
9 First Nation communities that have been caused harm by
10 electrically ignited fires. There is no doubt in my mind
11 because I really found that it was -- they could control
12 it, and when I spoke with the TransAlta -- his name is
13 [E.G.] (ph) -- [E.G.], who would go out and switch
14 these -- now, it's all different now. The grid's all
15 different and the transmission, everything's divided,
16 right? But at that time, everything was together, but how
17 they -- he was instructed -- he'd go out at midnight and
18 change over transmission lines, and it was -- yeah. He's
19 an interesting man to talk to.

20 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

21 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: But dumb as a hammer,
22 so --

23 (LAUGHTER)

24 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Bag of hammers. If you

1 could stand it.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Is there -- is there
3 anything else in your files that you would like to draw the
4 commissioners' attentions to in your paperwork?

5 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Just wanted to talk once
6 again about the *Privacy Act*.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

8 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** How it's become a harbour
9 and protected bad practices. It's a -- it's a horrible act
10 that has just allowed things like this to go on without
11 people like myself having transparent -- they go on about
12 this act being as, you know, it's for, yeah, transparency
13 and this and that and good, but it's just become a
14 harbouring for bad practices, and that was my experience of
15 looking for Candace's information or any information.

16 The use of dossiers and -- and provoking
17 response. There was a huge, huge effort to
18 character-assassinate me, dissociate me from -- or divide
19 me from my community; basically, you know -- yeah,
20 just -- it -- it became I had to protect myself, and I had
21 to basically tell people what I was doing, and it -- it got
22 really bad.

23 Even my MP -- I'll tell you about my MP's
24 office. So when I went to my MP's office, and there's

1 still little creepy PCs, little Conservative people out
2 here, and his assistant is in rural Alberta -- well, lived
3 in my area. You know, the -- she knows nothing about this
4 or anything, but -- that there were stories that were
5 repeated that weren't true about my quest.

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

7 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And so there again, I'm
8 constantly defending myself, and meanwhile, you have people
9 like your [Government Employee 3] that are getting
10 promoted, and they're -- you know, they're just associated
11 with -- so that -- that was really, really -- that's -- I
12 believe legislation -- how legislation is used for
13 information -- information history.

14 I established five main areas that I would
15 like to see legislation. I would like [Candace's step-
16 mother's]mother or Candace's stepmother, she may be -- when
17 you say the word "stepmother," it might -- you know, think
18 that there's not love or care, but there was -- there's
19 huge (indiscernible). You'll see with her letter here that
20 she has -- she -- she loved Candace -- she raised Candace
21 when she was just a little -- 5 years old, just...

22 I just write because it make me feel better.
23 I quit smoking cigarettes, and that's a huge thing too. I
24 could -- I could easily -- I could have easily gone for a

1 cigarette last night or two.

2 Yeah, the waste of time that they put me
3 through. You know, they had me jumping through hoops, and
4 it was just, like, entertainment. They instilled fear in
5 me. They character-assassinated me. The dissociation of
6 credibility within my community. I experienced with
7 (indiscernible) the doubt, shame -- yeah, just -- those
8 were all the resultant factors of looking for your cousin's
9 missing information.

10 You've got to remember TransAlta Utilities
11 was monopolized too. The shareholder list was very
12 interesting at that time too. It was very monopolized and
13 very close, but it -- the -- yeah. So they could -- they
14 could do anything they wanted. They could form any -- they
15 formed any (indiscernible).

16 Yeah, I don't -- the NAB, AEUB, Alberta
17 Energy and Utility Board were very aware that my
18 allegations of -- of electrically ignited fires and the
19 damage and the liaisons and the collection, and then they'd
20 get back to me, and they'd say, well, we -- we told
21 TransAlta Utilities to have an open house. Open house?
22 Yeah. Oh, we're -- we're just -- we're doing
23 investigations here, but we'll just do that for now, and
24 waiting and waiting and waiting, and that's why I had so

1 much anxiety with the commission is I was tricked into
2 waiting I don't know how many times.

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** When you say "the
4 commission," what -- are you talking about --

5 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** The miss -- the
6 miss -- the inquiry -- like, my impatience. Like,
7 I -- when I first -- and then my anxiety as a result of the
8 waiting game. Like, it's been a year now, I think, and as
9 time went on, it was like, oh, they're just fooling me.
10 They're just -- they're going to be -- they're just like
11 that Alberta Energy and Utility Board net (ph).

