National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Edmonton, Alberta

Monday November 19, 2018

Statement - Volume 589

Brenda Goodswimmer, Patsy Campbell,
Jerry Goodswimmer & Gary Moostoos
In relation to Cecile Moostoos & Philomene Moostoos

Statement gathered by Marie-Audrey Girard

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**Documents submitted with testimony:**

1. Letter from Edmonton Police Service, dated October 8, 1992

2. Funeral card of Philomene Moostoos

3. Letter to Dr. Chester Cunningham from Patsy Manichoose, dated March 11, 1993

4. Certificate of Medical Examiner for Philomene Moostoos

5. Newspaper Articles (3) regarding death of Philomene Moostoos
MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Well, good afternoon. Thank you for being with us this afternoon. Before I start, I would like to know if you agree that we are video-recording and audio-recording this session?

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: I give permission.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Yes.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Okay. Thank you very much. My name is Marie Audrey. I work with the National Inquiry. We are in Edmonton at -- the time is 12:44, and we are Monday, November 19. I would like to ask everybody that is in the room to introduce themselves, please.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Brenda Goodswimmer from Sturgeon Lake.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Thank you.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Patsy Campbell, Sturgeon Lake.

MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: Jerry Goodswimmer. And I also have a Bachelors of Social Work, and I’m also a close relative of this young ladies.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Okay. Thank you.

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: And I’m Gary Moostoos.
I’m here as a support, and also related to -- to two young ladies here, and my aunt was the one that they’ll be mentioning today.

Ms. Marie Audrey Girard: Oh, I see.

Mr. Gary Moostoos: And my cousin as well.

Ms. Marie Audrey Girard: Okay. Thank you for being here. Well, if you’re ready, I think I would like to start with my first question, which is for you. What would you like to share with us today?

Ms. Brenda Goodswimmer: My whole life story, I guess. And what I went through when my mother got murdered --

Ms. Marie Audrey Girard: M’hm.

Ms. Brenda Goodswimmer: -- and my sister got murdered, what I went through. And I’ll share a bunch of stuff that I have written here.

Ms. Marie Audrey Girard: Perfect. What was the name of your mother and your sister?

Ms. Brenda Goodswimmer: Cecile Moostoos, and Philomene Moostoos.

Ms. Marie Audrey Girard: So would you like to share with us what happened to Cecilia (sic) and Philomene?

Ms. Brenda Goodswimmer: Cecile.

Ms. Marie Audrey Girard: Cecile. Sorry.
MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Yeah.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Sorry about that.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Okay. In 1977, she was murdered in Edmonton, but I’ll filled a little bit, I guess, where -- she had moved to Edmonton in probably 1976. And there, she had found a job working in an old folks’ home. And she had come to visit in -- oh, boy. My daughter was -- my first baby was 14 months old. So that’s the last of the photo I had of her when she had come to visit Sturgeon Lake --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: -- to come visit -- visit us. And I already had a home in 1976 ‘cause my -- no, let’s see. Yeah, ’76. ‘Cause my daughter was born March 8th, 1976. She was 14 months old when my mom came to visit.

And so when we got that phone call of her being murdered, it was -- the RCMP came to Sturgeon to talk to my step-dad. And, at the time, I already had my first home in a three-bedroom trailer that the band gave me and my husband, but he -- we weren’t married then. So I had the trailer. The RCMP paid my step-dad’s way to -- on the bus, Greyhound bus, to come identify my mother in Edmonton. How they found out was through a friend from Edmonton, Ronnie (phonetic) Powder was his name, that he was supposed
to go identify one of his family members at the morgue.
And there, he was the one who recognized my mom and said,
“This lady’s from Sturgeon Lake.” So from what we found
out, she was in the morgue for a week, and they didn’t know
who this body was until that guy came and noticed it was my
mom from Sturgeon. So my step-dad came on the bus. Came
back the next day on the bus. And then we had the -- the
wake and funeral and stuff.

I was -- I’m the oldest in the family, I was
19 at the time. So I took in my siblings, Patsy, [Brother
1], [Brother 2], and Philomene. And I have the notes here.
I was 19, the oldest; [Brother 1] was 16 years old; Patsy
was 13 years old; [Brother 2] was 7; Philomene was 6. So
as the oldest, so I -- it’s my job, I guess, you know, to
take them in, take care of them. Then my aunt, [Aunt 1]
came three times -- finally, three times she came. She
kept coming to say, you know, “This is too many for you.
I’ll take Philomene. I’ll take care of her for you.” And
I didn’t want to let her go. But finally, that third time
-- ‘cause I knew already, like, I was -- it was
overwhelming for me to take care of all these siblings,
plus, I was just a new mother. So I let her go.

And when she got murdered, I got the blame.
I shouldn’t of let her go. My step-dad blamed me, but I
was young. And -- so we kept on with life, you know,
taking care of my siblings. And my aunt had promised she’d let us see her, which she didn’t. And she never brought her to visit us. She kept her to herself. And so I went on trying -- trying the best I could in that three-bedroom trailer to raise my siblings until, you know, [Brother 1] was old -- older. So he left, went on his own to make his own life.

Then Patsy went on his -- her own. Then she -- she got pregnant at a young age. She came to Unwed Mothers Home in Edmonton. And at the time, my grandfather was hospitalized in Edmonton. And I -- I phoned my grandfather in Edmonton Hospital, I said, “Patsy’s going to give up the baby,” you know, “at -- at the Unwed Mothers Home.” Then -- ‘cause my grandparents had raised me and Patsy when we were young ‘cause my mother was always sick. She had T.B., she was in and out of the hospital. ‘Cause growing up, we were always in foster homes. So my grandfather was mad. He said, “No. Go get her.” So I came on the bus. I came on the bus with my baby, [R.], then I come and picked up Patsy and [C.]. Then I raised [C.] for a few years with, eventually, my -- my -- yeah, my step-dad was with us at the trailer. How we all fit in that three-bedroom trailer, I don’t know, but we managed. And so I took care of [C.]. I have pictures, lots of albums of [C.]. growing up. To this day, she’s 39; is it?
MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Forty.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Forty years old.

She still calls me mom. She calls me mom, calls her, mommy.

And so with my mom dying, I used to have anger 'cause I was just overwhelmed by the responsibility, the work, the caring, the cooking, the cleaning. I used to cry myself to sleep, mad at my mom for dying. I’d go drink. I’d have anger. I’d beat up women. Then I’d go back home, do my responsibilities, you know, taking care of my siblings. And a lot of times, I wanted to kill myself 'cause this was too much work for me -- a lot of work raising my siblings. But I tried my best.

And, like, [month] 1978, [month and date], was when my daughter was born. And that’s the day my mom’s death certificate -- 'cause when they finally found out who she was, so on her death certificate, she died [month and date]. But that was a time I -- my -- it so happened a year later my -- my daughter was born, [month and date], right on the day my mom’s death certificate. And so my step-dad would babysit when I -- me and my late husband would go drinking. My step-dad never allowed no other babysitters. He was over-protective of my kids, so he’d babysit.

And in 1981, me and my late husband decided
to get married. Well, we were shacking up for six years. So 1981, August 21st, I got married. My grandfather walked me down the aisle, gave me away. And then he got sick with cancer, so I took care of him in our trailer for two years until his death. He died in 1983. And by then, though, my step-dad was given a home at the old folks’ home, so he had his own place. And [Brother 1] stayed at their -- his mom’s place, Jerry’s mom’s. Then he eventually had his own girlfriend, family, and stuff. And [Brother 2], he -- he left the trailer when he was 18.

And after my grandfather’s death, that was a -- even a big -- I held onto his death for 15 years. Where, with my mom, I didn’t really get to know my mom as much as everybody else. Like, you probably know your mom right from birth. Me, I was always in different homes. And we were in foster homes too, and -- off and on reserve.

And in 1991, that’s when my sister turned 18. She -- she left that home, my auntie’s place, when she turned 18, went on her own. Went to see my sister, visit her. So we planned that time, October 31st, Halloween’s her birthday, we were going to have a big dinner at my place ‘cause we were so happy that we got to see her now. That she’s 18, she can do what she wants, and my aunt can’t hold -- hold her hostage, or whatever. And she didn’t show up at my place.
'Cause what -- when we had that get together, the plan was you -- we -- you guys come to my house for your birthday, Christmas time, we’ll go to Patsy’s in Grande Prairie. She lived in Grande Prairie at the time. Christmas came, no Philomene. And she went all over Grande Prairie asking, “Where’s Philomene? Has anybody seen her?” She didn’t show up. She posted posters, you know, “Has anybody seen her? Phone Patsy.” And she eventually did a missing person with the RCMP. And my sister will talk all about the RCMP investigators and all that. She’s got all the documents.

