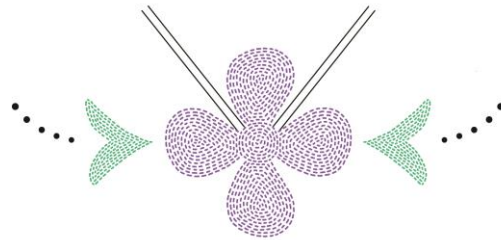


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Telkwa, British Columbia**



PUBLIC

Thursday November 8, 2018

**Statement – Volume 573
Kristal Grenkie,
In relation to Ramona Wilson,
Roxanne Thiara, Delphine Nikal
& Jessica Patrick**

Statement gathered by Bonnie George

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Telkwa, British Columbia

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--- Upon commencing on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 6:25
p.m.

MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. This is Kristal
Grenkie and her support, Emma Quock. And my name is Bonnie
George. I'm the statement taker for the National Inquiry
for the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls.
And we're in Telkwa, B.C. in the province of B.C. and it's
November 9th -- November 8th, 2018 and it's 6:25 p.m.
Today I'm speaking with Kristal Grenkie. And she's
Caucasian and her daughter is Tahltan from the Tahltan
Nation and resides in Smithers, B.C. And Kristal is here
to tell her truth about her -- her best friend, Ramona
Wilson, who was murdered in Smithers, B.C. And I'll --
Emma is here for support for her mom. And I'll get into
her truth.

MS. KRISTAL GRENKIE: All righty. And I
think this is a good opportunity for many people that
didn't really feel like they were supported to come
forward. It's not really easy but at the same time I feel
it's really necessary and I'm grateful that the government
is putting this forward and I really, really hope that a
lot comes out of it and the recommendations are taken
seriously and that people's truths are really listened to.

1 So I am thankful for -- for that so I appreciate that very
2 much.

3 I was a good friend of Ramona Wilson about
4 two years prior to her disappearance in 1994. I also was
5 one of the last known people with Delphine Nikal in 1990.
6 And I also knew another girl, Roxanne Thiara. We met ---

7 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Can you spell Thiara?

8 **MS. KRISTAL GRENKIE:** T-H-I-A-R-A.

9 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** And what year was that?

10 **MS. KRISTAL GRENKIE:** I want to say ---

11 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Approximately.

12 **MS. KRISTAL GRENKIE:** --- it was 1993. It
13 could have been '94 or one of -- around there, but. Yeah,
14 so I'm going to speak about Ramona because that's probably
15 the biggest truth that I feel would benefit this Inquiry.

16 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Do you know Ramona's
17 birthday?

18 **MS. KRISTAL GRENKIE:** Ramona's was February
19 15th, 1978.

20 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Okay.

21 **MS. KRISTAL GRENKIE:** And I met Ramona when
22 -- probably in 1992. We both attended the same secondary
23 school. We knew a few of the same people from around town
24 because it's a small town as well. And we both happened to
25 be skipping school in the hallway at the same time and we

1 met and decided to go have coffee at a nearby restaurant
2 and we totally hit it off.

3 She was definitely a very strong-minded
4 young lady and she was very, very culturally aware. She
5 had a lot of really good self-awareness too actually. She
6 had come a long way in her short years. But I guess to
7 explain it, she just kind of had her head -- head on her
8 shoulders straight and she had desires to become a
9 psychologist later in life and she knew what was involved
10 with it. But even at a young age she, like, really wanted
11 to help people.

12 She was quiet and shy and sometimes it'd
13 come off as stuck-up or something but she wasn't stuck-up
14 at all. She just wasn't really outgoing and I was really,
15 really outgoing. So in some ways I was kind of the -- I
16 don't know. I had gotten in lots of trouble with the law
17 and I used drugs and used alcohol at that young age
18 already. And Ramona used alcohol and used some drugs, just
19 marijuana. Harsh drugs weren't really around then.

20 And she -- so we -- we became really good
21 friends and then we went through a lot in our couple years
22 together. She -- again, we kind of grew close. We -- our
23 families got to know each other. My family got to know
24 her. We started hanging around in Moricetown which is
25 nearby Wet'suwet'en and is 20 minutes away. And we had

1 some friends in high school from there. And all First
2 Nations people. And mostly from Wet'suwet'en. And yeah,
3 we basically partied and we were probably too young to be
4 out there and doing what we did. But a lot of the time
5 when we were out there, Ramona would tell her mom that she
6 was with me and for whatever reason, like, maybe she
7 probably didn't know me very well but her mom trusted that
8 she was fine and all of that. So a lot of this was, like,
9 our parents didn't really know what we were up to.

10 And so basically we -- the night that -- the
11 day that Ramona disappeared, she called me, it was a
12 Saturday. She called me in the morning. It was in June
13 because it was on June 11th, '94. And she called me in the
14 morning. And back then of course we didn't have cell
15 phones or anything. But we were talking and there was
16 people drinking at her house and at her -- her mom and her
17 brothers were having a few even though it was, like, 11:00
18 in the morning. And she had said that she was going to
19 have a nap.