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

13 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** I didn't -- I don't trust
14 the process because of the process that I've had.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh, I understand. So --

16 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** You -- and -- and just
18 because -- for the record, you did go to Edmonton last
19 November, at the beginning of November.

20 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yes. That was an
21 experience.

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And you were there to
23 engage and watch? Were you registered to speak there?

24 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** I had a submission. I

1 had a submission at the -- at the commission. My -- my
2 submission -- and I have a written in here too. I -- in my
3 intake, my intake. She wouldn't take any papers or
4 anything. She just took my --

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

6 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** So I went home and -- and
7 that was quite an experience because even in my intake, I
8 watched one -- one -- I talked to quite a few -- one
9 intaker that was getting video -- having video, but I just
10 cried through that, and like I say, I could relate to it.
11 Searching. Going to these agencies. Begging. Whatever.
12 So then three months --

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So did you -- did you meet
14 with a statement-taker like myself in Edmonton?

15 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah, but she didn't do
16 any of this. She just took my name and Candace's name
17 and -- yeah, just the relevant --

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And were you on a video
19 camera?

20 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** No.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh, sorry. I thought you
22 meant you were on a video camera.

23 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** No. No.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** I was -- okay. Okay.

1 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** That's what, yeah. I
2 was hoping --

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So it was during an
4 intake. Okay.

5 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** I was hoping intake, and
6 then I -- I went to my room and I slept 14 hours.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh, dear. Yeah.

8 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** It was exhausting for me.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And so you've been waiting
10 this long to get an opportunity?

11 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** And as time went on, and
12 it was like, well, why -- isn't somebody going to come and,
13 you know, get my papers and maybe -- no, maybe not. The
14 power that I felt from the utilities company and the
15 agencies that -- that had my information of the -- was
16 overwhelming, so the power of the commission, even though
17 it's big --

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** You're talking about --

19 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Yeah.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** You're talking about the
21 inquiry.

22 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** The inquiry. It's big,
23 and it's --

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

1 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: But what I did before was
2 big, and it didn't help either, so it --

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

4 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: So it was sort of, like,
5 okay, is this just another process?

6 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. Okay.

7 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Another process.

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah. My --

9 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: And so -- yeah.

10 MS. KERRIE REAY: I understand.

11 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: So it -- yeah,
12 it -- yeah. I just -- yeah, I just -- it's -- I'm glad
13 it's over with. I'm glad...

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: So there's been a fair
15 amount of anxiety for you waiting for this moment for the
16 last ten months.

17 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Oh, yeah.

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: Eleven months.

19 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: 18 years, 15 years.

20 MS. KERRIE REAY: But I -- in terms of
21 registering, you registered --

22 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Oh, yes.

23 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- in -- in Edmonton --

24 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Yeah.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- which was the beginning
2 of November.

3 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And we're now October
5 the 15th of 2018.

6 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah. It's -- it's been
7 a long -- very long...

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

9 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** We're here. We're here.

11 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** I know. I'm just so
12 happy. I -- I -- maybe I don't seem happy, but I'm happy.
13 I know. Yeah, I closed with this, the community members
14 ongoing with voltage irregularities, just to make sure that
15 I'm validated, and I did a lot of work. I did a lot of
16 footwork, and they had me running around, and you
17 just -- they just use you. They're just -- Conservative
18 Party is the worst party in the world. Mind you, there was
19 Liberals. There was -- there was all kinds of people.
20 I -- I think I put in there -- like, I -- I like writing,
21 so I'd write to these people. Like -- you know, I didn't
22 write -- I didn't even -- like, Prime Minister Chretien
23 just because -- he's sort of my idol -- was, I don't know
24 if he still is because he didn't respond to me -- but

1 he -- in his get well card when he had his heart surgery, I
2 just put Candace's information, and I give people all
3 over -- like, if I had an opportunity to, you know, give it
4 to anybody that I think could make any -- you know, help,
5 but it never did come, right? It never did come. It's
6 just -- it was just horrible.

7 Here I included, yeah, all the -- now, I
8 don't know how far back you go for Indigenous, but, yeah,
9 there's pretty strong lineage here, and her grandmother was
10 Laprone (ph) -- Laprone there. I put -- for her lineage,
11 it's there, I put (indiscernible) because I'm a compulsive
12 writer. There's that. There was all the other paper, so
13 yeah.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** That's good. That's good,
15 though.

