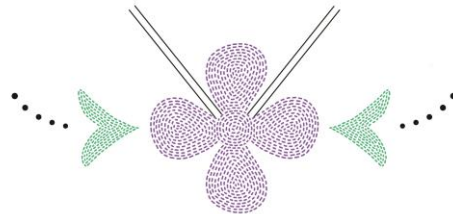


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls  
Truth-Gathering Process  
Part I Statement Gathering  
Western University  
London, Ontario**



**PUBLIC**

**Wednesday October 31, 2018**

**Statement Volume 563**

**Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant,  
In relation to Deborah Anne Sloss Clark**

**Statement gathered by Debbie Bodkin**

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**II**  
**NOTE**

Where not required by other statute, redactions to this public transcript have been made pursuant to Rule 55 of the Commission's *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*, which provides for "the discretion to redact private information of a sensitive nature where it is not material to the evidence to be given before distributing the information to the Parties. The National Inquiry will consider the public interest in releasing this type of information against the potential harmful impact on the individual whose personal information is at issue."

III  
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statement Volume 563

Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant

October 31, 2018

PAGE

Testimony of Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant. . . . .	1
Reporter's Certification . . . . .	47

Statement Gatherer: Debbie Bodkin

**Documents submitted with testimony: none.**

**Statement - Public**  
**Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant**  
**(Deborah Anne Sloss Clark)**

1

London, Ontario

2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, October 31, 2018 at 9:25  
3 a.m.

4 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** And that one's on. So,  
5 again, today is Wednesday, October 31st, 2018. And it is  
6 24 minutes after 12. We are at the Western University,  
7 First Nations Studies building. And I have Marilou Smoke  
8 and Sue Contant here to give your statements, share your  
9 story. I know I've went over this before but you're here  
10 voluntarily and you're comfortable with both recording  
11 devices, is that correct? And I think other than that, as  
12 I said, you two are in charge now. I will try and be  
13 quiet. If I'm taking notes, it's to remember to ask you  
14 questions at the end. So I will try not to interrupt at  
15 all.

16 And, Marilou, I'll get you to start. And if  
17 you introduce yourself, and, actually, Sue, if you'll  
18 introduce yourself too, both of you do that at the  
19 beginning. And then, Marilou, you ahead with the story  
20 wherever you want to begin.

21 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Okay.

22 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Okay.

23 **MARILOU SMOKE:** The way I was taught by my  
24 elders is that when -- when we introduce ourselves, we say  
25 our spirit name, our clan and where we come from. So

**Statement - Public**  
**Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant**  
**(Deborah Anne Sloss Clark)**

2

1 [Speaking in Indigenous language] My spirit name is Shidoo  
2 (Ph.) Star woman, I'm Bear Clan and I originally come from  
3 Batchawana Bay, Ontario. I am very honoured to be here  
4 with my sister Sue.

5 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Sue, can you just -- and,  
6 Marilou, I'll go back to you. Could you do your date of  
7 birth and your address? And then Sue.

8 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Oh.

9 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** That's okay.

10 **MARILOU SMOKE:** [Birthdate]. And I live in  
11 London, Ontario at [address].

12 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Perfect.

13 **MARILOU SMOKE:** [Address].

14 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** And, Sue, can I get you to  
15 just introduce yourself as well, please?

16 **SUE CONTANT:** I'm Sue Contant, [birthdate].  
17 I live at [address] Cambridge, Ontario.

18 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Okay. Great. And, Marilou,  
19 you can start wherever you want.

20 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Okay. All right. I'll  
21 start from the beginning, far back -- as far back as I can  
22 remember Debbie and I used to play together because we were  
23 just two little girls and a brother. And so we played  
24 together a lot. My brother was often in the hospital  
25 because he had -- when -- in 1954, my mom drove him to

**Statement - Public**  
**Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant**  
**(Deborah Anne Sloss Clark)**

3

1 Toronto. It was during Hurricane Hazel. He had to have  
2 surgery because the doctors had diagnosed him with this  
3 spinal ailment where if they didn't do an operation right  
4 away that he would have grown up as a hump -- with a  
5 humpback. So they took a piece of his hip bone out and put  
6 it in his spine to correct the -- the problem. So my  
7 brother [Brother 1] spent a lot of time in the hospital  
8 because of that. And he also had ear trouble. So he spent  
9 a lot of time at Sick Kids Hospital in the ear, nose and  
10 throat department because he had -- I think it was called a  
11 mastoid, or something like that, but it's not important.  
12 But it just explains why he wasn't always present in the  
13 house.

14 So I ended up having the role as the oldest  
15 because my brother was away a lot. And so Debbie and I,  
16 we'd play together all the time and David -- people thought  
17 we were twins up until even high school, people would stop  
18 and ask if we were twins even though Debbie's hair was  
19 short and mine was long. We still looked alike. And when  
20 Debbie and I would play together and we spent all our time  
21 together.

22 And I remember as far back as I can  
23 remember, we used to go to my Auntie Marlene's place in  
24 Batchawana. She had a extra house and so when it wasn't  
25 rented out to somebody, we would sit inside there and we

**Statement - Public**  
**Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant**  
**(Deborah Anne Sloss Clark)**

**4**

1        would sew doll clothes because we couldn't afford to buy  
2        stuff for the Barbie dolls or other dolls. So we would sew  
3        those things and we would have a lot of fun. We played  
4        together on the beach and we went swimming. And we always  
5        -- like, when we were two years old, we used to go on the  
6        toilet together and pee at the same time. You know, so we  
7        would always hold it until the other one was ready. And  
8        then we would do that.

9                    And then we would have a laugh if my mom --  
10       my mom didn't know that she was lactose intolerant so she  
11       would have milk in her tea, so she would be a little gassy  
12       so when she went to the bathroom, me and my sister Debbie  
13       were just -- it was a riot. So we just laughed and  
14       laughed. And my mom would say, "What are you two girls up  
15       to?"

16                    So we were really close and then all my  
17       other brothers and sisters came along. Three other sisters  
18       and a brother. And so Debbie and I grew up taking care of  
19       the kids because my mom was sick. She had -- she had  
20       rheumatic fever when she was a child and she also had this  
21       disease called Primary Biliary Cirrhosis. So when I was 15  
22       years old, I remember my mom came home from the doctor's.  
23       By this time we were living in Toronto, we moved there when  
24       I was 15 years old. And I went -- Debbie and I went to  
25       high school at Northern Secondary. Well, one day my mom





**Statement - Public**  
**Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant**  
**(Deborah Anne Sloss Clark)**

6

1 running around, "Running the roads," was the term used out  
2 in Batchawana, we stayed indoors and we did that. And I  
3 also did beadwork. And Debbie was trying her hand at  
4 beadwork too but she didn't -- she didn't have as much  
5 patience as I did. She was a -- a Taurus.