20 And then it was -- my brother was graduating
21 that day so I said to her, "Well, I'll -- I'll have to go
22 to the graduation ceremony." And then there was a dance
23 out in Hazelton and I was going out with Rodney Mitchell
24 (ph.) and she was going out with Stuart (ph.) and Michelle
25 (ph.) who was Rodney's cousin, so we were dating cousins or

1 whatever.

2 And we decided that we were going to meet
3 out at this dance in Hazelton, which is past Wet'suwet'en
4 so I don't really know why we didn't just plan to meet
5 Ramona in town and go with her. But unfortunately we did a
6 lot of hitchhiking, we -- especially, like, myself prior to
7 getting to know Ramona. I don't know that Ramona
8 hitchhiked much before she ever met me or even went out of
9 town a whole lot.

10 But -- so we decided we were going to meet
11 at this dance and then we -- I went to the grad ceremony
12 and I remember it was still light out after the grad
13 ceremony because it was about nine o'clock when it was
14 over. And I remember for some reason Wanda -- and I'm
15 pretty sure I was driving with Wanda Nikal (ph.) and we
16 went to the liquor store and of course I was too young for
17 liquor but I -- I don't know who bought it but I feel like
18 we drove up to the liquor store and then we came back
19 downtown and then basically drove through town right on
20 that highway that we thought maybe Ramona would have went
21 to.

22 And we went to -- we ended up out in
23 Hazelton at the dance that we were going to and we partied
24 at the dance all night. And then we went home at about
25 2:00. And all the time we kind of thought that Ramona

1 might have just seen somebody else, some other friends.
2 There was one friend that I figured maybe she seen or ran
3 into or something. But his mom didn't like me much so I
4 didn't want to phone there and ask if she was there or
5 anything.

6 And -- but anyway in the middle of the night
7 we didn't really think as much about it. So we woke up the
8 next morning and Rodney was there and Ramona's boyfriend
9 was there and we ended up going to town. And I didn't want
10 to go Matilda's (ph.) door so I sent Stirling (ph.) to the
11 door because I thought, "Well, she probably thinks Ramona's
12 with me so I can't blow my cover", or you know, I didn't
13 want to -- we didn't suspect that there was anything wrong
14 at this point. And sure enough Matty (ph.) answered the
15 door and said, "Oh, she's with Kristal." And then Darlene
16 came out, "Oh, she said she was with your -- you." And I
17 was, like, "Oh, shoot." And I didn't want to go -- I
18 didn't want to phone Dustin David's house because his mom
19 didn't like me and I don't know what we did. We probably
20 ended up drinking alcohol again that day and kind of, like,
21 I don't know. We didn't really put it out of our mind but
22 I don't know why we didn't have any huge alarms but it was
23 just one of those things.

24 And -- and then the next day I figured that
25 she must have stayed overnight with Dustin and then they --

1 neither of them were at school and I was, like, "Oh, shoot.
2 They probably missed the bus from Wet'suwet'en to school."
3 So that's kind of not really unheard of. Missed the bus
4 and then you kind of don't go to school that day.

5 But then I realize that -- or I had to work
6 at Petro Canada that day. It was Monday so we would have
7 been into June 13th. And so it was already, like, going on
8 two days since Ramona was last seen and we hadn't even
9 really figured out that she was gone yet or that there was
10 anything wrong. And yeah, her mom just basically assumed
11 she was with me and stuff like that.

12 So I went to work and then I phoned over to
13 her work. She worked at Smitty's. She washed dishes
14 there. She hated her job but she never would miss a shift.
15 She banked every single paycheque. She was really good
16 with her money. She didn't spend money on nothing and she
17 had lots of money in the bank. And she -- I phoned over
18 there at four o'clock and I was, like, "Oh, is Ramona
19 working today?" And like, "Well, no, she's not here." And
20 I was, like, "Oh, could you do me a favour and check if
21 she's supposed to be there?" And bearing in mind, nowadays
22 they wouldn't tell you something like that but 24 years ago
23 they told me and so then the guy came back and he said,
24 "She was scheduled at 4:00 p.m." And then right there I
25 knew. I was, like, "Oh gosh" that she wouldn't miss work.

1 And I'm, like, "Okay, well, the only thing
2 was if she was at Dustin's, they -- she wouldn't be there
3 that long. Like, this -- that visit is over." And my --
4 my -- kind of, like, I don't know weird thought that she
5 was okay suddenly ended, like, right there.

6 And then I phoned over to her mom's house
7 and Thomas, her brother, answered the phone and I said,
8 "Thomas, something's wrong." Like, "I'm sorry, but she's
9 not with me and we haven't seen her. I haven't seen her
10 since I talked to her on Saturday and that was the last
11 time I talked to her." And Thomas was, like, "What? No
12 way. We thought she was at her house." And he wasn't
13 upset with me or anything. I think he was just in shock
14 right away just, like, "Oh gee, where is she?"