16 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** It's good that you have
18 all of that information --

19 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- because it -- it makes
21 sure that there's a real complete picture. A real
22 complete -- all the context is there.

23 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah, and it's --

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

1 MS. TARA DELEEUW: It's a --

2 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

3 MS. TARA DELEEUW: I think what people
4 should know, too, is that she was a little girl, that --

5 MS. KERRIE REAY: She was 12 years old.

6 MS. TARA DELEEUW: Years old, yeah. And
7 that the investigation is no different than investigations
8 with utilities now. Like, I'm really going to be -- that's
9 why I wrote the first -- like --

10 MS. KERRIE REAY: M'hm.

11 MS. TARA DELEEUW: You know, the First
12 Nation communities and utilities, I would love -- there's a
13 few things I'd love to audit. I'd love to audit
14 that -- because there's four Nations there in Maskwacis,
15 their utilities, their history of utilities.

16 MS. KERRIE REAY: You mean Mastqui?

17 MS. TARA DELEEUW: In -- yeah. Yeah.

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

19 MS. TARA DELEEUW: Or -- no, Maskwacis
20 because it's close --

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh.

22 MS. TARA DELEEUW: Because they have that
23 Montana REA, which would be --

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh, this is Alberta.

1 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Yeah, Alberta.

2 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And -- and what was
3 the name that you used?

4 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Maskwacis.

5 MS. KERRIE REAY: And how do you spell that?

6 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: M-A-S-K --

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: So it's M-A-S-K --

8 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: K-C-H-W-A-S. [Sic]

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. That's okay. We'll
10 be able to look up --

11 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Yeah.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- the proper spelling.

13 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: But I would love to do
14 that, and I would love to -- but that's my vengefulness
15 coming out in me. I would love to do the Rose Marie
16 Desjarlais because that -- I know darn well what went on in
17 my community with Rose Marie Desjarlais' death, and I know
18 darn well how the police responded to that, and it still
19 goes on here in Ponoka. This detachment is the worst
20 detachment in the world, and if I have any kind of missing
21 or murdered loved one, this would be a nightmare, and
22 that's what bothers me is that there's no consistency of
23 triage of information.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: M'hm. M'hm.

1 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** But it's all -- and it's
2 not bad police or anything. It's all how attitudes have
3 been filtered into rural Alberta and how attitudes have
4 been filtered in -- I -- I have experienced more prejudice
5 and discrimination as -- as a submitter to this. I just
6 had it downtown. I saw -- I won't even say his name, and I
7 know age, and he said -- he said, oh, aren't you looking,
8 you know, pretty nice today, you know, Tara, and I said,
9 oh, yeah, I'm really excited. I've been waiting a long
10 time. I'm going to make a submission at the
11 murdered -- missing and murdered Indigenous women's
12 commission, because I don't talk -- a lot of people don't
13 know, but my husband never even knew until probably two
14 weeks ago.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Hm. Yeah.

16 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Until we had -- you know,
17 he's never asked me because he's -- he's a -- he's a rural
18 Conservative too. He bothers me that way. I love him
19 dearly, lots of factors, but he's redneck. Redneck as
20 could be, and [Candace's father] looked at me and he said,
21 what is a nice girl like you doing in a mess like that?
22 That's how he responded.

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh, that's so sad.

24 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** It is, and I get that a

1 lot. I get a lot of that, and I actually -- when I -- I
2 thought for sure, like, these board members, like
3 [Government Employee 3], when I took -- I said I want to
4 show you something about my cousin, and this is why I'm
5 interested in utilities --

6 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

7 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: -- and accountability,
8 and -- oh, they're just horrible things.

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

10 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Just --

11 MS. KERRIE REAY: No interest? No interest?

12 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Derogatory comments,
13 and -- yeah, derogatory comments, and -- and he's -- yeah,
14 why would you think that a cigarette -- it wasn't a
15 cigarette? I said, because I'll tell you the truth. My
16 uncle -- or my cousin's a visible minority, and this is
17 something we've got to address here, with -- you know, what
18 about all these Indigenous males, too, that are --

19 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. Yeah.

20 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: -- you know?

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

22 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Having issues, too, with
23 the laws and -- and he basically just -- he grunted and,
24 you know, just -- (unreportable sound) -- you know? I know

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: Thank you.