6 And I knew -- my husband Dan, he's also a  
7 Taurus, and I knew when I met him that I would be able to  
8 have a relationship and a long life with him because of  
9 [inaudible response] my sister Debbie was a Taurus. So I  
10 knew that Dan and I, you know, would be good together. So  
11 we're -- we're still together. We've been together for  
12 about 45 years and we celebrated our 41st wedding  
13 anniversary this past August.

14 So Debbie eventually met this man and they  
15 fell in love. And then she moved out with him. And they  
16 stayed at his mom's place in Toronto. And then they  
17 eventually moved up to Glue River (Ph.) And so they lived  
18 in a trailer park where our father also had a home. My mom  
19 and dad had separated by that time, and I think they were  
20 divorced actually.

21 So Debbie had a new life up there and she  
22 really loved the north so that's why she went back. And so  
23 Debbie called me a couple times because [Deborah's husband]  
24 was -- started beating her up. And so she was very upset  
25 about this. She didn't know why he was doing that because

**Statement - Public**  
**Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant**  
**(Deborah Anne Sloss Clark)**

7

1 he hadn't displayed any violence towards her before. So  
2 eventually she couldn't take it, and she wouldn't take it.  
3 So she left him and she ended up moving to a place that's  
4 close to the border of Quebec but I can't remember the name  
5 of it.

6 And then from there she moved to Toronto  
7 where our mom was living. So our mom, by this time, her  
8 health was getting poor and she lived in community housing  
9 in Toronto at Sherbourne and Wellesley. So Debbie ended up  
10 getting a place around Sherbourne and Wellesley down at  
11 Dundas and Sherbourne actually. And it was, like, a low  
12 rental housing. And she was very helpful to people, like,  
13 she loved people and she was always giving.

14 And these -- there was two guys who were  
15 homeless so she and her boyfriend decided that Debbie would  
16 go and live with her boyfriend for a little -- for a little  
17 while, let these guys stay there for a month so they could  
18 get on their feet. And so they did that and then, you  
19 know, when the deal was over, Debbie came back home.  
20 Everything was really good until she got her phone bill and  
21 her phone bill was \$900. So she was just devastated by  
22 that. And, you know, she was just being kind-hearted and  
23 that's -- the people just did that to her and it was really  
24 awful. The feelings that she had, that she shared with  
25 that, me and Dan.

**Statement - Public**  
**Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant**  
**(Deborah Anne Sloss Clark)**

8

1                   Debbie used to drink and do drugs. I don't  
2           remember seeing her high but I remember seeing her  
3           drinking. And towards the end of her life, she had been  
4           planning on quitting drinking. My husband and I, we used  
5           to be the talk of the town in the 70's and we were always  
6           everywhere. If there was something happening, we were  
7           there. And so eventually, we left that lifestyle and we  
8           chose a more ceremonial life.

9                   So Debbie would meet up with us in Toronto  
10          and she saw how we changed. And we would go to traditional  
11          elders' gatherings and we would interview people for our  
12          radio show that we have here at Western University. The  
13          show is called Smoke Signals and we've been on the air for  
14          29 years. So back then in 1990, we had a little cassette  
15          recorder and we would go where the elders were, or the  
16          entertainers were, and we would travel around, and we would  
17          -- we would interview the people, bring it back to our show  
18          and then that would be our show for the week, plus we would  
19          play music. At that time we had two cassettes. So we  
20          played Joanne Shenandoah and Paul Ortega a lot because  
21          that's all we had.

22                   And so, anyway, whenever we went to Toronto,  
23          Debbie wanted to meet up with us. And so when she first  
24          started meeting up with us, she would have a drink or two  
25          when we went out for lunch. And then after that, she

**Statement - Public**  
**Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant**  
**(Deborah Anne Sloss Clark)**

9

1           stopped drinking and she told me that she was going to  
2           Elizabeth Fry, and I didn't know what Elizabeth Fry was.  
3           And so I found out that it -- you know, it was a place to  
4           go where she could receive counselling and -- and things  
5           like that.

6                                So Debbie would -- she wanted to come to  
7           where we were at the elders' gathering so she liked the  
8           feeling -- she liked -- she could feel the -- the healing  
9           from the good medicine that was there. And the medicine  
10          that the elders used, you know, when they're doing their  
11          smudging, and the drumming and the singing. So she wanted  
12          to be a part of it.

13                              So she eventually had quit drinking. And so  
14          I remember this one time, we were interviewing an elder by  
15          the name of Dave Courchene, and he comes from Manitoba, and  
16          he's a well respected elder all around the world. And he  
17          has a -- a lodge called the Turtle Lodge, which you can  
18          Google. But he was speaking in Toronto, and this was in  
19          the early 90's and he's very nice looking so Debbie kept  
20          wanting to go where he was. "We're supposed to go over  
21          there," she said, "Let's go over there." So I thought that  
22          was kind of cute of her.

23                              But later that day Dan and I had to go and  
24          interview somebody else and so she wanted to meet us at the  
25          social that was going to take place at one of the hotels.

**Statement - Public**  
**Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant**  
**(Deborah Anne Sloss Clark)**

10

1           So the social gathering was where they were going to have a  
2           feast. And it was all in sobriety, there was no alcohol at  
3           all, or drugs. And so the women dress as we do in ceremony  
4           wearing skirts, long skirts. So I told Debbie, I said,  
5           "When you come, you -- you have to wear a skirt, okay?"  
6           She goes, "Okay. I'll meet you over there."

7                                So we get over there and Debbie's wearing  
8           this micro-mini-skirt. So she's pulling it down and she's  
9           going, "Marilou, you could have told me to wear a long  
10          skirt." And it didn't dawn on me, I just thought she --  
11          she knew that if wear a skirt, wear a long skirt. So, you  
12          know, we had a -- a tremendous relationship. And, you  
13          know, I -- then one day I got this phone call from my  
14          sister.

15                           **DEBBIE BODKIN:** And what -- I'll interrupt,  
16          just, sorry. What years are we at?

17                           **MARILOU SMOKE:** That's -- that's in the  
18          early nineties.

19                           **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Okay.

20                           **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah.

21                           **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah.

22                           **DEBBIE BODKIN:** And I'm just going to  
23          mention Sue is taking over speaking for the -- the  
24          dictatypist.

25                           **SUE CONTANT:** And for the -- the phone call,

**Statement - Public**  
**Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant**  
**(Deborah Anne Sloss Clark)**

11

1 I had gotten a call from my sister Cathy. Our cousin Susie  
2 lived in Regent Park and she had told our cousin Chickie's  
3 (Ph.) daughter Tricia (Ph.) that our sister Debbie was in -  
4 - in the morgue as a Jane Doe. And so Cathy called me and  
5 -- because Tricia got in touch with Cathy. Is that how it  
6 went?