But, you know, with my mom’s death, like, it was -- it -- I feel so angry when I hear these people mistreating their moms, not helping them, and I long to have a mother which I never had. Then the responsibilities that I had to go through. And -- and one day in ’91, after my sister’s death, I know I needed help somehow. I couldn’t live on -- go on living, suicidal, and angry, and still trying to live -- continue living without my mom, and mad at my mom, and mad at the world, mad at everybody. And so I’d go to these workshops, attend community workshops to -- to heal me.

Then my mother-in-law was the one that said, “Come to church with me.” And then I was mad at God too, like, for taking my mom away, so I never, ever prayed.
Then I went to church, and that’s what helped me was finding God in my life to help me, to take away the pain, take away the anger, take away -- and the other part that I was so mad at was the justice system. That nothing was ever done. They could have tried harder, but they didn’t.

And so I went -- kept going to church. Then one day, something said in your -- my heart, “Go to the grave. Go forgive your mom.” So I went to the graveyard all by myself. I didn’t tell nobody. I went to the grave and forgave her. And I cried, and I talked to her, and as if things has got ripped from my heart, just that heaviness, this -- everything I just wanted to fly in the graveyard there. I just released -- everything got released after that. So went -- went home feeling a little more, you know, go on with my life.

And -- and then 2003, 2003 -- hey, I got so much notes here. 2003, I got struck with cancer. I had to have surgery, chemo, radiation. And there too, like, that was the hardest thing to go through chemo for eight rounds. Third -- 33 radiation treatments. I had to come to Edmonton for six weeks, leave my family. My husband stayed and watched the kids ‘cause I had -- I have four children. I have four children: three girls, one boy. Today, my children are -- [R.] is 40 years old -- no, 42; [L.] is 40; [A.] is 36 and -- no, 30 -- 30 -- 35 I think; and [J.]
(phonetic) is 33. Let’s see, [J.] and [A.] are three years apart.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: What year was he born?

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: ’86 and ’83.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Thirty-one, then.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Yeah.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: For ’86.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Thirty-one.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Okay. Thirty-one and thirty-three. So [A.] will be 34 this January.

So I had cancer, and that was a big trauma in our life. And the whole community, like, I did a lot of volunteering in the community. If there was weddings, funerals, I was always there. And I was the rock of the community, the rock of my whole family. If there was my cousins -- ‘cause my mother had a sister and a brother. My aunt had died in ’83. The only living relative I have right now is my uncle, he’s 82. But everybody used to turn to me for this, for a -- advice, for whatever. I was the rock of the family. And to get struck by cancer and -- but I fought it. I had a fighting spirit. I thought, you know, I went through a lot in my life, so I thought, you know, what? I fought it and -- through prayers, and I pulled through. And I was on stage 4 cancer. And one of the Elders brought me medicine off the land to take. And I
honestly know that’s what saved me was that medicine. That was in 2003.

My late husband was in politics for 16 years. He died as a politicianer (phonetic). He passed away in 2010. And that was another devastating thing in our life. I was totally lost without him. I drank for a year and a half when -- ‘cause I had quit drinking after finding God and, you know, ‘cause without -- I can’t say it, spirituality, you’re going to be totality lost.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** So when he passed away, I just let God go. I was mad at God for taking my husband. And I drank for a year and a half, and the community, the Elders, were just worried about me. But I woke up and come out of the alcohol, quit drinking. And then, you -- you know, I had grandchildren to think of, my children. So -- but still, you know, it still hurts. My mom’s not here and my sister’s not here.

And when this Missing Murdered Woman movement come around, me and my sister got invited to come to the one in Edmonton when they brought the vamps. So two of my friends, are friends from the reserve, but they live in Edmonton, one of them was working in that movement, Missing Murdered -- she made vamps for my mom and my sister. We -- we took a -- event. There was so many, I
think about 1700 vamps. When we walked in, they were with
us. It was so powerful. It was like walking into a -- a
wake. Like, we have wakes when somebody dies. It just
felt -- it just felt like we were going into a wake with
all these dead woman -- missing, murdered -- you know,
murdered woman. We went to that. Then we went to another
event in Grande Prairie last year, I think. Was it last
year? Spring?

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Yeah.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: We went to another
one there. And I went to another one here in Valleyview
about six weeks ago. There, I talked and shared about my
mom and my sister ‘cause we have so many in the community
that got -- had got murdered 40 years ago, 50 years ago,
some still missing that haven’t been found to this day. So
when Patsy phoned me to see if I’d want to come, at first,
I wanted to back away and not re-open my wounds just when
I’m healing.

Plus, her son just -- we just buried my
sister’s son from suicide. And our hearts are torn apart
right now. It’s worse. But I said, “No. I got to go. I
got to come support my sister.” So hopefully, our
story’s -- is going to help. So justice system will
listen, and try to help these missing, murdered woman.
Work harder, get money, funding, whatever, to -- to help to
solve all these unsolved mysteries.

So hopefully, our story here today is going
to help because I would say I’ve been through hell and
back, and I’m a survivor. I would say I’m a warrior. I
didn’t give up. I just tried to fight as much as I can.
Help out people ‘cause I’ve experienced it all. And I
don’t know what else to say. But it’d be nice if all of us
hurting with the missing, murdered, if I could -- we could
meet others, give them hugs. Meet others to let them know
they’re not alone. Have some kind of an event where we
could meet other -- other Aboriginals ‘cause some
Aboriginals aren’t as -- as -- some are so shy. And I’d
say we’re -- in our community, we’re -- we got voices and
we’re strong. And maybe, some way, we could help others,
fought for them, advocate for them, or -- you know. I
guess, that’s all.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** Brenda, I’m just
wondering if I can take you back to the start of your
statement when you were talking about what happened to your
mother -- mother, sorry. Can you give us a little bit more
details about what happened to her?

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** ‘Cause all -- all
we were told was she was murdered.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** Murdered. And it
was my auntie -- my auntie was the one who told us that, plus, the RCMP when they come and said it could be your -- your mother. All I was told, she was murdered and -- and I regret that. Like, I was young. Why didn’t I come to Grande -- Edmonton and do more, you know? But I was young. And today, if it would have happened, I’d be right there, you know, coming to Edmonton and, you know, push the investigators, whoever I have to deal with. I would do anything now. But I was young and --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: I see, yeah.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Yeah.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: And do you know if anyone was charged with the murder of your mother?

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Yes, he was.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Yes?

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Yes, he was. She has all the documents.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Okay. And can you tell us a little bit about Philomene? What -- what happened to her as well, if you have any details?

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: With her, when she went missing for six months. It was through the news and the radio that this couple walking down a walking trail discovered something plastic wrap -- this plastic bag and blankets, it was wrapped --
MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: -- leaning against this old building. And they went to go check it, and they felt, like, they -- a knee. So that’s when they called the RCMP in --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: -- here. Here, it was my sister. And then she -- she did all the phone calls, and -- for that. She’ll share all that --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Okay.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: -- about my sister. And we went to -- the hearings of -- my sister’s hearing about the -- the guy that got charged.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: And we went there one week listening to all the witnesses on the witness stand. But there wasn’t enough evidence to charge that guy. So I had anger with that one too. But then, you know, I wanted to retaliate. I wanted -- then I just -- finally, just said to my sister, “No. Let -- let’s let it go. Let’s forgive him. God will deal with him.” Like, that’s -- that’s how I dealt with her.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Said, “He’ll pay for it at the end.” Which he -- he just passed away here
in January, eh?

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Yeah.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Last -- last January. And from what the family told us, he died of a drug overdose.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: So it was like a -- a sigh of relief. Like, and I thought, “Well, I just left it with God. God will deal with him.” And I forgave him. And she -- she’ll share -- she’ll share all the documents --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Okay.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: -- and re-opening the file. She did all that. So she’s more of the paperwork, and I’m the --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: I see.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: -- the mother hen.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: I see.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: To this day, I’m still the mother, like, for them. So it’s hard, but one day I’ll see my mom again.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: And can you tell us a little bit more about your mother. How was she as a person? Any, like, good memories you have of her, or --

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: She -- she loved to
clean, she loved to sing while she cleaned. She loved to
bake, bake apple pies and homemade bread. And she used to
knit. That’s what I was saying, “How -- how come mom
didn’t teach me how to knit?” Then eventually, the Elders
told me she would -- she was very in -- like, I used to be
a Indian Residential School Health Support Worker --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** -- ‘til I got sick,
when that program came in 2007. I worked there for five
and a half years with the residential school survivors.
From there, I got to know my mom’s school mates. They were
the ones who shared stuff --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** -- about my mom.
And that my mom was an intelligent, smart woman. She was a
honour student. Then, growing up, I guess, she was a nurse
at one time. She was a x-ray technician in Edmonton. And
she had a good heart. She was comical, liked to laugh.
And she sang. And I said, “Well, maybe that’s where I got
my talent from.” ‘Cause now I -- I sing and play guitar.
Yeah. So there was good memories. But there’s bad
memories too. Like, we’re always in foster homes. She was
always in the hospital.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** So my grandmother
and grandfather took us, raised us, and we’d go back and forth. My -- then my step-dad came into our life when I was eight years old. Then they got married in 1967 - July 3rd, 1967. And he took us like his own -- his own, like, all the step-children, he -- he took us as his own. Then when my mom got murdered in ’77, he stayed with us right to the end. And we just buried my step-dad here --

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: August.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: -- he -- he died July 27th --

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Yes.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Ninety-two -- 93 years old. Where we’ve known in the community, some step-dads, when the wife dies, that step-dad goes lives -- makes another life. But he never. He stayed -- stayed to -- stayed with us. And he was grand -- grandfather to my children, and -- and he stayed with us. Like, how awesome is that?