2 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: I think
3 what -- commission, also, this is just sort of maybe my
4 life's work because I -- I submitted to the Truth and
5 Reconciliation my grandmother's book, which was -- the
6 chapter, it was called "Indian Country."

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: Now, was your grandmother
8 First Nation?

9 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: No.

10 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

11 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: No. No, we just have a
12 lot of white -- my dad was raised in a -- the
13 granddaughter -- daughter -- daughter or granddaughter of
14 Chief [K.].

15 MS. KERRIE REAY: Chief?

16 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: [K.].

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: [K.]?

18 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: [K.].

19 MS. KERRIE REAY: [K.].

20 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Which would be Invermere,
21 Windermere.

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh, okay.

23 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: I'm a Kootenay girl.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh, okay. Okay.

1 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And [B.M] was my
2 step -- or godfather, and [B.M.'s] mother was [K.M.], which
3 would be a granddaughter to Chief [K.].

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

5 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And so my dad had a lot
6 of influence of First Nations.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

8 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And always -- I always
9 had his --

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** But his -- but his brother
11 [Candace's father] was not First Nation.

12 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** No. No.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. Okay. So when you
14 talked about Candace's lineage --

15 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Her mother.

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- her mom and her
17 mother -- her mom's mom and her mom's dad, that's the
18 lineage we --

19 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yes.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- had two different First
21 Nations.

22 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yes. Yes.

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. Yeah.

24 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** No, thank you. I
2 just -- I realize there was a gap there for me, so --

3 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah. But, no, we have
4 no First Nations.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

6 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** But just strange how it
7 just influences your life.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah, (indiscernible).

9 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And so my father, he did
10 a lot of historical for the Kootenays, as my [Uncle] did.
11 A lot of it's in the Bow -- Bow Museum, but my father also
12 compiled my grandmother's memoirs, which he had a -- a
13 chapter what it was like to live in Indian -- she called it
14 Indian country because at that time, of course, the
15 political correctness -- you know, we're -- we're all
16 learning this political correctness, and -- yeah, so she
17 had written about how they lived very harmoniously in the
18 Windermere valley --

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm. M'hm.

20 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- until residential
21 school came around, and that was the precise demise of that
22 living cooperatively together that it changed -- it changed
23 just the -- the whole framework, and so my grandmother had
24 compiled that in her memoirs, and I submitted that to the

1 Truth and Reconciliation, not knowing this was ever coming
2 down the line.

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. Right. And your
4 grandmother's name?

5 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: [V.A.].

6 MS. KERRIE REAY: [V.A.], ?

7 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: , yeah.

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: [V.A.], and she did a book
9 called --

10 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: It's called "The
11 Windermere I Knew."

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: "The Windermere I Knew."
13 Okay. All right. So -- well, you come by writing
14 honestly, then, because you --

15 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Yeah.

16 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- I could see your -- your
17 dad wrote quite a book there, and -- wow, and your
18 grandmother did a book, and -- yeah.

19 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: He speaks quite a bit
20 about his relationship with First Nations. Good -- good
21 Indian, bad Indian. (Indiscernible) with one of the valley
22 Elders, you know, so --

23 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

24 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: So he speaks a lot,

1 but -- yeah, he was -- he was raised in Chief [K.] under
2 that influence in that home, [B.M.], so -- and my family
3 is -- in particular, my son, are avid -- he just inherited
4 Indian artifacts.

5 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh, okay.

6 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: My dad spent, as my
7 family does, hours and hours and hours scouring the ground.
8 Oh, anybody can do that. I can't do that. That's not my
9 specialty, but my son and my father over the years -- well,
10 my dad just passed, and that was another thing. I really
11 felt that he would have liked answers.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

13 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: He was -- he was waiting
14 for answers.

15 MS. KERRIE REAY: Well, and the -- the part
16 I read of his memoirs talks about that -- it -- the
17 investigation wasn't done properly in his opinion either.

18 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: And he --

19 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

20 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: -- had to watch the
21 hurt --

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah. Just --

23 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: -- of my father, yeah,
24 with his -- and it -- it -- the rudeness.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

2 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** He said that the fire
3 commission -- my father did write the fire commissioner's
4 office, and see, that wasn't in the information.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Huh.