7 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah.

8 **SUE CONTANT:** And so Cathy called me and  
9 then I called the morgue -- the coroner, and he said,  
10 "Yeah, we do have a Jane Doe." And Debbie had a tattoo,  
11 and I mentioned the tattoo, and he said, "Yeah." And I  
12 said, "Well, I believe it's my sister Debbie." And then  
13 Cathy went down and identified her.

14 **MARILOU SMOKE:** So Susie -- Sue called up my  
15 place and said on a message on my answering machine, she  
16 said, "Marilou, something happened to Debbie. Can you call  
17 me right away?" She was whispering it. And I had dinner  
18 guests over and I had just gone down to the basement to get  
19 a can of tomatoes, which I used to can about 120 a year but  
20 I don't do that anymore. But anyway, I just saw the light  
21 was blinking on the machine. So I didn't know what to do  
22 because I could see the importance of the when Susie was  
23 speaking -- I mean, when Sue was speaking that there was  
24 urgency.

25 So I ended up feeding our guests and then I

1 told them about the phone call and they said, "Well, you  
2 better call right now. So I did call. And then Susie told  
3 me what she had just shared about Debbie being a Jane Doe  
4 in the morgue and that we didn't know what to do. My  
5 sister Cathy didn't know what to do and Susie didn't know  
6 what to do. My sister Roxanne didn't know what to do. And  
7 so we decided that since Cathy lived in Toronto, that she  
8 should take charge of trying to investigate what was going  
9 on because the police wouldn't give us a -- a report.

10 **SUE CONTANT:** No.

11 **MARILOU SMOKE:** We weren't able to get an  
12 autopsy report. We just went about to bury my sister. We  
13 went to the [inaudible response] Morrison Funeral Parlour,  
14 same place where we buried my mom the year before. And we  
15 had the ceremony for her, we got our elder Glen Harper  
16 (Ph.) who just passed away a couple months ago, he came in  
17 and he was a part of our sweat lodge family. And so all  
18 our sweat lodge people came and our relatives came, and we  
19 gave Debbie a really beautiful traditional ceremony to send  
20 her home. And then we got -- she was cremated and then Sue  
21 and Roxanne took care of her ashes and put them up north in  
22 Batchawana but left some beside our mom in Spanish.

23 So nobody knew what killed Debbie or how she  
24 died. So Cathy called up the police and she goes, "Well, I  
25 don't understand. How did my sister die?" And the police

**Statement - Public**  
**Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant**  
**(Deborah Anne Sloss Clark)**

13

1       said, "Well, your sister liked to party too much." And  
2       that was what they said. That was the excuse. That was  
3       the reason why she did because she liked to party too much.

4                We didn't get an autopsy report. My husband  
5       was talking to this woman by the name of Beverly Jacobs  
6       (Ph.) and she was working for the Native Women's  
7       Association but she was also doing a report for Amnesty  
8       International about the Stolen Sisters. And so she was  
9       emailing Dan talking about her work there. And so Dan  
10      said, "Well, you need to talk to Marilou." So eventually,  
11      I did talk to her but it took me a long time to do that. At  
12      least a month. I had to, like, really psych myself up to  
13      talk to her about what happened.

14               And she said -- she was a lawyer at that --  
15      you know, at that time. Now she has her PhD in Law and  
16      she's teaching at Windsor. But she said, "Okay, if you can  
17      sign some release papers, I'll get you and your sisters to  
18      sign the release papers, I can get that autopsy report for  
19      you and I can get the police report." So we signed the  
20      paper and then I got this brown envelope in the mail, which  
21      I put on the table in the dining room.

22               And I didn't want to open it, and I didn't  
23      want to look at it. I put stuff on top of it, I buried it.  
24      I went by, you could still see little brown on there, you  
25      know, so I put something else on top of it. And so after a



1 while, I just forced myself to go and look.

2 So the first thing I did was I saw the  
3 toxicology report, that's what I went rifling through to  
4 look for that. And so it said that she did not have any  
5 alcohol in her system. That probably about three or four  
6 hours before she died, she had had a cough drop and they  
7 found that in her system.

8 She was badly decomposed when the landlord  
9 found her. The smell, I guess, drew him to her room  
10 because she -- at -- by this time, she lived in a boarding  
11 house. She had left that -- the low rental community  
12 housing of Toronto and got -- went into this boarding  
13 house. And so he called the police. [*One sentence redacted*  
14 - *Rule 55*]. And so they couldn't see how she died because  
15 of that -- because the decomposure (Sic.) and that.

16 So the police took Debbie and they put her  
17 in the coroner's vehicle and took her to the coroner's  
18 office. And the police put a sign up around her room  
19 saying, you know, "Please do not disturb." And so as soon  
20 as they left, the landlord went there, cut the tape down  
21 and he threw all my sister Debbie's stuff into a dumpster -  
22 --

23 **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah.

24 **MARILOU SMOKE:** --- and rented the room out  
25 that very day. You went to the dumpster.

1                   **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah. Yeah, I went and  
2                   retrieved -- I went to the -- where Debbie lived and the  
3                   room -- the guy that knew Debbie, on the first floor, I'm  
4                   talking to him and I'm, like, "Isn't that my sister's  
5                   dresser?" "Oh, yeah," he said. "[Landlord] threw  
6                   everything out so anybody could take anything." He said,  
7                   "Everybody in here was taking her stuff." I said, "Debbie  
8                   has children and now they have nothing. They lost their  
9                   mom. Now all their stuff is gone?" And it wasn't even a  
10                  month. By law they had 30 days to hold on to that. And as  
11                  soon as -- and it was two weeks she was in the morgue?

12                  **MARILOU SMOKE:** M'hmm.

13                  **SUE CONTANT:** And so as soon as we found  
14                  out, I go down to Toronto, talk to Susie who showed me  
15                  where Debbie lived and meet the people in the building and  
16                  ---

17                  **MARILOU SMOKE:** So the police didn't do  
18                  anything to this guy?

19                  **SUE CONTANT:** Nothing. I did more  
20                  investigating than ---

21                  **MARILOU SMOKE:** And they didn't do any  
22                  fingerprinting or anything ---

23                  **SUE CONTANT:** Right.

24                  **MARILOU SMOKE:** --- because the room was  
25                  taken over. Now, we knew this lady by the name of Amber

**Statement - Public**  
**Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant**  
**(Deborah Anne Sloss Clark)**

16

1 O'Hara (Ph.) who has passed on now. She had met Debbie at  
2 a park around Allan's Gardens in Toronto. And Amber had a  
3 dog that Debbie was stricken by the sight of the dog  
4 because it looked like a wolf to her. So she befriended  
5 Amber because Debbie loved animals, you know. And so her  
6 and Amber became really good friends. And Amber had said,  
7 like, there was a guy a few years ago who -- who had  
8 murdered some women around Bellville. And they got -- he  
9 worked -- he was, like, a professional army person. And  
10 his name was [Person X] (Ph.). So she had found out that  
11 [Person X] lived in the apartment building on Carlton by  
12 Sherbourne around the same time as Debbie was murdered.  
13 But because Amber died, she never went forward to tell any  
14 more people about this.