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Yeah. But him too, he had his -- his own pain. And he was in the long-term care for four years. Like, we could of brought pictures. He always had his wedding picture right by --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: -- at his bed. And
he was lonely, and -- and now, it gives us peace that he’s
now with my mom. And he just died peacefully. He wasn’t
sick or nothing. Yeah. So his passing, like, yes, we
cried, it hurt. But he did his job here.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** Not like my nephew,
my sister’s son, he was my godson. So this Christmas is
going to be -- it’s going to be hard on us. ‘Cause a
Native way, her son, her daughter, that’s just like my son
and my -- like, that’s the way we all treat all the
brothers and sisters. You take them like your own. And
it’s going to be hard. And I didn’t think I was going to
cry. I always was the strong one, but it’s -- I’ve never
sat with her to talk --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** -- what I went
through. This is the first time she’s hearing it.
It’ll -- it’s going to be my -- probably my first time
hearing how she felt too. Because when I started having my
kids, she was my babysitter.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** I have pictures --
pictures of her carrying my little kids. Like, she was
just like a big sister to my kids. She’s got grandkids
too, and I have -- I have 15 grandchildren.
MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Oh, wow.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: She has 11. So her grandchildren are my grandchildren too, yeah. So every day is precious to me. Especially, being a cancer survivor. So every day I thank God I’m alive. When I wake up -- ‘cause some -- some people with cancer don’t make it.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: So I’m very lucky. So I think that’s it.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Okay. Thank you. So what I suggest is maybe we can go to -- to Patsy. And if you want to --

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: I need some Kleenex.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Do we still have more boxes? I can go get some more.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Will we have a break? Can we have a break?

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Yeah, definitely we can have a break.

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: (Indiscernible).

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Yeah.

MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: (Indiscernible).

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: It’s 1:20 p.m., and we’re having a break.
--- Upon recessing at 1:20 p.m.
--- Upon resuming at 1:36 p.m.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** So the time is 1:36, and we are back. And Brenda would like to add something --

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** Okay. There’s --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** -- to her statement.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** I just wanted to add on the statement my two brothers, [Brother 1], he’s 57 years old, [Brother 2] is 46, I think, eh, 46, 47. Like, through my mom’s death and my sister, they’ve turned to alcohol. Like, you know, when they were young, yeah, everybody tests drinking, right? Alcohol. But then they’re alcoholics. They have to drink all the time. They’ve never attended no workshops, healing workshops, to heal them. Now, both have been diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver. That, you know, they’re supposed to quit drinking, which they haven’t. So they’re living through a lot of pain. And this -- I’m pretty sure it’s because of my mom and sister’s death. And that’s everything, I guess. And -- and my sister will share the rest.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** Okay. Thank you very much.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** Thank you.
MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Patsy, if you are ready, I will turn to you. What would you like to share with us today, with the National Inquiry?

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: I’m the fourth child of Cecile’s. We had a other sister in between Brenda and [Brother 1], I believe. Her name was [Sister 1].

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: [Sister 1].

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: But I didn’t get to know her or know of her. So it’s like I’m the third child. And I was only 13 when mom passed. And I was raised by my grandparents, and a lot of it was due to my mom having T.B. in the lungs and spending a lot of time in the hospital, which is where she gained the education and experience to become a x-ray technician and a care-aid. And so I spent a lot of my younger years in foster care through the provincial child welfare system, in and out, in and out, and right up until mom passed away in ’77. And then at that time, Brenda took us all in when mom passed away in ’77 and raised us to the best of her abilities at the time. And my brother-in-law Walter provided for us, made sure our needs were met, and was always there for us.

I was too young to understand and deal with systems at 13 years old, and to try and deal with my mom’s death at the time. All I knew was that my mom was murdered, and life went on. And I became pregnant at a
early age, 15. Had my daughter. Brenda raised her the
first couple years while I was still living with her, so I
was with my daughter all the time there.

And then I started working for our First
Nation and started -- my first job was working in a daycare
within our Nation. And got into the health sector and
became a community health representative and went to school
for that. And lost my grandfather in ’83. And I was
pregnant with my second child in ’83. And had three
profound losses during my pregnancy, which was my -- my
best friend, my biological father, and my grandfather. And
after I had my son, I only had him maybe a few months, six,
seven months, and my life just spiraled into a living hell.

And Gary’s mother took my son, raised him
for three years. And in my younger years, I drank a lot to
bury the pain and escape the pain, and just so I didn’t
have to face reality or face the fact that I didn’t have
parents, no mom, no dad, no grandparents. I only had an
auntie at the time, my [Auntie 2] and my Uncle [Uncle 1],
who is the only survivor to this day on my mom’s side. I
had no connection to my dad’s side.

I did a lot of drinking and was very
suicidal after ’83. Attempted suicide 23 times. And I
never, ever wanted to die on any of those attempts. It was
just a scream for help, that I needed help, and just didn’t
know how to go about it. Didn’t know where to turn, what to do. And then on my last attempt, the doctor sent me to 5 South, which is a psych ward in Grande Prairie. And I got an assessment done, and everything was -- came to surface. My life came to surface. And the psychiatrist knew that I didn’t want to die. It was just I needed help in finding some --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** -- some safety mechanisms to keep myself alive, and I wanted to stay alive, and I wanted to raise my children.

And -- and I had my third child. And it started to hit me a lot more about trying to be a better mother to my children. Try to be better than what I got. So I started slowly going to psychiatrists and psychologists and going to self-help groups, and talking about my hurts and pains. And moved away to Grande Prairie.

And I was living in -- in Valleyview, and I just had had my third son, my third child, and I had a -- a flashback of one of my sexual assaults that was imposed on me. And I didn’t know what was going on, and I thought I was crazy. And I ran to the hospital with my son in a stroller and went and seen the doctor. And that’s when the doctor told me I was having a flashback of a sexual
assault. And I just -- I just decided I got to get out of here. Like, I’m going to end up dying somehow, or something serious is going to happen. I need to help myself, and I knew Grande Prairie had a lot of support services and a lot of agencies that could help me, and a lot more mental health services that could help me. So I just -- that day, I just said, “I’m moving.” And I had two, three weeks to pack up and move and find a place.

And I went to Grande Prairie and there was a hairdressing school, and I just went and enrolled in hairdressing. And went back to my reserve and went and seen the education counsellor, and she paid for my move and everything. And that’s how I got into Grande Prairie and started going to see psychologists and dealing with my pain, my mom’s loss, and feeling abandoned as a child, and rejection, not really feeling like I belonged anywhere. Just trying to maneuver my life in the best way I could.

Having a lot of anger to my mom, like Brenda did. And I used to go to her grave. Angry at her for her rejecting me. And telling her she was where she deserved to be because I wouldn’t have went through all the hurt and trauma that I did, if she would have been a mother to me. It wasn’t until the whole residential school process come to be that I learned about my mom’s hurt and pain, and why she couldn’t be a parent to me. And come to reconcile that
at least she loved me enough that she put us in care and
took us off the reserve, so we weren’t exposed to more hurt
and pain. ‘Cause a lot of my cousins lived a life worse
than we did.

So after I started going on my healing
journey and dealing with everything, I was stronger and
able to deal with life. It was manageable. And I was
still drinking and -- but not for the same reason anymore.
I wasn’t drinking for -- to run away or to cover hurt --
cover my hurt and pain. It was just being with company and
enjoying myself.

And then in ’91, I was still living in
Grande Prairie, was when I lost -- we lost our sister. And
then I was old enough to understand the systems by then.
And I became very active in losing my sister and
challenging the RCMP and challenging everybody and anybody
I could, writing letters and getting information, seeking
documentation. And I have my -- I have my mother’s autopsy
and my sister’s autopsy and numerous letters here, and
responses that I got from different federal departments in
the justice system.