6 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** There was lots of things
7 that not in -- [Candace's brother's] account is not in
8 there, but [Candace's brother] lives in Rosetown, I
9 believe, Saskatchewan, and I'm trying to get brave to go
10 out there.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

12 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** But he's -- he's
13 so -- he's so broken, they said, you know, and I just don't
14 know how -- how he's going to respond to the news or
15 if -- yeah. The -- the family can be quite bitter too.
16 It's -- it's had its fights, but I put that in there, and
17 the policeman noted in there, too, that there were
18 allegations and -- and all kinds of, you know, different
19 things, you know, but they weren't in there, but it really
20 set the family on a course of discard.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

22 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** You know, just a
23 really -- problems, and I think it was fueled. It was
24 fueled, too, so --

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Well -- well, perhaps,
2 maybe given the conversation we're just having to talk a
3 little bit about whether or not you would like your -- your
4 statement, your truth today to be public or private.
5 There's a couple of things that you've shared today
6 that -- that we've read into the record for the
7 commissioners: The inconsistency out of two government
8 documents on the cause of the fire that took the life of
9 your cousin Candace, and also the barriers and the reaction
10 of trying to get answers against large business, large
11 industry, and -- you know, in -- in terms of the safety of
12 what's happening with the utilities that could certainly --

13 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** I want legislation in
14 there.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** It's not just about your
16 rural area. It's about all rural areas and even in terms
17 of thinking of the First Nation communities that are rural
18 and what impact the utilities may -- may be having on the
19 personal safety of people who are living in rural areas.
20 So there's a number of things that you've shared today I
21 think that the commissioners will -- will listen to and
22 read very carefully, as they will with all.

23 I just think that one of -- that's one of
24 the things to -- to be aware of in terms of how do you want

1 the commissioners to be able to use your information? If
2 it's public, what you've said today, they can use, and they
3 can use specific pieces such as the inconsistencies of the
4 report, and they can actually report -- they could actually
5 point to an example --

6 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Right.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- of those
8 inconsistencies, albeit 1972 and 1973.

9 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Well -- yeah.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** But if -- you know, just
11 so that you understand that if that information is
12 important for you for the commissioners to be able to use,
13 that it would identify Candace and it would identify you;
14 therefore, it would have to be public. If you want them
15 to -- if you don't want it to be public, then they cannot
16 use or reference your information. They can only use it
17 as -- as a higher-arching -- the themes of what you've
18 discussed today, not the specifics, because they can't use
19 anything that would identify you.

20 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** M'hm.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So your role with the
22 utility commissions and the National Energy Board, if they
23 were to reference something in terms of what you've been
24 described and the work that you did --

1 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** I worry about my safety
2 somehow, too, you know.

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah. Yeah.

4 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** I -- after what I've
5 experienced --

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

7 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** -- and there was veiled
8 intimidation, a lot of it.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So those -- those are the
10 things that -- you know, that need to be considered in
11 terms of whether or not you would like it to be public or
12 to be private, and for your safety, because you've already
13 felt that, then a private one would be --

14 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Oh, they know because I
15 just -- I was so ecstatic. I phoned TransAlta. I said
16 listen here. You have your last chance to -- but 18 years
17 later, they just laughed at me and hung
18 up -- (indiscernible) the answer. You know? But -- no,
19 actually, I wanted my -- I wanted -- I knew at the time the
20 dossiers -- well, after dossiers -- so I FOIPed myself,
21 which is quite frightening. It's quite frightening,
22 especially if you're crazy, which I did have crazy periods,
23 but I was provoked into craziness. When I say craziness,
24 it was like, I'd lose my cool, right?

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

2 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah. It --

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah. Yeah.

4 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Give -- give me my
5 fucking information or the information I want, or give me
6 the investigation or whatever, but -- so I wanted to do
7 that, but now they're claiming they have no information.
8 Like, they -- they spent all that time, and there's -- some
9 of the information that I had gone back now to FOIP, like,
10 with Candace, I FOIPed there, and it's -- they pretend that
11 they never even know who I am. Like, there's nothing
12 there.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Hm. And I don't know how
14 that works, so --

15 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** I don't know. Yeah.