15 So I hope to, one day, get to Toronto and  
16 talk to this man who I've seen on TV who works for City TV.  
17 He's a police officer, his last name is Ryan (Ph.) And I  
18 want to talk to him about this. If they can investigate to  
19 see if that man was there around that time. If there could  
20 be any possible connection because, to this day, we still  
21 do not know who murdered our sister and why. And so this  
22 is very unsettling for us because we have no closure on  
23 this. You know, every time we see that somebody's been  
24 murdered on the news, you know, it just brings up our --  
25 our feelings again. And, you know, the -- our nerves are

1 very raw, you know, and it's been, like, 21 years since my  
2 sister passed. And, you know, we still -- we still have  
3 answers that we need to have answered.

4 We -- one time, the Native Women's  
5 Association had a healing weekend for us. They got the  
6 native -- the Native Centre in Hamilton let us use their  
7 facilities for a whole weekend and so my husband Dan and I  
8 brought our medicines in, and we were smudging the family  
9 down, and were having a circle so we could talk all about  
10 it, you know, so all -- the rest of my living brothers and  
11 sisters came to that. And so that really helped us a lot.

12 And then Bev Jacobs (Ph.), she was involved  
13 with the -- with the Missing and Murdered Women, especially  
14 the ones out in Vancouver. And so we became the elders for  
15 the program that they had -- the Missing -- Missing and  
16 Murdered Women, the Sisters of Spirit. And so we travelled  
17 all -- all out west and my husband and I helped the  
18 families heal from the trauma that they had.

19 So we used a traditional condolence ceremony  
20 and we would use some white buckskin deer hide to wipe away  
21 their tears. And we would use the nib of the eagle feather  
22 to clean their ears out again so they could hear again.  
23 And we would comb their hair with -- with combs that we got  
24 from the dollar store. You can get, like -- you can get,  
25 like, ten combs there for a dollar. So we would just comb

1           their hair and take away the tangles in their life. And  
2           then we would give them strawberry juice to drink so that  
3           they could heal again.

4                        But people need more than that. You know,  
5           there has to be more done. There has to be -- there has to  
6           be follow up to -- like, our case is so small compared to  
7           cases that I've heard. You know, we met this one family  
8           where their little girl was chopped up into little pieces  
9           and thrown into the river in Manitoba. And it happened at  
10          the same time that this little girl in Toronto, a White  
11          girl, she was chopped up and put in a suitcase, and they  
12          found her on Centre Island. And the little girl in  
13          Manitoba didn't get any news time at all. But the little  
14          White girl was -- it was all over the world what happened  
15          to her, you know?

16                       And there's so many horror stories that  
17          we've heard. Dan and I helped the -- the girls -- the  
18          ladies from Vancouver. Her -- their sister died at the pig  
19          farm. All they found was a portion of her thumb and they  
20          had DNA tests on her. So the pigs had eaten her. And we  
21          took them to where the pig farm was. By the time we got  
22          there, it had all been knocked down and there was piles of  
23          dirt because the -- the army -- not the army, the police  
24          had probed it and sifted through all the dirt and all that  
25          looking for any specimens and whatever that was left over.

1 And so we helped them, you know, by doing ceremonies for  
2 them. And to this day, they're very appreciative of that.

3 You know, so we need to have that kind of  
4 healing for the people have been affected by this because  
5 they're never going to heal. It's always going to be raw  
6 pain unless we can help them more. So there has to be --  
7 more work has to be done. There's got to be more -- more  
8 solutions, more -- more money so people could be hired to  
9 do this.

10 **SUE CONTANT:** I agree.

11 **MARILOU SMOKE:** M'hmm.

12 **SUE CONTANT:** I think your work too has  
13 helped with your healing.

14 **MARILOU SMOKE:** It has. You know, because  
15 my -- it was, like, when I was helping those people, they  
16 were helping me.

17 **SUE CONTANT:** M'hmm.

18 **MARILOU SMOKE:** You know. So I was really  
19 grateful for that. Plus, I got to fly around a lot so I  
20 liked that too.

21 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Maybe let's -- if you've ---

22 **MARILOU SMOKE:** M'hmm. Yeah.

23 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** --- finished there. How  
24 about we make sure that that picture there ---

25 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Okay.

Statement - Public  
Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant  
(Deborah Anne Sloss Clark)

20

1                   DEBBIE BODKIN: --- or start with -- with  
2           whatever you want and ---

3                   MARILOU SMOKE: Okay. All right.

4                   DEBBIE BODKIN: --- tell us ---

5                   MARILOU SMOKE: This is ---

6                   DEBBIE BODKIN: --- who -- who's in the  
7           picture because ---

8                   MARILOU SMOKE: This is ---

9                   DEBBIE BODKIN: --- we haven't got the name  
10          of all your siblings.

11                  MARILOU SMOKE: This is the earliest picture  
12          that I have. And this is my brother [Brother 1], he's the  
13          oldest. And this is me, I'm the second eldest. Debbie,  
14          she's the third eldest, Cathy, she's the fourth eldest.

15                  DEBBIE BODKIN: And is everyone in that  
16          picture alive except for Debbie?

17                  MARILOU SMOKE: Yes.

18                  DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

19                  SUE CONTANT: Yeah.

20                  MARILOU SMOKE: And this picture here, this  
21          picture was taken about 1971. This is Sue. See the  
22          resemblance?

23                  DEBBIE BODKIN: M'hmm, if you could hold it  
24          up ---

25                  MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah.

1 DEBBIE BODKIN: --- that way. There. Okay.

2 MARILOU SMOKE: This is Sue. And this is  
3 Roxanne, Timmy, Debbie, Cathy, me and [Brother 1]. So this  
4 is all seven of us together. All seven of my mom ---

5 DEBBIE BODKIN: Just bring it in ---

6 MARILOU SMOKE: --- of my mom's kids.

7 DEBBIE BODKIN: --- a little closer. Okay.

8 MARILOU SMOKE: And this is the very last  
9 picture that was taken of Debbie, my mom and myself before  
10 my mom passed.