15 And then -- and then I just remember, like -
16 - well, I actually remember there was a customer and I was
17 upset and I had to go serve the customer and that customer
18 walked in and he was, like, "You look like you just lost
19 your best friend." And I was, like -- and then I was,
20 like, "Holy smokes." I'll never forget that day. And I
21 was, like, "Actually, I -- I think I might have." Like, I
22 was just -- and then I ended up leaving work that day
23 because I got really worried and I just went home and
24 stuff.

25 I don't know what day it was on record that

1 I spoke to the RCMP about the situation but I do know that
2 there was, like, a lot of, like, rumours flying around.
3 But rumours back then were definitely -- they only got
4 spread by mouth or by phone so it wasn't social media or
5 anything like that. So there was a lot talk and people
6 were spreading it around that they hadn't seen Ramona. And
7 so there was a lot of people, like, speaking with me about
8 it. And like I said, I don't exactly remember when it was
9 but I felt like it was, like, a really long time before any
10 police officer, like, actually acknowledged that that was
11 the situation.

12 Like, I don't know when -- when Matty and
13 them called or whatever. I'm really not sure. And there's
14 a lot of interviews that I've had with detectives and stuff
15 over the years and I don't -- like, sometimes I don't
16 remember the time and I don't remember when. And -- and
17 sometimes they'd tell me what I said and I basically -- I
18 have a really good memory, like, normally for numbers and
19 stuff but I don't remember all the time, like, what --
20 especially with Ramona's case, like, what happened before
21 she was missing -- found murdered and then what happened
22 after because there was about a nine month period of time
23 in there.

24 And then, yeah, I ended up actually -- like,
25 I was still with Rodney and I ended up getting pregnant and

1 at a pretty young age. I was just 16 when I got pregnant.
2 And I think a part of me, like, not that I would ever
3 regret my child but I think that, like, what had happened
4 to me in my life that far, the pregnancy almost saved me
5 more than anything because I finally, like, settled down
6 and -- yeah, I ended up naming her after Ramona but it was
7 -- it was kind of a -- a different time.

8 But we -- then we -- Ramona went missing in
9 June and during that time it was kind of frustrating. A
10 lot of time people would say they found her. And I
11 remember talking to Matty one Sunday morning and she phoned
12 me and she was happy because she heard she was in Vancouver
13 and we were going to go pick her up the next day and it
14 was, like, legit, like, for sure and someone talked to her.
15 And we were going to be on our way and then -- so, like, it
16 was just a real roller coaster of, like, emotions as to,
17 like, what to believe.

18 Even that one time when Matty phoned, I was
19 at Rodney's and Stirling was there and he got upset. He's,
20 like, "I fucking knew it. I knew she took off." And I
21 was, like, "You think so?" And like, I was, like, "Don't
22 say that." Like -- and he's, like, "Oh, she's in
23 Vancouver." And he was all upset about it but I mean, he
24 was just going through his emotions too, right, but it was
25 just so weird because, like, that's how easy it was to

1 react to a rumour especially when it was one you wanted to
2 hear. Like, I'm sure Stirling would have rather that be a
3 rumour too and stuff even though he was, like, "What? She
4 took off?"

5 And so anyway, there was an interview, one
6 that sticks out in my mind and -- and this is, like, what
7 the basis of my -- really what I'm doing this interview for
8 today. And it is specific, like, even to the point that I
9 would at some point in my life like to see what they have
10 on record from that actual meeting because I don't know
11 which one it was and I don't know when it was. I know it
12 was fairly soon after June 11th, 1994. And I'm saying soon
13 in the context of it was within a couple years.

14 I know it took place in Smithers, B.C. I
15 really feel like it was on a Monday night and I was picked
16 up downtown as far as I recall. The police stopped and
17 wanted to speak with me and so they took me in the car and
18 took me to the station. And I know that I asked to phone
19 my mom or I asked to phone Mary Vike (ph.), my councillor
20 at the school. And they said that I didn't really have
21 that option or, like, they just wanted to ask me a few
22 questions.

23 And I basically just remember, like, not
24 having the opportunity to have anybody there with me. And
25 there was two cops in the room, two male police officers.

1 And basically, like, I was -- I don't remember what was
2 said but I remember how I felt and I remember that I felt
3 that they were going to arrest me for murdering my own
4 friend. And they also brought up a picture of Delphine and
5 they had a picture of Roxanne Thiara there and they had a
6 picture of Ramona all lined up. And they kept asking me,
7 like, "You must know something." Like, "How could this
8 happen to you? How could you know three people that this
9 happened to?" And -- and I just remember being so
10 devastated at this meeting and I was there for a couple
11 hours too I recall. And I just remember it was just such a
12 dark -- like, not dark room but it was, like, an office and
13 it was uncomfortable and I was so upset because I actually
14 thought they were going to arrest me.