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

17 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah, so the -- I did all
18 that hard work, and they did all that hard work to -- to
19 dossier me as a crazy, and now 20 years later, I go back to
20 get information, and they say they don't have it. Like,
21 I'll give you a perfect example. This was good, and how
22 they talked to me, too, because they talked to me,
23 like -- and I -- I do have other things, too, but
24 they -- they basically talked to me like I have no -- like,

1 I'm -- that I have no gain.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

3 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** So -- so I -- REA, I'd
4 written and I had -- basically had to ask for my personal
5 information, which would have been asking for an
6 investigation. I'd gone out to their -- that they wasted
7 so much of my time. That's why I knew I wasn't
8 wasting -- I beat that road and fuel. So then he comes
9 back, and he snottily says, well, why would we have that
10 information after 20 years? So then I turned it back on
11 him, and I said, well, how many people come in your office
12 or write you or send you personal mail or --

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm. M'hm.

14 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** -- meet with you with
15 allegations of electrically ignited fires? I said, don't
16 you -- don't you think that's retentive, or I put a
17 complaint in about physical assault of your president at
18 my -- my riding, my REA.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right. Right.

20 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And I said, you wouldn't
21 retain that? You wouldn't retain physical assault or when
22 the energy minister threatened me, to physically assault me
23 basically if I didn't abandon it and get the hell out of
24 his function? Because I went to those stupid Conservative,

1 you know, events, but -- so I turned it back on him and
2 said, you know, so why wouldn't you retain that?
3 That's -- you don't -- this isn't an average allegation.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm. M'hm.

5 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** You know?

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right. Right.

7 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** This isn't a -- you know,
8 this is -- and when, you know, a man assaults a
9 woman -- and this is during the Me Too movement. This
10 was -- you know, whatever. You should keep that on record
11 forever, ever and ever and ever. You don't get rid of
12 that, but that's what you deal with here in Alberta.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

14 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** You deal with that type
15 of mindset, men that think that it's okay to beat women out
16 where I live.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** I'm not quite sure how
18 your -- and I'm not quite sure how your Alberta legislation
19 works --

20 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- in terms of private
22 enterprise or boards or --

23 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Well, it's a lot better
24 the last two years.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** That's good, then.

2 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** (Indiscernible) those
3 Conservatives. I don't --

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So -- so thinking back to
5 what you've shared and knowing that it's a public inquiry,
6 if it's public, it could be -- your statement could be
7 found on the inquiry's website --

8 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** M'hm.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- how are you feeling
10 about whether or not you want it public, or you feel that
11 for your personal safety that you would like it private?
12 It has to be your decision.

13 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** I think for my personal
14 safety, in discussion with my girlfriends, they believe me
15 being out there is probably even better, but I also believe
16 that there's nothing more that can hurt me. There's
17 nothing more that can bother me. The only thing that
18 bothers me about going public -- I am going to bind
19 Candace's story -- is her family.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

21 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** I don't want her family
22 to learn about it on the 6 o'clock news or reading it in a
23 paper or -- or that.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** No, even -- but they could

1 learn about it on the website, so --

2 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yes, and I know they're
3 quite active, so it would have to be private right now.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

5 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Even though I would want
6 it to be public. I want it both.

7 (LAUGHTER)

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Well, we will -- so -- you
9 know, I -- I think you've raised some -- you know, you've
10 raised some significant questions, I think, today around
11 the safety of Indigenous people often are in areas that are
12 rural by the nature of where the reserves are.

13 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Well, there's no
14 doubt -- I read -- I read somewhere -- but they quit
15 collecting information on rural First Nation communities
16 on -- collection of house fires, how they -- they changed
17 their methods, and that's one thing I've noticed about
18 electrical utility -- electrically ignited fires, how they
19 collected information or how they defined it. It used to
20 be out there, and now try to find any information on
21 electrically ignited fires. It's just about nil, so --

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh, interesting.

23 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah. Just about nil.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Very interesting. So one

1 of the things that we could do is we could -- if -- if
2 you're wanting to talk to the families first, we
3 could -- with the idea of going public, we could take -- we
4 could sign a public, and then if they don't want it or you
5 feel that it's not appropriate, then we'll have you also
6 sign a private one so that it -- it just gives you a bit of
7 time here over the next month or two.

8 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** M'hm.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** But we would need to have
10 it for -- well, actually, for the commissioners to use it
11 in their research and in their recommendations, we would
12 have to know by the end of October.

13 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Oh, that's quick.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah. We're at that
15 point -- like, statement-gathering is finishing and
16 concluding at the end of October because the commissioners
17 have -- they have to do the research.

18 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** So where are they going
19 with that now? Where are they -- where is it going to go
20 now?