11 DEBBIE BODKIN: And what year would that be?

12 MARILOU SMOKE: She passed in 1995.

13 SUE CONTANT: Yeah.

14 DEBBIE BODKIN: Your mom or ---

15 SUE CONTANT: Yeah.

16 DEBBIE BODKIN: --- Debbie?

17 MARILOU SMOKE: Debbie passed in '97.

18 DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. Do you know the exact  
19 date of Debbie's death?

20 SUE CONTANT: No.

21 MARILOU SMOKE: Laurie (Ph.) says the date  
22 in July but it's hard to say because they couldn't tell.

23 DEBBIE BODKIN: But 1997.

24 SUE CONTANT: When she passed away.

25 MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah. The exact time.



1 SUE CONTANT: Yeah.

2 MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah.

3 DEBBIE BODKIN: And when you were notified,  
4 what month was it did you say?

5 SUE CONTANT: The end of July.

6 MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah. Beginning of August,  
7 yeah.

8 SUE CONTANT: Yeah.

9 DEBBIE BODKIN: Do you know, was there any  
10 police investigation?

11 MARILOU SMOKE: Not ---

12 DEBBIE BODKIN: Like, of ---

13 MARILOU SMOKE: No.

14 DEBBIE BODKIN: --- previous -- the  
15 boyfriends you mentioned or anything like that?

16 SUE CONTANT: No.

17 MARILOU SMOKE: No.

18 SUE CONTANT: No.

19 DEBBIE BODKIN: What about, you said she  
20 lived with a boyfriend in Toronto.

21 MARILOU SMOKE: She did but at the time that  
22 she was passed, he was away, he was out of town.

23 DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

24 MARILOU SMOKE: When he came back to  
25 Toronto, he said, "What happened to Debbie?" He heard on

1 the street. When, you know, like, when we had her funeral,  
2 the Council Fire, which is the Native organization at  
3 Dundas and Parliament, they told us that they would have a  
4 feast for Debbie. So they went around and they put signs  
5 up on all the lamp posts all in the area, you know, saying  
6 that there's a feast for Debbie who is recently departed  
7 and all that because Debbie was really friendly with the  
8 homeless people, she liked to hang around with them. And  
9 so they all came to the feast that was taking place that  
10 day, you know. So we were very happy about that.

11 But when [Deborah's boyfriend], his name was  
12 -- that's her boyfriend.

13 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** That was -- okay, I was  
14 going to ask that.

15 **MARILOU SMOKE:** When he -- when he came  
16 back, he -- somebody must have told him and then he -- he  
17 couldn't figure out what happened and he called me. And I  
18 -- I told him what I knew. And I didn't know very much.  
19 Because by that time, I hadn't gotten any information from  
20 the police report or the toxicology report. It wasn't  
21 until I got in touch with Bev Jacobs ---

22 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Okay.

23 **MARILOU SMOKE:** --- you know, that I got  
24 that information.

25 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** And did you know [Deborah's

1           boyfriend]'s last name?

2                       **MARILOU SMOKE:** [Deborah's boyfriend] (Ph.).

3                       **SUE CONTANT:** So, yeah, I think ---

4                       **MARILOU SMOKE:** [Deborah's boyfriend] I  
5           think.

6                       **DEBBIE BODKIN:** And what about the  
7           landlord's name? Did you know that at all?

8                       **MARILOU SMOKE:** No, I don't -- I don't even  
9           ---

10                      **SUE CONTANT:** No.

11                      **MARILOU SMOKE:** --- know what he looks like.

12                      **SUE CONTANT:** No.

13                      **MARILOU SMOKE:** You would remember the house  
14           if you saw it though, eh?

15                      **SUE CONTANT:** Oh, yeah ---

16                      **MARILOU SMOKE:** M'hmm.

17                      **SUE CONTANT:** --- the layout. It was just  
18           right across from Allan Park. She had a window that faced  
19           the park ---

20                      **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Where ---

21                      **SUE CONTANT:** --- Allan Park.

22                      **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Where her room was?

23                      **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah. If I went to Allan  
24           Park, I'd be able to -- right there.

25                      **MARILOU SMOKE:** M'hmm.

1                   DEBBIE BODKIN: And the boyfriend, the  
2 abusive boyfriend that she left, he didn't follow her to  
3 Toronto ---

4                   MARILOU SMOKE: No.

5                   DEBBIE BODKIN: --- that you know of or  
6 anything?

7                   MARILOU SMOKE: No.

8                   DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

9                   MARILOU SMOKE: Like, my niece Laurie knows  
10 his name. Kirkland Lake is where she went.

11                  SUE CONTANT: Yes.

12                  DEBBIE BODKIN: That's where -- sorry,  
13 that's where Debbie went before she came to Toronto?

14                  MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah.

15                  SUE CONTANT: Yes.

16                  MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah.

17                  DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

18                  SUE CONTANT: I was trying to remember ---

19                  MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah, I couldn't remember --

20                  -

21                  SUE CONTANT: --- I could remember mines.

22                  MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah.

23                  SUE CONTANT: Where the mines were.

24                  MARILOU SMOKE: Have to remember that Costco  
25 sells a lot of goods called Kirkland.

1                   DEBBIE BODKIN: Do you know any police names  
2                   who were involved in the investigation at all?

3                   MARILOU SMOKE: No.

4                   DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

5                   SUE CONTANT: We should have brought the  
6                   paperwork.

7                   MARILOU SMOKE: Do you still have yours?

8                   SUE CONTANT: I do somewhere.

9                   MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah. Maybe you could fax  
10                  it to you.

11                  DEBBIE BODKIN: Sure. Yeah, I'll get you a  
12                  number. You can send anything that you didn't bring with  
13                  you.

14                  MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah.

15                  DEBBIE BODKIN: I'll get you ---

16                  SUE CONTANT: Okay.

17                  DEBBIE BODKIN: --- an -- an address or  
18                  whatever. You can make -- if there's -- if you want to  
19                  make copies of the coroner's report or anything ---

20                  MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah, I would because my ---

21                  DEBBIE BODKIN: --- like that. If you want  
22                  to send that in, yeah.

23                  MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah.

24                  SUE CONTANT: Yeah.

25                  MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah.

Statement - Public  
Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant  
(Deborah Anne Sloss Clark)

27

1 DEBBIE BODKIN: That would definitely ---  
2 MARILOU SMOKE: Mine got ---  
3 DEBBIE BODKIN: --- be helpful.  
4 MARILOU SMOKE: --- buried. I don't know if  
5 it's lost.  
6 SUE CONTANT: I ---  
7 MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah.  
8 SUE CONTANT: --- I'm pretty sure I can dig  
9 my up ---  
10 MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah.  
11 SUE CONTANT: --- pretty quick.  
12 MARILOU SMOKE: Okay.  
13 DEBBIE BODKIN: Yeah, any paperwork ---  
14 SUE CONTANT: Yeah.  
15 DEBBIE BODKIN: --- you can send in to the  
16 Inquiry would help.  
17 SUE CONTANT: Yeah. And you can ---  
18 DEBBIE BODKIN: For sure.  
19 SUE CONTANT: --- email me a copy or  
20 something.  
21 DEBBIE BODKIN: Yeah.  
22 SUE CONTANT: Or mail, yeah.  
23 DEBBIE BODKIN: Yeah.  
24 MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah.  
25 DEBBIE BODKIN: Or you can photocopy and

1 send them a copy.