And -- so then when I started dealing with
my sister Philomene’s, I remember going home one weekend
and talking to Brenda. And I told her that I was going to
open my mom’s file or see if I can -- if we could start
getting documents about my mom because we were so young, and I said, “I want to know, like, what happened to Mom, and I want to know the truth. I want to know.” So as I was dealing with my sister’s, I was simultaneously dealing with my mother’s as well and getting all the documents and everything. And -- and I don’t think I even shared, or I’m -- I’m not sure because of my son’s loss, just recently I have a -- a real bad memory void now. I noticed I have -- I can’t remember things, like even good things, I can’t -- I’ve got a block, a memory block.

And so this morning, I was reading my mother’s autopsy to my sister because I wasn’t sure I -- she had read it or understood it. And I’ve got a health background. I’m a First Nations health director, and I’ve been in administration for 30 years. And so I was reading the autopsy to her and explaining the different medical terminology on parts of the body and everything. It wasn’t until this morning that we really understood the extent of the beating my mom took. And all I could say after was, “I hope she wasn’t sober when she took that beating.” Because it was severe. Her whole brain was -- she died of brain hemorrhage. And the man that beat her up was a man by the name of William Gilmour, and he was charged with murder, but nothing became of it. It was just a stay of proceedings done on it.
And I remember the day I called the RCMP in Edmonton to start researching and working on my mother’s file. And the RCMP told me, “Where did she die?” And I said, “I think Edmonton, the City of Edmonton.” He said, “Well, it’ll be the EPS you have to work with.” And he gave me the number, and I called EPS. And it was just amazing. Like, God works in mysterious ways. The -- the cop that answered the phone, or fielded my call, was the cop that picked my mom up off the street that day. And he remembered my mom, and he remembered the case and everything, and he was really helpful for me.

And he asked me, you know, what it was I was trying to achieve. And I said, “I want to know if he’s alive, and I want him to pay for my mom’s death.” And, you know, and she left her children behind. And we lived very rough lives and a lot of pain, a lot of turmoil, a lot of trauma throughout our lives. And so he said, “I’ll call you back.” He said, “Just give me a few minutes. I’ll check with Alberta Registries and Vital Statistics to see if he’s still alive or maybe he’s not living.” I said, “Okay.” And it wasn’t even very long, not even half an hour, less -- maybe ten, fifteen minutes, he called me right back to tell me that William Gilmour had passed away. And then I felt like -- more anger, more -- it was like we didn’t get a chance to be her voice, to speak on her
behalf, or I felt like I didn’t have a chance. And that
nobody had paid for her life, not realizing the extent of
the beating that she took the day that she passed away.

It was quite severe because, as I was
reading the autopsy report this morning, she was found at
9:20 in the morning, and she died at -- by 6 that same day.
And she was a Jane Doe in -- in the morgue for a week, like
my sister said. It -- had it been for one of my mom and my
step-dad’s friends that went to go identify another
individual, he accidently -- they pulled the wrong drawer.
And it was my mom in that drawer, and he identified her.
That’s how that come to be.

But life has been really, really hard. I’m
53 now and it’s probably only the last maybe five, six
years that life has been good for me. Prior to that, it
was just a lot of self-destruction and self-destruction due
to pain and agony. And having to go back, you know, to my
mom’s grave and telling her I’m sorry for saying what I did
’cause I didn’t understand her life and the pain she went
through in residential school, and that’s why she left us.
She had a lot of pain and a lot of trauma and didn’t know
how to deal with it. And she escaped through alcohol.
That’s why she left the reserve and come to live in
Edmonton and died at the hands of some monster that took
our mom away from us.
She never got to see any of my kids. And that even hurts my kids 'cause they all -- at different times, they’ll say, you know, they wish they had a grandma. And now, my children have children. And it just seems like it just ends at us, our generation. We don’t have -- I look at people that have three, four, five generations, and we don’t have that. We’ve never had an opportunity to have that.

So I talk to my kids a lot about my pain. They know my story, my life story. I keep telling them, “We got to break the cycle and not depend on alcohol and drugs to deal with our pain.” More so lately, since I lost my son. I lost my son September 4th to suicide. And after I lost my son, I started researching intergenerational trauma in our DNA. And when I stopped to realize how much trauma my mom went through in residential school and how the trauma I went through, even carrying that son that committed suicide, and the mental health that he had or was battling, it’s like he didn’t even have a chance. He was only 35.

It just feels like my life has been full of pain all the time. One thing after another, I just seem to find a means and a way to heal from something, and then, bang, I’m hit with something again. Just when I’m getting up, I’m knocked down. I feel like -- and through all that
pain, I always long to have my mom, just to hold me, comfort me. That’s something I could never have.

And I remember hearing stories, and I don’t even know where they’re from, as a young girl as to how my mom died. I had heard something about the -- she was just disposed under the High Level Bridge or Low Level Bridge, one of the bridges one time. And so those things always rang in my head as a child, you know, just wondering what happened to my mom. And so it -- it gave me some peace when I finally started working on her case and trying to understand what really happened to her, and then at least I got the truth and -- on paper.

And my sister -- my sister Philomene, there’s no cause of death. I don’t know what Albert (phonetic) Lamouche did to her. I believe in my heart it was Albert Lamouche. If he moved her body, he had a reason to dispose her body. And I believe it was him that took her life. I haven’t forgiven him. I’m not ready to forgive him. And I’m probably glad that he’s gone too.

I turn to my Native spirituality for -- for my peace of mind, my guidance. I pray to my grandfather a lot, my grandmother. That’s what gets me through. And lately, I just talk to my son a lot when I’m driving, just to take care of me and his siblings, and lighten my load.

One thing that really bothers me is both --
for both cases, I -- I don’t remember any agency or federal agency coming to talk to us after both losses. More so my sister’s because it was in ’91, right? So it’s like, with the times where there was nobody there to come and try and see us through the court system. You know, I had to manoeuvre that myself on behalf of our own family. And had I not taken the initiative to -- to be involved, you know, it would have been -- what would have been the outcome of same -- probably the same as my mom. Like, I just feel like my mom was treated like just another dead Indian. Literally, that’s how I feel. Like, her life didn’t matter. Her -- her life had no worth. She wasn’t worth the paper the autopsy’s written on.

You know, no -- any type of support service that the Attorney General’s Office could offer our First Nation people, ‘cause we’re so vulnerable. We’re a vulnerable population. And I just, like, I don’t know. I just -- it angers me how the system treats Aboriginal people collectively on all different sectors. And still to this day, you know, if the movement of missing and murdered women didn’t exist, how would we be treated? We would be treated the same. That’s how I feel.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** I feel like it would be just another -- yeah, we’re just passed on to be just
another -- I just don’t like the way my people are treated. We’re just like an animal, right? Like as -- no worth, no life, no -- no meaning, and that really bothers me.

So when we started getting involved with Missing and Murdered Women, the ceremonies me and my sister attended, I knew this existed, the National Inquiry. And I think it was in Grande Prairie where I filled out the form, and somehow it got lost, and couldn’t connect, and finally made a connection. And I’m glad that I could be here to speak on my mom today, and my sister, and try and represent them the best way that both my sister and I can. And just so that they know they are worthy to be heard.

We didn’t even get to know our baby sister. We were just going to start to have a relationship with her. And she was just ripped away from us. Just a lot of hurt and pain.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Maybe, just to clarification, you said that your mother had an autopsy, but at the beginning, she didn’t. So it is like following your -- the procedures that you started that your mother had an autopsy? Or she already had it before?

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: She had it.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: She had it, okay.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Yeah. The autopsy was done right after she passed away.
MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: But we didn’t have access --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: I see.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- or it was not shared with us until I initiated opening up the file and --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: It’s how -- how thick, eh?

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Yeah. It’s --

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: It’s thick.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: It’s -- it’s in a very extensive -- and I’m willing to share both --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Okay.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- you know, to -- to show how my words and feelings of, you know, they were nothing. Like, when you look at the autopsy of my mother’s, like, it’s -- it’s very thick and -- like, she was just beaten right to a pulp. It’s, like, pages and pages of -- oh.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: And you said that this William Gilmour was never charged and never convicted?

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Thirteen pages it describes of how her body was just literally beaten to a pulp. Like, hemorrhaging, basically right from her brain,
her neck, all the way down --

MS. BRENA GOODSWIMMER: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- to her upper thighs. Internal injuries of all kinds, and no drugs, no alcohol. The only drugs that were in her were just a little bit of Sudafed. But she used to always drink --

MS. BRENA GOODSWIMMER: Yeah.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- cough syrup.

MS. BRENA GOODSWIMMER: ‘Cause of her lungs.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: And -- and that’s all. That there’s no alcohol, and that’s all I could say to Brenda after I read the autopsy to her this morning was, “I hope mom wasn’t in a sober state when she took that beating because --” You know, it’s -- it’s very -- it’s a very severe beating she took. It’s not just, you know, getting knocked around in the head.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: It’s her whole body.

MS. BRENA GOODSWIMMER: Well, even at the wake, when we had the wake, I remember the bruises.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: M’hm.