15 And a part of it could have been because I
16 was put in jail at a really young age so I've had my
17 troubles with the -- with the law before but not in this
18 way. And I was so confused because I was thinking to
19 myself, "Like, do you know something that I know that I
20 don't know that I know?" Because that's how I felt in that
21 room that night.

22 And so overall, like, that was the biggest
23 example of the support that we got when Ramona went
24 missing. I feel like nobody believed us. I fell like they
25 wanted to, you know, they wanted to believe just as much --

1 any rumour but did they actually, like, follow through and
2 make sure that that was a rumour before Matty was informed
3 or, like -- I don't know what you would do with every piece
4 of information and I don't know how you could keep up, but
5 I just feel that they didn't pay the attention that it
6 needed.

7 Like, why did they just instantly chalk her
8 up to being running away? Like, we knew she didn't run
9 away. And like, so how was it if we said she didn't run
10 away, how does that become if -- and -- and you treat it
11 like she did then you're saying that we're lying about our
12 own loved one and what they did. And then it turned out
13 that we found her body and -- and then of course, like, you
14 know, the interviews started up again.

15 And I've had so many interviews over the
16 years I can barely remember. Even in the last eight years
17 living in Prince George I have to say that I, like,
18 definitely, like, felt the support of E-Pana -- the E-Pana
19 division throughout the years. They -- you know, a couple
20 of them, I don't know their names specific, but their faces
21 are becoming familiar at Ramona's memorials and -- and I
22 feel that they're not there because it's their job. I feel
23 like they're there because they want to support the family
24 and they want to know -- them to know that they're really
25 people too, that that's the career that they've chosen in

1 their life. And I feel like, you know, when it comes to
2 the RCMP, like, that's where, you know, it is just a job
3 for some people and sometimes it is just to check a box.

4 Like, what was -- what was their purpose
5 that night to even bring me in that day and, you know,
6 where -- where did the -- like, did they even really care
7 about where Ramona was? Like, obviously if they wanted to
8 just blame me. And so I felt like we were the subject of,
9 like, a lot of racism. It -- it's in the policing and --
10 and I know that that's what I would like is for that
11 people's stories about what they experienced with the RCMP,
12 they come to light and that there's action taken on that.
13 Because I feel that in a career, in a job like an RCMP who
14 you are supposed to protect people, there should be no
15 limits on who you protect and everybody should be equal and
16 that's why we live in Canada. Like, no matter if you're a
17 refugee or -- or if you're a First Nation.

18 But you know, there's always that respect of
19 -- of maybe whose land -- like, whose land that we're on.
20 But I also know that Canada is very multi-cultural so I
21 don't think that it should be, like, one race, but I feel
22 that there's, like, no room for racism whatsoever in a role
23 like RCMP.

24 And I question what it would have been if it
25 was me. I -- I still to this day, like, question, like,

1 you know, I put myself in so many vulnerable situations and
2 I'm a survivor of a lot of traumatic experiences, like,
3 right from birth to not long ago. And I survived a lot.
4 But I can say that I always think about, like, was it
5 because I was, like, not First Nations that I was able to -
6 - I don't know. Maybe people looked at me like I was less
7 vulnerable than maybe a First Nations person. Although I
8 have my own personal experiences but these beliefs and --
9 and how I feel about that, it's kind of brought me -- it's
10 kind of carried with me all my life, like, whether -- what
11 it would have been like and maybe it would have been
12 different and maybe they would have listened and maybe
13 there would have been somebody convicted.

14 So now I have four First Nations daughters
15 and I can say that I feel that they are more vulnerable in
16 our society and I feel that that's not fair, although
17 that's my truth. That's what I feel like. I truly do feel
18 that because my daughters are First Nations that they could
19 be more susceptible to abuse or just a lot of different
20 things like drug abuse or people, like, taking advantage of
21 vulnerabilities and it really has nothing to do with who
22 they are inside. It has everything to do with the fact
23 that people think that they can get away with hurting our
24 Indigenous women and I pray for the day that that stigma is
25 gone, that, you know, if you do that to an Indigenous woman

1 that you're going to have less of a -- even less of a
2 sentence or less of a backlash.

3 And so I feel we've come a long way but 24
4 years ago all of the actions of kind of even the community
5 and of -- of the RCMP, it basically led to the fact that --
6 it just seemed like it just wasn't taken seriously by
7 anybody. And when you have a community that has -- you
8 know, could be divided already, if you don't have the
9 support from the RCMP, like, the community isn't going to
10 get behind you. So if the RCMP feel that she was a runaway
11 then you're probably going to feel that throughout the
12 whole community. So I feel that the RCMP, you know, really
13 should have taken it more seriously and -- and followed up
14 and, like, listened to the family.