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Well, we're at that point
22 now that all the information is being collected, the
23 hearings, the -- the community hearings where they went out
24 and they -- they heard the truths as we're sharing today.

1 They've just -- they're completing their institutional
2 hearings once this is --

3 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Are they going to form
4 legislation? Are they going to --

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** No. No. They're -- they
6 have been tasked with providing the Government of Canada
7 with recommendations, and it's a very broad-based set of
8 terms of reference, and -- and so they are collecting to be
9 as well informed as possible to hear from the people, to
10 hear from the grass roots --

11 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Yeah.

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- to hear from those who
13 have direct experience, to hear from the experts in terms
14 of the impacts of systemic government systems that
15 have -- have -- that have --

16 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Formed.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Sort of the enter -- that
18 have, you know, really impacted the
19 Indigenous -- Indigenous communities and how we've seen
20 that intergenerational trauma continue from family to
21 family to family. So, you know, what you've brought here
22 today, sort of the -- the deadline's the end of October,
23 they need to either know whether or not you want your
24 information --

1 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Okay.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- to be used publicly or
3 to be private --

4 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Maybe I'll go with
5 [Candace's mother]. Maybe I'll go with [Candace's mother].
6 I just -- I would -- you know, she's --

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** I don't -- I don't want
8 you to panic. Okay?

9 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah. Well --

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Deep breath. Deep breath.

11 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Well, seems like when I
12 get to just a little bit, you know, more braver and --

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

14 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And that's through tears.
15 It's -- it's all the tears in this. I don't do tears and
16 sadness. My own post-trauma is a -- has impeded me to
17 do -- stay away from tears, but seems like I just get close
18 and then the family's hit with some other tragedy. Like --

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah. Yeah.

20 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** We've been
21 recent -- Brenda (ph) died -- the sister just died, and
22 the -- the brother or the son just died, and it's like, how
23 do I go -- he's just in three years lost these two people.
24 How do I go --

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. Right.

2 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: -- giving these names,
3 you know?

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

5 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: But I know I'm -- somehow
6 he might -- like, [Candace's brother] is -- and [Step-
7 brother]. Like, [Step-Brother] on the -- you can see him
8 on Shadows of Hope out of Vancouver. He sells those
9 papers, you know, on the corner.

10 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh, okay.

11 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: And he does -- and he's
12 had [Street], and -- he's had the same one for --

13 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

14 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: -- I think about
15 30 years, the same corner, but you know, he's always been
16 plagued with ill health and stuff, and --

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: Now, [Candace's brother]
18 was Candace's brother?

19 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Yes. He was in the fire.

20 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

21 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: He jumped out of the
22 fire -- but [Candace's brother] in Saskatchewan. [Step-
23 brother] is the one that's doing the newspapers --

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh, okay.

1 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: (Indiscernible) the
2 shadows --

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: [Step-brother's -- okay.
4 Yeah.

5 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: The Shadows of Hope.

6 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. [Step-brother] Okay.

7 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Yeah.

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: And [Candace's brother]'s
9 in [City], is that --

10 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: [City] --

11 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

12 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: -- or somewhere down
13 there. Yeah.

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: So what -- what is -- what
15 is your thinking? This is -- this is your information. It
16 is up to you to decide how you would like the commissioners
17 to use it.

18 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Yeah. I don't
19 know -- yeah, let's -- let's go public. Let's go public,
20 and then I -- I definitely am going to contact them, and
21 the reason is -- public is -- I want people to ask me
22 questions about my experiences.

23 MS. KERRIE REAY: M'hm.

24 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Or I want people to

1 contact me and say, I went through that same experience
2 looking for -- well, I seen at the inquiry, but I would
3 like to help other people if I could.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

5 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: And I think -- because I
6 am putting it out there with the electrically ignited fires
7 and the intimidation and all that, I think I'm probably
8 more protected publicly. Like, my -- and it sounds crazy,
9 but my electricity lately's been doing funny things, and
10 it's like, okay. Is this reliving my past or -- am I, you
11 know -- am I supposed to phone or report this so they can
12 put Tara's going wacky again? Because a lot of it was -- a
13 lot of the stuff that I went through with the process,
14 maybe Candace or whatever, it was -- it generated response,
15 and that response gave them fuel for -- for ignoring me
16 or -- you know, using against me to divide me from my
17 community or...