MS. BRENA GOODSWIMMER: There was blue marks on her face.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Oh. And -- and do
you know if, like, this William Gilmour was ever charged or
convicted of any crimes?

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: He was charged.
MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Yeah. There’s
records here.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.
MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Yeah.
MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Do you know if he
was ever convicted?

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: No. We just said there
was a stay of proceedings is all.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Okay. Yeah. And
what about this Albert Lamouche?

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: All he was charged was
for interference with human remains.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: I see. Because he
moved the body?

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Yeah. He admitted to
moving the body --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.
MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- from his mom’s house
to --

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: That building.
That old house.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: No. Just -- it was a
fence. There was a fence, and her body was just propped up
against the fence and covered in -- it was a back alley is
where her body was. And -- so when they would grade, thank
God, you know, her body didn’t go with the grading.
That there was a snow bank.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** There was already -- so
the snow preserved her body for -- from what -- like, I
don’t know what day this happened, right? And it was never
stated. I don’t remember in the court proceedings on what
day he had moved her, to even have an idea if it was
November or December.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** I don’t have that. So
he was charged with murder under Section 20 -- 218 of the
Criminal Code.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** And: (as read)

On September 2nd, 1977, in the
Provincial Court of Alberta a stayed of
proceedings was entered by the Crown.
It would appear that no further
prosecution of the charges undertaken
by the Crown. Should you require
confirmation, enquiries on interim
remand dates and the final disposition may be directed to the Court Clerk.

And I didn’t proceed after that because then I -- I found out that he was deceased. And what more information was going to help, it wasn’t going to. Yeah, I just -- but I have a response from the Royal art -- Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Edmonton Police Service, and the Medical Examiner’s Office, which has the autopsy report. And her cause of death was subarachnoid hemorrhage, trauma to the head. She died at the U of A Hospital.

It was funny because I’ve had these, obviously, since ‘91, right? All -- all this information. And I was trying to prepare to come to do this, and I was looking for this blue book all over.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: And I couldn’t find it, couldn’t find it. And I had done my shed a couple months ago, and I found it. And I said, “Here’s the book.”’Cause I always remember this blue book. I have notes of the proceedings, court. When we went to court, I detailed what --

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: The --

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- the people said on the stand.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: The witness stand.
That one-week hearing.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Yeah. I have all the hearing statements that -- that went on. And --

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: All the different people that --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Went to court and took the stand.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Yeah.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: And then I lost it again, and I was looking for it on the weekend and I was just, like, “Where is it? Like, what did I do with it?” I just -- because of my memory block. I knew I had come across it --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- and I just couldn’t find it. And then all a sudden, yesterday morning, it was right with my son’s leather jacket. I just said, “Thank you, son.” I have all the newspaper clippings when we lost our sister. Right from the start.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: When they found the body.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Like, even still to this day, like, she’s -- her life --

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Here’s her funeral
MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: There’s --

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: And this is her.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: You have a picture of her.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Yeah. She looked like our mom. I -- I’d -- I was going to bring our picture of my mom, me, and my baby.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: I have a picture -- oh, and she was there too.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: She was there too.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: But she was, what? Seven years old, I think.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Yeah. Six.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Or five years old. I have -- and I couldn’t find that picture. I thought I had it in my phone, but I think it’s in my memory stick from my other pictures from before. I think it’s there.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: And there’s the -- when I was working on my sister Philomene’s case, there was a constable that was very, very helpful. Constable Payne (phonetic) his last name was. That was probably the only guy that I felt cared. Like, he would actually just pop in
to my home, knock on the door, and come and check, you
know, make sure. And we were ready to do a re-enactment in
Grande Prairie at one time --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- and the guy that
agreed to do the re-enactment backed out on us less than
six hours to the re-enactment. We had the crew in Grande
Prairie and everything all ready.

There’s people that knew -- that know, but
of course they won’t talk, right? No matter how many times
they got questioned or were in the cells with a private --
private-eye. Like, they went through a lot of -- for my
sister, they did. They went through a lot. But still to
this day, nobody’s paid the price for her, right? And I
haven’t heard from anybody. I moved back to Sturgeon in
’94. So since ’94, nobody’s reached out to us to give us
an update, to tell us the case has remained opened. Like,
there’s nothing. There’s no follow-up to -- with
families --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- at all, you know.

There’s no -- there’s no connection, no nothing. It
just -- a forgotten dead person, it’s almost like.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Patsy, you’ve been
talking about intergenerational trauma. And -- and my
question will be for both of you. How do we break the
cycle of intergenerational trauma? How we break the cycle
that we have seen? What the steps further? What are the
steps we need to take to break the cycle?

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** I think some -- one
thing for sure is definitely reaching out to people who are
affected with severe trauma, such as us, right? So you
look at how young we were at -- at the time of losing our
mom and had nothing.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** Like, nobody came to
us. Nobody offered services to help my sister with us. To
help her financially to raise us, to -- you know.
Absolutely nothing. And we’re victims, right?

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** And, you know, not --

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** I don’t even
remember --

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** Not that any --

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** -- Social Services.
Nobody -- they never -- I never had welfare for them.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** My husband worked,
and we just clothed them and fed them. Or there was no
such thing as Victim Services at -- back then, I don’t
think. Yeah.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** Like even today, you know, I -- I know no amount of money will bring my mom back, but I’d love to see a headstone on her grave. And it’s something we can’t afford, but I’d love to see that she was somebody. She was somebody’s mother. She was my mom, and my sister’s. I’d love to see a headstone on her grave too that I did -- like, she was somebody. You know, this is years and years after now.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** We go -- we go cut the grass. We go put -- plant flowers. But we can’t afford a headstone.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** You know, intergenerational trauma, there’s -- there has to be -- it’s got to be more than just a word to society. I don’t know, you know, if you guys have a travelling Elder that you guys work with where, you know, that person would make connections with communities, right? Like for us in Sturgeon Lake. What -- what has the Inquiry or what -- I’d like to inquire as one of the recommendations is when these tragedies happen, that there’s somebody reaching out to families to try and help them through the process. And it has to be a First Nation person that does that on our behalf. Because, as First Nation people, we’ve went through a lot of trauma, and we’ve been victimized in a lot
of ways, and we have a hard time trusting; therefore, it has to be somebody that has brown skin, looks Native, and knows how to build a relationship with me to build a trust with them. And to see those families through this process, to help them get the autopsy reports, to help them through the court process.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: To help them understand what the court proceedings look like, you know. I think of our isolated communities in northern Alberta, you know. It’s pipeline country. We were just talking about it outside with Gary. And a lot of our women get victimized out there, right?

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Fort McMurray, oil country. And God knows how many women are out there, you know, still not found and haven’t been -- had a proper burial. So there needs to be some kind of a facilitated process for families to assist them to -- to see these processes through. ‘Cause it’s a lot, you know, emotionally and mentally you’re going through a lot as it is, let alone to think of this. And if you don’t know nothing about it, what do you do? You sit back, right?

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Just like we did for
the number of years in relation to -- to my mother. Until
we lost our sister, then it -- you know, like, this is
enough. I need to do something and --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- you know. Took
and -- take -- take -- took the initiative to find out what
was going on with my sister and making sure that I did
everything possible I could on her behalf. And then, you
know, trying to get information on my mom so that we knew
what happened to my mom. My brothers haven’t even -- they
probably don’t even know I have this autopsy.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Nor would they ever
read it, if I ever gave them the opportunity. You know,
it’s just not -- my older brother, he’s very emotional.
He’s, you know, just -- just to see us, his eyes well up in
tears, you know. And lately, he’s always telling us he
loves us. So, you know --

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Just like last
night, first time I’ve heard my brother [Brother 1] say, “I
love you,” on the phone.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: So you know, like, more
and more -- ‘cause, I know [one line redacted - private
information]. And, you know, in the back of my mind I
start to think, [three lines redacted - private
information], he’s in pain, and he’s -- he’s emotionally
really sensitive.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** And that’s from, you
know, our losses, our pains. Nobody -- to assist him, to
understand what happened here, and navigate in his mind
what happened to my mom and my sister. And, you know, what
was done on their behalf, if anything.