15 And the other thing is that the family was,
16 you know, and myself included, like, we -- you know, it's a
17 small town. They watched the family, like, end up abusing
18 alcohol or myself, like, end up abusing alcohol and drugs.
19 And I just -- not that I think that they should have come
20 along and saved us but never once were we, you know, kind
21 of considered when it comes to, like, what we lost and --
22 and what happened. Like, they don't -- they -- like, it
23 kind of made a lot of us vulnerable and yet there was no
24 support in place. There was no victim services for what
25 could have potentially -- how it could have impacted us.

1 So that was really big and -- and you know,
2 like, we've had it obviously happen recently with
3 Indigenous women in the area. And that's what I also feel
4 is so important because when that happened to us we didn't
5 have inquiries. We didn't have people, like, bringing this
6 to the forefront and saying, "No, this just isn't right and
7 we can't stand up for it."

8 So as much as, like, you know, the recent
9 loss of Jessica in town was pretty impactful, in the back
10 of my mind I think to myself, "Maybe this is their
11 opportunity to do it right and -- and show that they care."
12 And I feel like they have done a lot better and so it's
13 nice to see. It's an awful sacrifice for us to be able to
14 see how far we've come in 24 years, but I can tell you that
15 this community supported Jessica's family a lot and I feel
16 like that the RCMP supported Jessica's family.

17 I didn't really like that the family was out
18 there looking for their loved one. And I feel that that's
19 another thing that would be a recommendation is not so much
20 -- I understand it's not an RCMP's job to go and look when
21 somebody says they think somebody is somewhere. They have
22 to -- like, the family recently got sent to go look
23 themselves and "Call us if you find something."

24 So I don't know if that's an exactly an
25 acceptable way to shed light on what happened. In the case

1 of Jessica, the family was out there searching and ended up
2 finding her. So you tell me why it wasn't an RCMP finding
3 her. And it could be because maybe the RCMP didn't know.
4 So then you tell me why the family would feel that they
5 shouldn't go to the RCMP. Maybe that has something to do
6 with the lack of trust and the lack of what are you going
7 to do with the information.

8 And so I feel like there's a lot of reasons
9 why people are the way they are and I feel that there needs
10 to be that trust built up. And I don't know how it's going
11 to get built up but it needs to happen. And if that means
12 that, you know, RCMPs are a little bit held more
13 accountable, it's like any other job, if you -- you know,
14 there's certain roles and there's certain things that you
15 can or can't do and if they don't fit the description then
16 you don't do the job. Of if you go against some of the,
17 you know, standards of the position then you're reprimanded
18 as such.

19 I just feel like there's, like, no room for
20 racism in our system whatsoever. So I would like to see
21 that come out of this Inquiry so so much. And more support
22 for the families when this happens. And that doesn't
23 necessarily mean that it has to be an outpour of money or
24 anything like that but there needs to be, you know, like,
25 opportunities for people to make our streets safer and,

1 like, opportunities for community members to come together
2 and help families too. Not just the RCMP but we need the
3 support of the authorities to do stuff like that.

4 And I just really hope that the Inquiry or,
5 like, that something comes out of it with regards to
6 assisting families. Like, say in the case of Jessica, if
7 somebody goes to court it can get really out of hand. I
8 just seen the guy last night that found Jessica and he was
9 hurting. He was drinking alcohol and I know he's been
10 struggling with that. He just said, "I don't want to go.
11 I want to go into that jail cell and I want to go and hurt
12 those people." And I was, like, "You can't go to jail.
13 Your family doesn't want you in jail." And here's somebody
14 that, you know, why would he want to go lock himself up to
15 hurt somebody else? Like, that tells you right there where
16 -- how they feel about the justice -- justice system.

17 And where's the help for him? The poor kid
18 found his cousin dead. And he shouldn't be drunk on a
19 street by himself at night begging for money. Like, he --
20 he experienced some pretty big trauma and, you know what,
21 if we don't deal with that then it's going to keep going.

22 So that was pretty much, like, my
23 circumstances around Ramona that I wanted to mention. I
24 did mention Roxanne Thiara. I don't know if it's
25 appropriate to bring it up if it wasn't what I was supposed

1 to do but I really feel that the system had a big impact on
2 her demise.

3 I just want to quickly add that I met
4 Roxanne Thiara when I was incarcerated. I was incarcerated
5 when I just turned 13 years old. I went into jail in 1991
6 January, so I met Roxanne in 1991. And when she came into
7 jail she was so scared. She wouldn't even come out of her
8 room for a week. She didn't even have boobs. And she --
9 she was totally flat chested. She was just, like, a little
10 girl. And we were so surprised that she got sent to jail.
11 And I was surprised I got sent to jail. But here I was,
12 like, "Holy, that poor little girl."