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah. But, you know, what
19 you've shared today is -- is critical information in terms
20 of --

21 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: It is. It is.

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- you know --

23 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: It is.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- is there a role

1 that -- you know, that may not have been thought about
2 before, and that is the role of utilities in fires
3 and -- you know, it's a question. It's a question to ask.

4 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** And not only that, take
5 her documentation -- can we make a better documentation to
6 keep track of Indigenous --

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah. Yeah.

8 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** That documentation alone
9 needs to be overhauled with how -- you know, and -- and the
10 compiling of it should all be together.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right. Yeah. Yeah.

12 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Should be altogether --

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

14 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** -- than money, but
15 that's --

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

17 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** I'm hoping I have those
18 five areas -- and I do want to go public because I do want
19 to write her story. I do want to put it in binding.
20 I -- I don't want her to -- I want -- I want her to be
21 immortal forever. Yeah, yeah, we -- we had a lot of fun.
22 Two little poor girls. I lived on the railroad tracks as a
23 child, and we spent a lot of time on the railroad tracks.
24 It was great. Yeah, it was great.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So there are some really
2 good, fond memories.

3 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Oh, boy.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

5 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** And my [Candace's step-
6 mother]-- you know, that whole family, my[Candace's step-
7 mother], she just loved us all so much because my mother
8 left at a young age, and -- you know -- yeah, just a lot of
9 fun.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Today -- today's been
11 a -- today has been a huge day in your journey, 18 years.
12 You've had an opportunity to share with people who will
13 listen --

14 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- and will take you
16 seriously --

17 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- for what you -- what
19 you've brought, and -- and what you've brought, I mean,
20 it's written.

21 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Yeah.

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** You know, we can -- we can
23 see the inconsistencies and how matters were dealt with
24 even if it was a long time ago and -- and how those --

1 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** But the remarkable thing,
2 it was a long time ago, but mine wasn't that long time ago,
3 and that's --

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

5 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** There was how many years
6 between mine and 1973 and -- and 1996 --

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right.

8 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** -- and there still was
9 purposely intent of voltage --

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** 20. Yeah.

11 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Yeah.

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Wow.

13 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Voltage irregularities.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

15 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** Then they made up this
16 big lie and said that the -- there was shortage of power in
17 the province, and it became a big -- they did the power
18 pool and everything, and I think what bothered me the most
19 is the monetary compensation, is they should have said to
20 me -- they should have paid me out --

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh.

22 **MS. TARA DELEEUW:** -- immediately. They
23 should have paid us out -- well, then I wouldn't have
24 discovered everything, but that's what's incredible is not

1 one person said, this is not right, give those people their
2 money and their information, but it was -- people thought
3 the process was fair. That's what was remarkable about it
4 is people thought that process was fair. The people
5 thought that the process of searching for the missing
6 information was fair. There was nothing fair about it, and
7 there was multitudes, so what I did is I started looking at
8 that time at the Alberta Energy and Utility Board, were
9 administering these processes.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

11 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** Well, people were dying
12 in these processes because they got off on escalating them
13 like I did around the [Government Employee 5] (ph) thing,
14 you know, and just -- anywhere the Alberta Energy and
15 Utility Board, National Energy Board, energy minister was
16 around, industry, I basically would audit. I would just
17 take -- and I had a, you know, great -- well, there was a
18 lot of easy ones.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

20 **MS. TARA DELEEUEW:** But, yeah, it was -- it
21 was -- it's all the same.

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** No, you know, you also
23 raised a point when it comes to the financial barriers so
24 that people who want access to information -- and -- and

1 always understanding there's a continuum, right?

2 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Yeah.

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: There's people who look to
4 use it in a responsible way, and then there's others who
5 look to use it to -- use it to create problems.

6 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Right.

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right? You know, like --

8 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Right.

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- because
10 the -- that's -- that's what they're doing because, I mean,
11 freedom of information and privacy legislation covers
12 everything from, you know, environment to --

13 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Right.

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- jails to -- like --

15 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Yeah.

16 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- it's huge, right?

17 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Right.

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: But at the end of the day,
19 it's like you say, that if you don't have the money --

20 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: Yeah.

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- then you don't have the
22 access, so the access isn't there for -- for all on the --

23 MS. TARA DELEEUEW: (Indiscernible). Right.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- same level.

1 --- Upon adjourning

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jenessa Leriger, 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.

Jenessa Leriger

November 8, 2018