So there has to be a lot more family
supports for families that are -- and not just through that
time, right? Like, I don’t know, two years after, five
years after, every year after, just connecting, you know.
Just making sure that whatever the family wants, whether
it’s religion, therapy, ceremony, whatever it is, you know.
That families are allowed to have those to see them through
their -- their journey towards healing, so that they’re not
carrying on that trauma, right? To next --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** ‘Cause, for us, you
know, it was with my mom, and then me and my son and, you
know, my grandchildren. He left four kids behind. So
already, we’re four generations into trauma myself.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** Just my -- myself. And
it really messes a person up. So, you know, you come into
this world messed up without even a chance.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: You know, it’s just -- and researching all of that stuff and trying to understand my son’s mental health, and his state of everything, right? Like -- like I said, you know, I -- I miss my son, but I’m just glad he’s not suffering here no more. [Private information - four lines redacted]. And, you know, that’s generation after generation after generation. And, of course, just like anything else, as time goes on, it also gets deeper, harder, right? So the mental -- the mental state of our people is worsening. [Private information - one line redacted]. It’s much more than, you know, light terminology that’s out there in society. It’s trauma.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: It’s trauma. How do you put a word into trauma, right? It’s in our DNA. And we struggle every day just to survive the day. So definitely, you know, a lot of supports need to be put into place. And follow-up for families, so that they’re not forgotten, and somebody does care about their loved one, you know. That’s critical.

And seeing them through the court processes, if there are court processes, right? Make them understand what -- what’s going to happen. What are they going to
experience? What are they going to hear? So that they’re prepared. ‘Cause when they walk out with all that hurt and pain, probably 90 percent of our people go and do a drug --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- go and do alcohol to bury that pain again.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Just like this here. When I took that -- when I went to those inter -- the residential school hearings, this -- this is precious, these tears.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Yeah.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: I’m going to ask Gary to --

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Take them home.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: -- take them home --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: -- and burn them.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Burn them.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Yeah. I was already thinking of that, too.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: When I --
MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: ‘Cause I had a couple pieces here from when she was talking. And I was going to throw them, and I said, “No. These are (Indiscernible)”.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: So maybe, you know --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: We usually have tears of -- bags of tears, but I think there have been some problem with the logistic, and we -- unfortunately, usually we have them, and we burn them, and we have a ceremony in the end.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Yeah.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: So I’m really glad, if you can do it on yourself because they --

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Yeah. I was going to ask Gary --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Yeah.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: -- to take these.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: That will be really great.

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: M’hm.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Yeah.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Yeah.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: ‘Cause we have -- usually during hearings, many people that share their stories, right?
MS. BRENSDA GOODSWIMMER: Right.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: And their truth, so lots of pain and, you know. And usually what we do is at the end, we burn the tissues.

MS. BRENSDA GOODSWIMMER: Yeah.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: But everybody’s together, right?

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: M’hm.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: So the pain goes away all together, right?

MS. BRENSDA GOODSWIMMER: Yeah.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: But unfortunately -- so I’m glad if it -- there is another option here ‘cause we unfortunately had some --

MS. BRENSDA GOODSWIMMER: M’hm.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: -- problems.

Yeah. And -- oops, sorry. Go ahead.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Is there always going to be an office from the Inquiry in Edmonton that families can reach to -- like, after everything is said and done, right?

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Yes.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Like, the government has mandated this process to happen.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.
MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: So after this is all said and done, and reports are -- reports are made, recommendations are made and implemented, like, who speak -- who speaks on behalf of the families as a whole collective?

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: After that, I think there will be, like, when it comes to, like, after-care, it will be taken over by Health Canada. So it’s really like this ministry that will be, like, taking over.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Just like residential school.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Exactly. ’Cause after, as you said, the mandate is done, we don’t have jurisdiction.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: M’hm.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: There’s nothing necessarily we can do as the National Inquiry, but already Health Canada has been taking over.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: M’hm.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: And will be taking over to be sure that we have a continuity. And -- and not -- when the National Inquiry is done, then everything is done. That would be terrible.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Yeah.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: So that’s to be
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1 sure that --

2 MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: So I’m one of those

3 Tribal Councils.

4 MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’m.

5 MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: So I got 30,000.

6 That’s not even, you know -- that doesn’t even begin to

7 touch the surface of what my community needs --

8 MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

9 MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- on healing. And we

10 have a lot of murdered and missing women from Sturgeon

11 Lake. We have lots. Remember that time, that very first

12 one [S.W.] moved back to the reserve, and we had that one

13 at the school? And just Elsie, (phonetic), Murray

14 (phonetic) -- Elsie, Joe (phonetic), Susan (phonetic),

15 Gloria (phonetic), you, and me.

16 MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Oh, yeah. We

17 had --

18 MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: And we come up with how

19 many? Thirty some names?

20 MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Yeah.

21 MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Just from six --

22 MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: From -- from the

23 reserve.

24 MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- six people. So I

25 look at that 30,000, like, really, what can I do
substantially? I don’t want to be like the federal government and open these wounds, and I can’t offer them anything. It’s got to be bigger and more than, you know. Our people, we’re -- we feast a lot.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** So even for me to bring somebody into my community and do a -- a workshop on trauma --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** -- to explain -- explain what trauma is, how can you deal with trauma? You know, I have to rent a hall, I have to provide transportation for those that really need to be there, families affected, provide a meal. So 30,000 is not going to take me very far.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** Plus, probably have therapists there too, on hand --

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** Yeah. And --

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** -- at the time.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** -- so, you know, it was almost like a -- a slap in the face for me. I was quite offended when I got the contribution agreement for 30,000.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** And I have two workers. I have an emotional worker, and I have a cultural. So I
just split it, you each get 15,000, you know. What can they really do?

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: So the government needs to really look at that as well, right?

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Like, it’s one thing to give the mandate of Murdered and Missing Women to Health Canada, but fund it properly, sufficiently, so that it has -- it makes a difference --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- to the people that need it, right? That it has to be -- you know. And what I’ve been trying to implement is almost like sharing circles, doing a craft. Because I’ve noticed even with myself, I’m a lot stronger today to talk now, but five years ago, I would have to be busy. I wouldn’t be able to look at you.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: I wouldn’t be able to give eye contact. And our people are like that. And, especially, if you’re crying. There’s no way you’re going to get eye contact. So it’s -- when we’re doing circles, I find it easier to do a craft that you’re busy, and you could just talk away.
MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: And it’s working in Sturgeon with the women’s group.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: I do a women’s group --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: -- every two weeks. And the circle is getting bigger. I do crafts.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Teach them crafts.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: And on your side, Brenda, do you have any recommendations on how -- I -- I know, Patsy, you shared, like, really interesting recommendation, but do you have yourself things that you would like to see changing? Or any recommendations on how to change things?

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: I think she said it all.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Okay. That’s good.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Like, because I work -- I had the experience of working with the Indian residential school --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: -- survivors, and
through the healing foundation money, we -- like, we had workshops, all different kinds of workshops. And say the -- like, the sexual abuse, the parenting -- there was -- we had so many topics: parenting, sexual abuse, drug and alcohol, grief and loss -- what’s that one? My mind went black. Anyways, we had a lot of healing workshops. And it started off small ‘cause you can’t force them to come to the workshop, right? They have to want --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** -- want. But -- but then the circle started getting bigger ‘cause this one shared it with that one it was good. And then the circle started getting bigger. They started sharing. And I seen a big difference in those Indian residential school survivors. They started -- ‘cause at first, they were like this. Then six months later, they’d -- they -- they were able to talk.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** And that -- that really helped. Like she said, nobody come to see me. Nobody come to see us after my mom’s death.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** And, yeah. So that inter -- intergenerational, it still happens ‘cause it just keeps going ‘cause nobody there to -- how would I say it?
Like the -- my mom, the intergenerational, what she went through, they never had workshops --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** -- or anything for her after she left the -- the residential school. So it -- like she said, we -- it’s got to be broken.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** And that’s what I told my kids, my daughters. Like, you got to -- you got to hug your daughters, your kids. Tell them you love them. Protect them. Like, there’s so much in this world now with the drugs, alcohol, and so much happening. Like, we have to break the cycle.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** And watch who babysits your kids and, you know. And make -- like, with my -- my son, when he -- they’d drink, I went and took the little granddaughter out of that house --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** -- to protect her. But now, I’m living with my son in my house where I raised my kids, after I lost my husband. I’ve been with my son and his -- ‘cause he’s a single parent --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** -- of the six-year-
old girl. So I live with -- with him, just the three of us.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** And when we lost our sister, I figure we lost her about mid -- early November was the last time -- within a week of her last sighting, I was able to track down, between her friend. I reported her missing three times before an actual missing persons file was opened in January. And it’s confirmed in the news -- newspaper clippings here: (as read)

> Although she was reported missing in January, police believe she may have been missing since as early as November. He didn’t say -- said RCMP spokesman Constable Ian Sanderson.

He didn’t say why she wasn’t reported missing until January. Although, I challenged them right away. I was here on this date, I spoke to this constable, I was here on that date.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** But they didn’t open the file ‘til January. So, again, there we were -- where I feel like even though they helped me a lot after her body was found, leading up to that --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.
MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- I didn’t get the
help, you know, that I needed and was searching for. I
made my own posters and went plastered them around Grande
Prairie, me and my friends.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: So do you remember
the answer you receive when you actually went to the RCMP
and told your sister was missing?