13 Anyways, it was kind of a feast or famine
14 and you do what you do and eventually she ended up meeting
15 people in jail and at some point she met some girls from
16 Prince George and she went back to her foster parents in
17 Quesnel but then when things got tough with her foster
18 parents she took off to Prince George because she had
19 friends there now. And those friends were prostitutes and
20 living on a street -- on the streets, probably in and out
21 of jail as well. And unfortunately, as far as I see,
22 especially from the pictures that the police are holding up
23 in front of me and it looks like Roxanne hit the streets
24 herself as a prostitute at the ripe age of about 13, maybe
25 14 years old. And she was just such a little girl.

1 And then when I seen her picture from the
2 police, her mug shot, she was plastered with makeup and
3 wasn't the same person. Somebody picked her up in Prince
4 George and her body was found near Burns Lake not long
5 after she went missing. And I do not believe that every --
6 anybody was ever convicted for that.

7 And so in that situation I feel that the
8 justice system, you know, really took this vulnerable
9 person and, like, placed them in harm's way. Like,
10 literally just placed her in harm's way. How is a young
11 girl like that supposed to leave jail? She's either going
12 to leave jail beat up and traumatized because she -- or
13 she's going to get to know them and become their friends so
14 that you survive. And it was just so awful to think --
15 like, I truly, truly -- I truly feel that if she never went
16 to jail like that I don't think she would have ever been
17 founded in a ditch in Burns Lake at such a young age. And
18 I truly think that justice, like -- I don't know what judge
19 that was but mark my words, I just could not see where
20 there wasn't a better way for that young girl.

21 And so I'm speaking on her behalf today
22 because I don't know that -- maybe it doesn't really matter
23 at this point to a lot of people but this is where I'm
24 saying, like, these vulnerabilities start and you get
25 comfortable with, you know, breaking the rules. And

1 nobody's there, like, enforcing them or maybe nobody's
2 there to, you know, tell you what harm can be or what harm
3 you can get into.

4 I know it's not that easy but like I said,
5 like, with her, she walked into that place a little girl
6 and she -- and she walked out a totally different person.
7 And I feel that if she would have never went to jail that
8 she very well could be alive today with children. And I
9 know her foster parents really loved her too and cared a
10 lot about her. And I believe they were her family. Her
11 uncle or something. So as far as I remember her saying,
12 her foster parents were these amazing people and so I mean,
13 she might not have had the perfect life before that but she
14 didn't -- yeah, she certainly had a lot of support at home.

15 So I also think that when kids are
16 experiencing, like, breaking the law at young ages there
17 needs to be more of a, you know, a healing component to it.
18 Like, why have you done this. You know, like, what -- how
19 can you avoid it rather than immersing somebody in a system
20 and letting them become a lifer or letting them go down the
21 wrong path. Like, make sure you understand the impacts of
22 what jail time can do especially because we have people
23 that have murdered people and haven't gone to jail. So why
24 are we as young girls being put into a jail cell? Like,
25 how does that make you feel? You get locked up like an

1 animal.

2 And I've done more time in my life than
3 probably the person that murdered my friends. And that's
4 awful to think of because I am not near -- I didn't even do
5 anything that bad. And so you know, that was my own story
6 about the justice system failing me but considering that
7 this is an MMIW Inquiry and Roxanne is one of -- is on the
8 list and I mean, bless her. I think about her very often.
9 And it also was brought up to my attention via the RCMP
10 repeatedly that I knew her, so -- but I really just knew
11 her inside. I never knew her on the outside.

12 So I also brought up Delphine. So for every
13 -- I don't know. Delphine, they -- even myself, I feel
14 like I was conditioned to forget about Delphine. And I
15 don't mean that I forgot about her but, like, there was
16 just no emphasis put on her and they didn't -- they still,
17 like -- or sorry, they -- they really -- Delphine was a bit
18 older. She actually went missing in 1990 and she was 16.

19 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Can you spell Delphine's
20 name just for the record?

21 **MS. KRISTAL GRENKIE:** Yeah, it's D-E-L-P-H-
22 I-N-E. Last name is Nikal, N-I-K-A-L.

23 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Okay.

24 **MS. KRISTAL GRENKIE:** And she went missing
25 on June 13th, 1990 which was very close to Ramona's date

1 actually. I know that Delphine did not run away. And
2 again, I mean, I'd love somebody to prove my gut instinct
3 wrong but we were there with her that evening. We were on
4 Main Street. We were going to -- she was going to
5 hitchhike home. Again, we did a lot of hitchhiking. And I
6 must add that it was very well known that we did a lot of
7 hitchhiking. And in all of the times I stuck my thumb out,
8 which I'll give it 50 times probably because it was quite
9 often, not once did a cop or somebody in the community come
10 and stop and -- and warn of her saying -- and ask where
11 they were going or why they needed to get there, anything
12 like that. So it certainly -- like, they acted like it was
13 against the law but it was not enforced whatsoever.