2 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah.

3 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** I'll -- I'll get back to you

4 ---

5 **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah, okay.

6 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** --- where to send it or

7 whatever.

8 **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah.

9 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Debbie's birthdate, did we

10 talk about that? I don't ---

11 **MARILOU SMOKE:** March 3rd, 1955,

12 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Okay.

13 **MARILOU SMOKE:** I mean, May. May.

14 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Oh, May.

15 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah.

16 **SUE CONTANT:** I know. I -- I was just

17 thinking, isn't that -- you're March.

18 **MARILOU SMOKE:** It's me -- it's all about

19 me.

20 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Anyone else you can think  
21 of? I know you don't know -- that was in the Toronto area  
22 or knew more about Debbie that should be mentioned?

23 **MARILOU SMOKE:** No. Just Amber O'hara was -  
24 - was -- she called her her best friend. But ---

25 **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah.

1                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** --- she passed away.

2                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** But that's the one ---

3                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah.

4                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** --- that passed away.

5                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Dan and I did the -- the  
6 funeral ceremony for her.

7                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** What -- what's your  
8 husband's name? I should ---

9                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Dan Smoke.

10                  **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Okay. Dan.

11                  **SUE CONTANT:** Didn't Amber initiate the --  
12 Debbie's death? Remember we went to Toronto. It was the  
13 first year of Murdered and Missing Women?

14                  **MARILOU SMOKE:** M'hmm.

15                  **SUE CONTANT:** Was that what it was?

16                  **MARILOU SMOKE:** She had ---

17                  **SUE CONTANT:** Amber?

18                  **MARILOU SMOKE:** She had -- yeah, she had a  
19 special gathering?

20                  **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah.

21                  **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah. Yeah.

22                  **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah. She was a real advocate  
23 for our sister.

24                  **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Yeah.

25                  **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah, she was.



Statement - Public  
Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant  
(Deborah Anne Sloss Clark)

30

1 SUE CONTANT: All the time.

2 MARILOU SMOKE: Unfortunately, she passed.

3 SUE CONTANT: Yeah.

4 DEBBIE BODKIN: Did you say the street of  
5 Debbie's apartment? I know you said it faced -- faced  
6 Allan Park.

7 SUE CONTANT: The street, I don't know. But  
8 the ---

9 DEBBIE BODKIN: Don't know.

10 SUE CONTANT: --- apartment, her window  
11 faced Allan Park.

12 DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

13 SUE CONTANT: Because I was, like, wow, it's  
14 a cute little room. It's, like, one room, shared bathroom.

15 MARILOU SMOKE: Was the bathroom in the same  
16 room? Or did you ---

17 SUE CONTANT: No.

18 MARILOU SMOKE: --- have to go down the  
19 hall?

20 SUE CONTANT: She had to go down the hall.

21 MARILOU SMOKE: Oh.

22 SUE CONTANT: She shared with other tenants  
23 on the floor.

24 DEBBIE BODKIN: You -- and you mentioned  
25 about Debbie at one -- some time, she was use -- using

Statement - Public  
Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant  
(Deborah Anne Sloss Clark)

31

1 drugs and alcohol. Was there a catalyst for that? Do you  
2 know what brought that about? Or anything? Or just ---

3 **SUE CONTANT:** Well, it could've been, like,  
4 the accident.

5 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah. There was a time when  
6 she was -- I think she was driving the car, was she? No,  
7 [Deborah's husband] was driving.

8 **SUE CONTANT:** No, [Deborah's husband] was  
9 driving.

10 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Her husband [Deborah's  
11 husband] was driving a -- I think it was a truck or a car.

12 **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah.

13 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** That's who she left back in  
14 ---

15 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah. And so anyway, Debbie  
16 got badly injured and their daughter flew out the window.  
17 And so Debbie suffered this trauma about Laurie being hurt.  
18 And so she never had that attended to, like, she never  
19 talked it out with anybody. So that could be a problem.  
20 But in the 70's everybody like to party. And so we just  
21 carried on from there, you know. And then but she was  
22 probably trying to hide the pain that she was feeling.

23 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Anything else? Sue,  
24 anything else you want -- any suggestions? You've made a  
25 few as you've gone along.

1                   **SUE CONTANT:** M'hmm.

2                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Suggestions, things that --  
3 other things, just Indigenous related that you want to make  
4 known, or want the -- think the Inquiry should be, you  
5 know, changes that need to be -- come about?

6                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Well, yeah. I think the --  
7 the Inquiry should still continue on because the work is  
8 not done yet. I like -- I like, you know, the few times a  
9 year when there are gatherings, especially, for the Missing  
10 and Murdered Women. One year I couldn't go because I was  
11 sick in bed and I was feeling really bad because I'm  
12 usually out there speaking about Debbie because ever since  
13 this happened, I tell everybody that I am taking every  
14 opportunity to let the world know what happened to my  
15 sister Debbie.

16                   And so I was sick in bed and I was watching  
17 City TV's City pulse because when there's nothing good on  
18 TV I just read the news. And so they showed a gathering  
19 that was taking place in Toronto. And they zeroed in on a  
20 sign, and it had Debbie Sloss-Clark. So somebody was  
21 representing for me, you know. So that made me feel so  
22 good.

23                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Now, I've never heard the --  
24 I knew it was Debbie Sloss but ---

25                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Clark was her married name.

1                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Okay. That was ---

2                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** And then ---

3                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** --- [Deborah's husband]?

4                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah, [Deborah's husband].

5                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Okay.

6                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah.

7                   **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah.

8                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** And here in London at the  
9                   Atlohsa Native Family Healing Circle, they also have a  
10                   placard for her. And they have a room that they dedicated  
11                   to the Missing and Murdered women. But they don't have a  
12                   picture of her. So I'm getting my niece to send us one.  
13                   Or I might ---

14                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Oh, that's good.

15                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** --- just go and take -- take  
16                   this picture here and get us blacked out and just have  
17                   Debbie in there.

18                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Right.

19                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** So -- so she'll be  
20                   represented. Her name is there but no picture.

21                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** And could you, just for the  
22                   record because I -- I interviewed Laura, I know her full  
23                   name but what -- what was Debbie's full name and how was it  
24                   spelled?

25                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Deborah Anne.

1                   DEBBIE BODKIN: Was it Debra or Deborah,  
2           like, how -- how did she spell it, do you know?