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Well, the first time,
he took the name and number -- my name --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Okay.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- my number contact.
And I assumed there would be a file opened, right?

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Based on the
information the information they took from me. And I
hadn’t heard, hadn’t heard, so I phoned again. Like, I
waited a month or so, then I phoned again. And then that
was taken over the phone. And then, I think, then January
was then -- I said, “I want a file number.”

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Like, I want to walk
away with a number I can reference. And that was when they
opened a file.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: I see.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: So Christmas had come
and gone, she wasn’t at the supper table with us. And we knew something, you know. Her -- her -- she had just got an apartment with her friends. She hadn’t been home. You know, there was just absolutely no sign of her.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: And the -- the unknown. Like, going to bed wondering, where is she? Waking up.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: (Indiscernible).

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: For six months, it was a living hell for us --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: -- trying to sleep and wake up. And now, just to think of these ones that are missing. Like --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm. M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: -- some of them, like in Valleyview, the -- my friend there, her daughter’s been gone ten years. I just can’t imagine. No wonder why she’s into drugs.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: And, you know, ‘cause they still haven’t found her.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: She doesn’t know where she -- you know, where this daughter is. You know
[Friend 1]? Her daughter. And us, ours was only six months. It was -- it was so hard, eh?

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** Yeah.

**MS. BRENDI GOODSWIMMER:** Waking up, where is she? Going to bed, you know. We went through a lot of stress worried about her, wondering where to -- that happened to us. For -- to wait ten years ‘til -- I don’t know.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. BRENDI GOODSWIMMER:** Just -- yeah, I just feel for those families.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** And the other part is the justice system itself. If you have -- you know, if the justice system has proof so-and-so killed, like, it’s really painful to know that person can just walk in, grab a piece of paper, and walk back out. That’s really hurtful. If there’s obvious proof this person is guilty --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** -- of a murder, like, why do they let him out? You know, it’s disregard for the human’s life in my mind. And the justice system -- justice of Canada, not just Alberta. Canada. The Criminal Code of Canada --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** -- needs to change in
such a way that when there is very obvious guilt, that
these people should not be allowed out again.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: And the -- the
sentences have to be worthy of a person’s life. Not two
years and plea bargain with the Crown. That really bothers
me, how one’s life could be plea bargained. You know, it’s
just like a friend -- it’s just like a handshake, you know,
that person isn’t worth nothing. Let’s shake and agree to
their life is only worth two years, six months.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm. So, if I
may ask, I don’t know if you’ve heard about the Gladue
report.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Yeah. I’m aware --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Yeah.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- of the Gladue
report.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: So what will be
your opinion. Like, why -- because the Gladue report,
basically, what it does is that, for instance, if we have a
person that is from -- from a First Nation community, and
he’s an offender, when it comes to sentencing, like, the
judge will be taking consideration, for instance, the
trauma he has been, like, through. Like his historic
trauma, intergenerational trauma.
MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: M’hm.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: And sometime the sentencing is not as much as another person, so that makes that sometimes for, like, a crime for a murder or something like this, the person will receive a lesser sentence.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: M’hm.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: But considering the trauma the person have been through. So I would be -- and that’s -- we’ve been hearing that a lot in the hearing. That, for instance, some people don’t receive punishment -- the right punishment, but at the same time, when we are thinking about the Gladue report, it’s to -- in fact, to counter -- like, to be able to say that we recognize that this person had a trauma. And that this trauma probably led him to do this things. So how -- what will be your opinion on that? Should we be recognizing those thing? Is this, like, part -- is our system, justice system, works properly in your opinion?

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: No. I understand the Gladue report. And I understand the trauma in, you know, if I went and committed murder based on what I carry today --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- you know, without taking, you know, a lot of time thinking it through to give
you an answer, there should be a minimum --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- at minimum.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Across the board.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Yeah.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: You kill somebody, you know, I don’t know if it -- the number should be five years, but there should be a minimum.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: You just took somebody’s life.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: And I understand we all have trauma. You know, there’s probably no First Nation person walking around here that does not have trauma.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm. M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: I understand that, but that should not supersede somebody’s life.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: That life is life.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: They can’t come back.

This person can sit in jail for, you know, if it was a minimum of five years, they can heal. They can work on
their trauma. This person that’s six feet under the

ground, has no opportunity.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** So a fast, quick

answer, that would be my answer.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** That’s --

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** That if there --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** Thank --

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** -- has to be a minimum,

you know. Taking into consideration that they, you know,

have been traumatized --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** -- sexually abused,

beaten up, but -- you name it, right?

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** All of it. There still

should be a minimum --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** Minimum.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** -- that has --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MS. PATSY CAMPBELL:** -- to be served

globally because a life is a life. And that person is six

feet under the ground. They don’t have the opportunity to

heal from trauma as that person sitting in jail does, if

they even go to jail. Depends how good the writer is.
There’s some very good writers out there.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: They could walk away without not even paying the price of that person’s life. That’s not right. I don’t care how traumatized you are. Life is life.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: It can’t be brought back. My mom’s life can’t be brought back.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: My sister’s life cannot be brought back. And all he paid for was two weeks --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- for moving her body. That’s all he got. And the only reason he got two weeks, ‘cause he breached and had to do dead time. That two weeks. So he --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Oh.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- his lawyer plea bargained for that dead time of two weeks was equivalent to moving her body.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Yeah.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: So I don’t think that fair -- that’s fair.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Okay.
MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: So that’s probably the quickest way I could answer --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: That’s good.

Thank you.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- Gladue report.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Well, thank you.

That’s it because we had, like, many people, like, telling us, like, the same thing you’re -- you’re telling us today. And I’m just wondering what’s the, like, the feeling about it.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: M’hm.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Right? With in -- most of the people answered exactly what you just said. That it has to be still fair. Like --

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: Yeah. It still has to be fair.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Yeah, exactly.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: That person doesn’t have an opportunity to come back --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- and go sit in jail and have three meals a day, and a warm bed, and an Elder doing ceremony for them. They don’t have that opportunity, so --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.
MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: -- you still have to pay for your actions.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: You know.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Absolutely.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: You can’t go around hurting people intentionally, possibly, without paying the price.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: And some people do, right? Some people -- and if you’re not making an effort to find healing, that’s even worse because then you’re just using a system, such as Gladue report, to get you off.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: But you continue to drink, you continue to drug, you continue to, you know, self-destruct without trying to heal yourself. So that’s the way I probably could best answer that.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Thank you. Thank you. Well, you, basically -- like, all the question that I wanted to ask, have been asked, but I was wondering if you would like to add something else about what you shared with us today, this afternoon?

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Not real -- I think I’m done, but I just thought maybe our support here, Jerry
and Gary --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: -- if they want to share something. How they feel about the missing, murdered woman.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Maybe -- would you guys want to share a little bit?

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: I could, yeah.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: How you feel and --

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: Yeah.

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: ‘Cause they’ve been our support --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Will -- will you --

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: -- through a number of sessions.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Will you be comfortable then -- just have -- you will have, like, we’ll need to get your consent --

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: Yeah.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: -- that we will put you in the camera. So if it’s okay, I’ll be asking as well, are you comfortable if I turn the camera to you --

MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: Yeah.
MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: Yeah.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: And then we’re recording --

MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: He is.

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: I am.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: -- and that we’re recording --

MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: He likes the camera.

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: I’m camera friendly.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Okay. So then you’ll hear record as well.

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: Okay. Yeah.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: And I will have to get your consent as well afterwards.

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: Okay.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Okay?

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: Close up.

MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: (Indiscernible).

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: You don’t want to be there, Jerry?

MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: I’ll -- I’ll speak after.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: I’ll just --

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Okay.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Yes, after. I’ll
move it after.

MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: Right.

MS. BRENTA GOODSWIMMER: Okay.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: 'Cause if not -- we’ll be (Indiscernible), yes.

MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: Yeah.

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: Okay. Are you ready?

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: I’m ready, if you are.

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: Yeah, okay. Well, yeah, I -- I have been on the journey with my cousins here. I remember those days quite clearly when the news came. What really hurt me the most was watching them hurt, and the way that the -- the justice system treated them. And remembering when my uncle was being investigated for even committing the crime of murder against his own daughter, and how that really in -- really impacted the family a lot.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: And how they investigated him. And -- and how the -- even the Grande Prairie paper had to retract, and -- and apologize for the way that they -- that they portrayed Philomene in the paper, and kind of smeared her in a way. Kind of a really sly way.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.
MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: And -- in saying that the family didn’t care that nothing was done, and why now. After her body was found, that all of a sudden now she’s missing. So they had to retract that. And that -- that was some of the things that really stood out for me. And that so -- but always there’s things missing.