14 But anyway, we hitchhiked everywhere. And
15 Ramona was going to -- sorry, Delphine was going to
16 hitchhike to Telkwa which was ten minutes away and she --
17 her mom wasn't home at the time. Her stepdad, Nicky (ph.),
18 was the only one home and she said, "You girls should come
19 stay overnight with me." And I said, "I can't. Don't
20 worry. My mom will get mad at me. There's no bus." And,
21 "I don't know the bus." And, "I'll miss the bus and I'll
22 be in so much trouble." And don't ask me why I -- I
23 worried because I was always doing stuff I was in trouble
24 with. But anyways, I said no and then she asked Crystal
25 (ph.), our other friend there, and she said, "Do you want

1 to come hitchhike with me?" And -- and Crystal said, "No,
2 I have to work at 7:00 A.M." And Crystal lived up Main
3 Street. I lived back over by the Civic Centre on Third
4 Avenue. So we basically, like, split our three ways that
5 night. And then we never seen Delphine again.

6 And I can say that her name was brought into
7 a lot of interviews with Ramona but I can tell you that if
8 we looked it up there was probably very few -- like, Ramona
9 probably sparked a little bit more on behalf of Delphine
10 but at the time I remember we didn't have any money for
11 posters. I remember we had to pay \$2.75 to print posters
12 of Delphine. And nobody in the community was going to
13 print us a poster. We had to pay \$300 for 100 posters.

14 And then me and Lucy drove all over in her
15 scrubby little car that barely ran and we drove everywhere.
16 We were driving all over Houston. We heard she was here,
17 we heard she was there. And we were knocking on so many
18 doors and we even drove to Granisle because somebody said
19 that they seen her in Granisle. And we were knocking on
20 all these doors.

21 And this was us, like, driving around the
22 country and looking for Lucy's little sister. Delphine
23 didn't have the greatest life but she also didn't
24 necessarily -- she had goals and dreams and she wasn't --
25 you know, she wasn't even going to school or anything. She

1 was vulnerable too but she didn't run away. I know she
2 didn't run away. And I feel like if she was going to run
3 away she probably would have made it sound like an
4 adventure and say, "Let's go."

5 So anyways, I -- I -- just with Delphine's
6 case, like I said, it was taken much less lightly. They --
7 I was very upset at the thought of the posters and how we
8 had just no support. And I honestly don't even know what
9 they did with Delphine's file. It's like they just have a
10 thin little file there somewhere. And, like, I do know
11 that my mom's friends phoned her one day not long after
12 Delphine went missing and they said -- they lived out in
13 Driftwood area and they said that they found a bloody shoe
14 and a t-shirt. And they said they found bloody shoe and a
15 t-shirt and my mom says, "Oh my goodness, you should bring
16 that to the cops." And they said, "Well, we phoned the
17 cops and they just said -- they didn't say that --
18 anything. And we asked if they were going to come out and
19 look at it and they said they would and it just sat there
20 for weeks so we put it in the fire and burnt it."

21 And my mom still was devastated to this day
22 that she could not believe, like, knowing there was a
23 missing girl and that was Delphine in Smithers and why
24 wouldn't those cops have gone out there and looked at what
25 that was. And how do we know it wasn't part of Delphine?

1 And so I -- I just think to myself, like, it's little
2 things, like, you know, where -- you know, where in that,
3 you know, person's job was it not important to go and check
4 that out and rule something out? And all along it's just
5 taking that trust that we have in our -- in our law and
6 that, you know, we're supposed to abide by the law, then --
7 then if we have to stay within abiding it then it should
8 also be enforced. So that was a very, like, harsh moment.

9 And my mom, she you know, had a really hard
10 time with it because I think a lot of it was, like, it was
11 me. I was her young daughter going through it. But she
12 too, like, she remembered that they had a -- there was a
13 girl in Vancouver, a white girl from Smithers, that was
14 murdered not long after Ramona and they found her killer
15 and there was a dance in -- a benefit dance I guess for,
16 like, her family or something around the same time after
17 Ramona went missing. And my mom was just so devastated
18 that the community all went to that dance and they raised
19 all this money for this girl's family.

20 And her family was pretty well off and we
21 knew that and, like, it was actually one of my mom's
22 friends. And she was still so offended that our community
23 stood up and felt the need to give people that had
24 something more but neglected to do anything about the
25 missing girl that we had, and that was Ramona in our own

1 community.

2 So like I said, it kind of impacted my whole
3 family at a very young age. And my poor mom stressed out
4 all the time. She probably thought that I would be next or
5 something because she really watched me, like, lose friends
6 for -- in this way.

7 I think that's about all that I really want
8 to speak about. In a way I just -- I just know that this
9 is a part of, like, me dealing with my grief and I feel
10 guilty. I felt guilty this morning. I kind of felt guilty
11 that I said that Ramona was with me and if -- if maybe it
12 was sooner and I don't know if that feeling will ever go
13 away. It's kind of because of who Ramona was as a person
14 when it comes to her cultural beliefs and I feel that
15 because I was able to learn a lot about her culture and a
16 lot about forgiveness and a lot about, you know, how the
17 universe works and how it works in mysterious ways and how
18 it puts things in front of you that are just supposed to be
19 there, and so basically, like, who Ramona was as a person
20 and -- and what I learned from her has carried me through
21 life. But there's times when I really lose sight of that.
22 So I feel that -- I feel like I kind of need to go back to
23 that in a sense and find some peace with it.