3                   MARILOU SMOKE: Deborah.

4                   DEBBIE BODKIN: So D-E-B-O-R-A-H?

5                   MARILOU SMOKE: R-A-H, yeah.

6                   DEBBIE BODKIN: Anne spelled A ---

7                   MARILOU SMOKE: E with an E.

8                   DEBBIE BODKIN: --- N-N-E?

9                   MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah.

10                  DEBBIE BODKIN: Sloss hyphen -- was there a  
11           hyphen or just Sloss Clark?

12                  MARILOU SMOKE: I -- I think just Sloss  
13           Clark.

14                  SUE CONTANT: Yeah.

15                  DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

16                  MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah.

17                  DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. Perfect.

18                  SUE CONTANT: But if you Google it, her  
19           story does come up, I think -- when I went to Ottawa ---

20                  MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah.

21                  SUE CONTANT: --- you weren't at that one.

22                  MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah, I had -- I was ---

23                  SUE CONTANT: Was that when you were sick?

24                  MARILOU SMOKE: It could be or I was at  
25           another conference.

1                   **SUE CONTANT:** But in Ottawa, when we sat in  
2                   the circle and we all -- families were sharing, I thought,  
3                   oh, my God, this -- I got the same story, you know? Just  
4                   the way she was labelled when I talked to the coroner and  
5                   the police and the lack of investigation, you know, more or  
6                   less.

7                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** It's like the -- they had a  
8                   file and on the top of the file they make a little asterisk  
9                   and says, "Native woman," which is code for, "Do not  
10                  investigate."

11                  **SUE CONTANT:** You almost think that.

12                  **MARILOU SMOKE:** And that's not right.

13                  **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah. You almost think that.

14                  **DEBBIE BODKIN:** And it was Toronto City  
15                  Police?

16                  **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yes.

17                  **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Okay.

18                  **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah.

19                  **DEBBIE BODKIN:** And, sorry, did I already  
20                  ask the coroner's name? Whether you knew or not?

21                  **SUE CONTANT:** No.

22                  **DEBBIE BODKIN:** No. It would be ---

23                  **SUE CONTANT:** Should have ---

24                  **DEBBIE BODKIN:** --- in the paperwork.

25                  **MARILOU SMOKE:** In the paperwork and you'll

1 ---

2 DEBBIE BODKIN: Yeah.

3 MARILOU SMOKE: --- have the name of that --

4 -

5 DEBBIE BODKIN: Sure.

6 MARILOU SMOKE: --- person.

7 SUE CONTANT: Yeah.

8 MARILOU SMOKE: But we got nothing from  
9 them.

10 DEBBIE BODKIN: Yeah.

11 MARILOU SMOKE: Years later when we tried,  
12 nothing. Case closed. No investigation. Just, "You --  
13 you know your sister liked to party." And ---

14 DEBBIE BODKIN: How old would Debbie have  
15 been? Sorry to interrupt you.

16 MARILOU SMOKE: Forty-two.

17 SUE CONTANT: Yeah, she was about 42.

18 MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah.

19 DEBBIE BODKIN: Sorry, I interrupted you  
20 there.

21 SUE CONTANT: Oh, no. At the time of her  
22 death, like, Marilou said, she was trying to get well so  
23 she wasn't doing any drugs. They never found alcohol. The  
24 only alcohol they found was decomposition.

25 MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah. And alcohol caused

1 from a cough drop.

2 **SUE CONTANT:** Yes. Yeah. So -- and  
3 disturbing is that she was a Jane Doe. Her ID was on the  
4 table, her welfare cheque ---

5 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Disability cheque.

6 **SUE CONTANT:** Or was it disability?

7 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah.

8 **SUE CONTANT:** I knew it was one of her  
9 cheques was, like, clearly on the table with her ID. So to  
10 label her a Jane Doe and not -- like -- like I said,  
11 through family, all the way to Batchawana Bay where Roxanne  
12 was working, or living.

13 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah, she was living there  
14 at the time.

15 **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah, because Trish ---

16 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah.

17 **SUE CONTANT:** --- Trish went back home and  
18 she was talking about Debbie in Toronto when she heard.

19 **MARILOU SMOKE:** M'hmm.

20 **SUE CONTANT:** And that's how we found out.  
21 We called them.

22 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** And how did the cousin find  
23 out? That's who called you.

24 **SUE CONTANT:** Just talk on the street.

25 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Okay. Not -- not an



1 official ---

2 **SUE CONTANT:** Toronto ---

3 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** --- police phone call or  
4 anything.

5 **SUE CONTANT:** No.

6 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** It was just somebody else.

7 **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah. How do you say that?  
8 When it's through people.

9 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Moccasin telegraph?

10 **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah. Moccasin telegraph.

11 Yeah.

12 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** I like that.

13 **SUE CONTANT:** It was just ironic how, you  
14 know, Susie heard about it, told Tricia, Tricia went back  
15 home to Batchawana, and Roxanne was living up there. And  
16 Roxanne calls Cathy, Cathy called me and I called you.

17 **MARILOU SMOKE:** M'hmm. And I still haven't  
18 had those people back for supper. It's not their fault but  
19 it just brings back bad memories. Sorry Pat.

20 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** And maybe I sort of asked  
21 this but do any of your other siblings know any more  
22 details than the two of you?

23 **SUE CONTANT:** No.

24 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Everybody -- I presume ---

25 **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah.

1                   DEBBIE BODKIN: --- everyone's shared.

2                   MARILOU SMOKE: Pretty much the same.

3                   DEBBIE BODKIN: Yeah. Okay.

4                   SUE CONTANT: Like, our sister Cathy, she's  
5 the one that contacted the morgue but she would just be  
6 repeating what we said.

7                   DEBBIE BODKIN: Right.

8                   SUE CONTANT: She wouldn't know anything  
9 more.

10                  MARILOU SMOKE: M'hmm.

11                  DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

12                  MARILOU SMOKE: And all they said was,  
13 "Yeah, we do have a Jane Doe."

14                  SUE CONTANT: M'hmm.

15                  MARILOU SMOKE: You know.

16                  DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. Anything else either  
17 of you want to say or mention?

18                  MARILOU SMOKE: No. Just, I don't know if  
19 we got our -- our -- our figures right. So, like, she's  
20 been gone 21 years. So she would've been 42, so she'd ---

21                  DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

22                  MARILOU SMOKE: --- be 63 now. [Personal  
23 information]. Don't have to share that.

24                  SUE CONTANT: Oh, I don't mind. I'm  
25 surprised how many people I tell my age.

1                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** When -- I know. When you  
2                   get older it doesn't matter.

3                   **SUE CONTANT:** I think it's ---

4                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** More comfortable.

5                   **SUE CONTANT:** --- it's an achievement to get  
6                   that far.

7                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah. It is.