24 Because as I explained, especially with
25 Jessica, it was like I -- I didn't even sign up for this

1 Inquiry until the very last day. And it's not that it
2 hasn't impacted me, I just failed to trust that it'll get
3 to where it needs to go. And that doesn't mean I don't
4 trust anybody that's involved in it right now but, you
5 know, there's -- there's a lot of -- you know, there's even
6 people that -- you know, people that kind of inadvertently
7 or on purposely take advantage of lots of different
8 resources and I just hope that -- that -- you know, that
9 this Inquiry, there's always going to be hiccups and -- and
10 I know it's been a lot longer but it needs to keep the
11 momentum and it needs to really try to make a difference
12 because the families have been asking for it for many years
13 and asking to be heard.

14 And so when we put our story out there it
15 needs to be listened to and it needs to be taken seriously
16 because there's a lot of reasons why people wouldn't even
17 want to. Like, you can -- and I'm an example. It's not
18 that I don't have something to say, I just don't -- I
19 didn't know if it was going to go anywhere or if I was
20 going to be able to make a difference.

21 But I just know that I want to have safer
22 streets for our Indigenous girls. And -- and Indigenous
23 girls should not grow up and feel like they're at more risk
24 than anybody else in Canada. We live in a free country.
25 They shouldn't feel that somebody is going to hurt them

1 faster than they would hurt somebody else because nothing
2 happens if you do something to an Indigenous woman.

3 So I feel that my daughters probably have a
4 sense of safety more, you know, than we did as -- when we
5 were younger, but I mean, social media and even, like, just
6 technology allows us to kind of be that much closer. But
7 at the end of the day I -- there's a long way to go and I
8 feel that Indigenous women need to learn who they are and
9 what they represent and what they're capable of in our
10 country and their place in our country. And I feel that
11 they all deserve to feel very proud.

12 And that's -- I hope that that -- this
13 Inquiry moves in that direction as well because this is you
14 -- you know, this -- this Inquiry is there -- is saying,
15 "Okay, we're right here." Like, "You put it out there and
16 you put it on the table." And so if things go on the
17 table, please pick it up and take it very seriously because
18 a lot of thought gets put into these kind of things too.

19 But yeah, I feel like it was just yesterday
20 in some ways, unless you ask me about a police interview
21 because I feel like there was a lot of them. And sometimes
22 I kind of -- it felt like I was just repeating the same
23 story and so I think to myself, like, "Why are you keep
24 interviewing me? Are you looking for a gap in my story so
25 you can find something on me?" Like, I just -- it just was

1 weird when it was, like, "Why aren't you looking harder and
2 why aren't you following up with people?"

3 And just I don't know, establishing
4 relationships with the community so that they trust the
5 police, that the police are going to do what they should
6 do. So yeah, I think with that I -- I do believe that I've
7 said everything that I really wanted to speak about to the
8 Inquiry. I -- a lot of people consider me a strong person
9 and somebody that -- that they listen to but I -- a lot of
10 -- like, because of this particular circumstance I appear
11 to be very strong and yes, I've survived a lot without
12 reaching to, like, drugs and alcohol and abuse and all
13 sorts of things that we put ourselves into when we are
14 vulnerable, and I didn't do that too, I survived an abusive
15 marriage, and you know, I -- so I have done a lot of
16 surviving but, you know, there's a lot of people in my
17 position that feel the same way that don't have the means
18 and don't have the resources to move forward.

19 So I really, really think about them and I
20 think about all the people that, you know, don't have it
21 together in life to even show up to an interview like this.
22 So just keeping that in consideration, it was very, very
23 hard for me to kind of do this for whatever reason. I
24 can't imagine what it would be like if somebody struggling
25 with something else in their life right now, like -- like I

1 said, alcohol or drugs or abusive relationship. Like, are
2 you kidding me, don't want to go open this can of worms.

3 And so just, you know, when you open a can
4 of worms with people, like, be careful because there's --
5 could be lots of worms running around and you want to make
6 sure that you -- that if it's going to be open up, that
7 people are putting their trust into it, and so I hope that
8 -- that it encourages people to heal from it too.

9 So that's -- that's about all I have to say
10 I think. Yeah.

11 **MS. BONNIE GEORGE:** Okay. Thank you,
12 Kristal for sharing your truth. I'm turning the audio and
13 the video off. It's 7:18 right now. Thank you.

14

15

16 --- Upon adjourning at 7:18 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Ashley Robertson, 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.



Ashley Robertson

December 14, 2018