8                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** So on that note, as I  
9                   mentioned, those are -- that's the consent form ---

10                   **[Registrar's note: An off-the-record**  
11                   *discussion about informed consent ensues].*

12                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** --- And then just sign above  
13                   here somewhere. And if you have an email address you want  
14                   to share too, Sue. And maybe one thing that we didn't  
15                   mention or -- we didn't. Debbie's daughter ---

16                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yes, Laura.

17                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** --- who I interviewed. If  
18                   you want to just mention her because she's not mentioned on  
19                   the -- her full name and anything you want to share about  
20                   her.

21                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Okay. Debbie's daughter is  
22                   a very beautiful Ojibwa woman. Her name is Laura Lee Anne  
23                   --

24                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Lacrosse.

25                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Lacrosse.

1                   **SUE CONTANT:** Lacrosse.

2                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** My mother was a -- a La --  
3                   Laura Lee Anne Lacrosse. She is living in -- up in the  
4                   Sioux and I'm sure she has happy memories of my mom, and of  
5                   her mom because when my son and Laurie were young children  
6                   ---

7                   **SUE CONTANT:** [inaudible response]

8                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** --- like, little babies,  
9                   they used to spend time with my mom. And my mom would get  
10                  them to wash pots and pans, take it to the beach, use the  
11                  sand and all that, which they hated to do but ---

12                  **SUE CONTANT:** Better than [inaudible  
13                  response]

14                  **MARILOU SMOKE:** --- when grandma says, you  
15                  know, so I know -- we had known Laurie since she was born  
16                  and, you know, she's the first born niece so we had much  
17                  love for her.

18                  **DEBBIE BODKIN:** And is she an only child? I  
19                  don't ---

20                  **SUE CONTANT:** No, she has a brother  
21                  [Deborah's son].

22                  **MARILOU SMOKE:** [Deborah's son], yeah. But  
23                  he's kind of estranged from the family.

24                  **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Okay.

25                  **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah. He -- I think he holds

1 a lot inside.

2 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah.

3 **SUE CONTANT:** In regards to his mom and what  
4 happened.

5 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah.

6 **SUE CONTANT:** There's a lot of hurt.

7 **MARILOU SMOKE:** One year I went to Susie's  
8 for -- Sue's for Christmas and [Deborah's son] was there.  
9 And he came out of the bathroom and he seen me and he just  
10 stood at the door, like, leaned against the wall watching  
11 me because I look a lot like his mom, you know, and he  
12 couldn't get over it. So ---

13 **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah.

14 **MARILOU SMOKE:** --- must have been a shock.

15 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** How old would he have been  
16 when Debbie was ---

17 **MARILOU SMOKE:** Oh, he was like 15 only when  
18 Debbie ---

19 **SUE CONTANT:** He -- he was younger, wasn't  
20 he?

21 **MARILOU SMOKE:** I don't know.

22 **DEBBIE BODKIN:** And where did he and Debbie  
23 live? Or Laura, live at the time?

24 **MARILOU SMOKE:** They lived in Gully Bay  
25 (Ph.).

1                   DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

2                   MARILOU SMOKE: By this time -- because of  
3 that accident that we talked about ---

4                   DEBBIE BODKIN: Yeah.

5                   MARILOU SMOKE: --- they were advised that  
6 if Debbie sued [Deborah's husband], that he -- they could  
7 get a settlement. And so they bought a house with that.

8                   DEBBIE BODKIN: Debbie and ---

9                   SUE CONTANT: [Deborah's husband].

10                  DEBBIE BODKIN: --- her brother -[Deborah's  
11 husband]?

12                  MARILOU SMOKE: Her -- her husband  
13 [Deborah's husband].

14                  DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

15                  MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah. So when Debbie left  
16 [Deborah's husband] and then she was drinking a lot and  
17 partying. And she happened to come to town one day, called  
18 him up, you know, "How's it going?" All that. Then, I  
19 guess he had talked to a lawyer and the lawyer said, "Why  
20 don't you offer her 500 bucks to sign off on the house."  
21 So he did that and she took the money. And so I was really  
22 upset about that because, you know, she wasn't in her right  
23 frame of mind. And especially since the accident, you  
24 know. So he took advantage of her and I'm glad he went  
25 bald but I wish more would happen.

1                   DEBBIE BODKIN: And where were Laura and her  
2 brother -- sorry, what was his name?

3                   MARILOU SMOKE: [Deborah's son].

4                   SUE CONTANT: [Deborah's son].

5                   DEBBIE BODKIN: [Deborah's son].

6                   MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah.

7                   DEBBIE BODKIN: Where were they living?

8                   MARILOU SMOKE: They were living in -- they  
9 stayed with ---

10                  DEBBIE BODKIN: With ---

11                  MARILOU SMOKE: --- [Deborah's husband].

12                  DEBBIE BODKIN: With [Deborah's husband]?

13                  MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah. In Gully -- in Gully  
14 Bay, yeah.

15                  DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

16                  SUE CONTANT: Yeah.

17                  MARILOU SMOKE: M'hmm.

18                  SUE CONTANT: I think they suffered a lot  
19 not having their mom.

20                  MARILOU SMOKE: Yeah.

21                  SUE CONTANT: Laura has become a strong  
22 woman.

23                  MARILOU SMOKE: M'hmm.

24                  SUE CONTANT: Beautiful woman. She had to  
25 deal with many emotions.

1                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** M'hmm.

2                   **SUE CONTANT:** You know, not knowing what  
3 happened to her mom and she was young. She was what, mid-  
4 twenties?

5                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Younger than that.

6                   **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah, she was not even a  
7 teenager.

8                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah. That's right.

9                   **SUE CONTANT:** So Laura went without her in  
10 her teenage years.

11                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah.

12                   **SUE CONTANT:** So she has all that hurt  
13 inside, you know.

14                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Thank you again, both of  
15 you, for making it here today and sharing your story.

16                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** [*One sentence redacted -*  
17 *Rule 55*].

18                   **SUE CONTANT:** I think that's because mom's  
19 here.

20                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah.

21                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Yeah.

22                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah, my mom's spirit's  
23 here, yeah.

24                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Yeah. But you're both  
25 comfortable with it being public?



Statement - Public  
Marilou Smoke & Sue Contant  
(Deborah Anne Sloss Clark)

46

1                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Yeah.

2                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** That's what you've signed.

3                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** M'hmm.

4                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** If there's any other  
5            comments, otherwise I'll shut the equipment off?

6                   **MARILOU SMOKE:** Okay.

7                   **SUE CONTANT:** Okay.

8                   **DEBBIE BODKIN:** Okay?

9                   **SUE CONTANT:** Yeah.

10                  **DEBBIE BODKIN:** So it is now nine minutes  
11            after one.

12                  --- Upon adjourning at 1:09 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

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



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Jackie Chernoff

December 18, 2018