Like, even with this Inquiry and this -- this hearing, like the cultural peace, the medicines and that. And I question where is that? And then they’ll say, “Well, there’s something happened.” Or this or that, but really, you know, it -- that should be the -- in the forefront --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: -- because looking after my two cousins here is -- is the -- is priority. And to open up their wounds and to send them off, there are certain ceremonies that could be done that could help them in a way to leave what they need to leave here today with. And that’s not in place.

And my -- my recommendation, I have a couple, would be that -- that Elders take a big role and actually a lead role in when a -- a missing or murdered woman is found, that they be the ones that accompany the RCMP or the police to -- to relay the -- the news to the family. And play a big role in supporting the family from
that journey, from that day on, to see them through ’til the very end, and to be -- be able to be their support person, their person to go to -- for ceremony, or when they need healing, or that, so that they’re -- that’s -- that’s looking -- looked after. ‘Cause you -- you have to really look at the -- the four realms. That -- that we need to look after people when they’re healing is the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: The spiritual component is always left out, which was federal Canada -- the federal government doesn’t really value that piece. When really, it’s the piece that will really heal our people.

And even in the justice system, the -- the warehousing of -- of -- we have a -- a high population of Aboriginal people, both brothers and sisters, in -- in the jail system. And most of those people are -- are innocent, but yet they’re money makers. We’re money makers. And as long as the -- the federal government can continue saying we have such a great -- a great employment rate in Alberta or in Canada, so again most of those people are being employed to look after us, or to dictate to us how to live. When to wake up, when to take a crap, and -- being guards, right down to janitors.

In the health care system, I see a lot of
Aboriginal people in -- in hospitals. They don’t need to.
It’s because of the trauma that they’re experiencing. And
suicide attempts, all that. Like, I see in the ICU on a
daily basis there’s brothers and sisters that come into the
ICU that -- that are unnamed, unknown. And then when
they’re -- no -- when they found out they’ve been beaten to
death or that, they don’t even make the news. So, you
know, these people have a life. As my cousin Patsy was
saying, they’re -- they -- they have a mother, they have a
father, they’re somebody’s brother, somebody’s dad,
somebody’s you know?

But, you know, it would be -- and then this
Gladue report, and I -- and I totally agree with Patsy,
that dues have to be paid. You know, we all have -- I --
I’ve had a very rough -- rough childhood. But I -- I stood
up and broke the cycle. And that was my -- my focus. And
when we do this, and we -- we award these people of, oh,
you had a -- you know, you were strapped when you were
young, or -- so we’ll give you five years less, right,
because of that. That’s B.S. Because if -- if they’re
saying that they have all this trauma, and they carry all
this trauma, they should -- I would give them more time
in -- in jail to be able to think about what you’ve done,
and to heal yourself in jail. So in five years time, when
you present yourself to the Parole Board, and you’re still
damaged, you still haven’t dealt with your -- with your
trauma, then, okay, we’re going to add another five years.
Until you can deal with your trauma, we will release you
back out to community as a healed person. You took a life,
what is to say that you can’t -- you won’t take another
life --

MS. PATSY CAMPBELL: M’hm.

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: -- if we release you,
you know, without -- with you still being very damaged. So
this Gladue report, is -- is really just a scapegoat to --
to allow people to go out and commit more crime, to fill
those beds in the -- in the jail system.

Those jails shouldn’t even be there. If a
person were to commit this crime and that, and kill
someone, they should be -- like I said, be -- be given more
time. But not having the non-Aboriginal people look after
them or to -- to create jobs for non-Aboriginal people.
But to be able to provide services and programs, and all
that, in the jail system where they can heal these people.
Because our brothers or sisters, they’re adults now,
they’re still being -- they’re still being raised by the
federal government, being told when to go to bed, when to
go to -- you know, to the bathroom.

And then you see this whole Inquiry, right.
And I have yet to see an Aboriginal person represent this
Inquiry. It’s all non-Aboriginal people that are being paid to -- to do this work. Where’s our people? They’re not here, right? So that’s what my -- my recommendation is, start looking at the people. It’s our people that is going to be healing --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MR. GARY MOOSTOOS:** -- our people, not the other way around. We’re sick and tired of being told how to do things or when to do things, or that. So anyways, sorry if I -- if I -- if I over --

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** Stayed.

**MR. GARY MOOSTOOS:** -- if I stepped on anybody’s toes, but those are only toes out of life.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** Thank you.

**MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER:** M’hm.

**MR. GARY MOOSTOOS:** So, I mean, people need to learn and listen. The truth hurts sometimes, but really, I want to see more people -- more Indigenous people healing our people. And once that happens, then we’re going just spiral really fast to be able to do that. And I see that -- I seen that happen. So anyways, that’s it for me.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** Okay. Thank --

thank you very much.

**MR. GARY MOOSTOOS:** Yeah.
MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Would you like to add something? I’ll put --

MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: No. Go ahead.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Yes? Okay.

MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: Yeah, sure.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Here we go.

MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: (Speaking Indigenous language). My name is Jerry Goodswimmer. And I’ve been quite active in -- here in Edmonton regarding the social issues that we experience, and from activism, like in Sisters in Spirit --

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: -- the big organization that Brenda mentioned about, was something that was really -- opened our eyes in that sense. We always knew the -- that we treat our woman as second-class citizens in our communities, and that men rule. It’s a patriarchal system. But I think one of the things too that we have to look at not only the residential school, but the religion aspect of that -- the religion done to us. But also, the Indian Act. Because from there, when the oppression started coming, it was there where we start looking at our woman.

We never wrote the Indian Act. It’s -- it’s basically a white supremacist document, one of the biggest
in -- out there in the world. And what entails in there is a lot. And it really stresses the male roles in our community.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER:** It doesn’t talk about our woman, nor does it talk about the two-spirit people, so those two organization -- those two groups are pushed out. And so, in that sense, we start treating our woman as second-class citizens. And out of that comes -- we start filling in the prison system. Because a lot of those brothers who are in jail, are basically charged for domestic violence. And so it continues. It continues and continues to where we are now. We treat our woman as second-class citizens in our communities.

And I think one of the things that too, that we can look at the government and whatnot, but in today, we as community members, male community members, have to step up to the plate and say, “Hey. There’s something wrong here. There’s something definitely wrong.” We have to look at ourselves, our roles as men, and --

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.

**MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER:** -- support. And I think that’s something that we have to do too, is support the woman now. I think the woman are the ones who are going to be healing our communities.
We’ve been active in, I don’t know, more -- me and Gary here -- brother Gary, here in Edmonton. We’ve been a lot. And a lot of that has to focus on the two-spirit, being supportive with the woman. And the woman really should -- Turtle Island, Canada, regarding the Idle No More Movement. And I think that’s where something that the -- we really, really generate our energies towards. And the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Woman is one of the organization that we became involve in.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: And we experienced that. We experienced that. And we walked with our sisters here regarding their mother and their sister.

I grew up with their mother. And I remember seeing her mother and their -- that time, it was fashionable thing to do was that she had these cat glasses, and I remember that and her curly hair. But she was a loveable woman. She was really loved. And I think when she found her mate, Uncle Nat, Napoleonian Moostoos (phonetic), I think she -- it was made. And they were such a calming couple, and they were in love. And the kids were there and et cetera, you know.

And so I always have this peace that I connect with with them because their grandmother Rose -- Rosalie (phonetic), was one of my -- when I was born, I was
born in Sturgeon Lake, in the bush over there, and she
happened to be there with Grannie Capple (phonetic), and
they were the traditional midwives. So one of the things
that she did when I was born was gave me a -- a traditional
name, and that was (Speaking Indigenous language), meaning
that a person who’s cooking out in the open campfire, that
was my thing. And that’s what Gary was saying and the --
and sister Patsy was saying was, bring back that culture.
The culture of what we were -- what we -- the original
people in this country.

And when I look -- I have a social work
background, and when I look at regarding trauma and
therapeutic -- Indigenous therapeutic processes, I look at
the trauma -- the trauma, the cultural trauma that we
experience. We have been stereotyped regarding alcohol and
drugs, particularly alcohol. That we’re real drunks and et
cetera. But the problem is not the drunks. The problem is
the trauma of oppression, colonization. Once we start
dealing with that, and addressing that issue, we’d start
looking parenting, and et cetera, and whatnot, and building
up from there.

And -- because I myself, you know, I -- I
went through the -- I’m the residential school survivor.
And so I went through the whole thing about the drug thing.
And when I look at my -- when I look at my -- my life, my
personal life and whatnot, and what the trauma has done to me, I -- I really look at where do I fit in my community? What’s my role? Well, it wasn’t ‘til not -- a few years that I started looking at, and really looking at analyzing my life as a person who is two-spirited. Where do I fit in my community because the oppression of the church -- ‘cause first of all, gay homosexuality was classified as a mental illness. And on top of that, the rules even said we were sinners. And so there was two things coming at us. But we never acknowledge.

In my community, there’s a lot of -- I think it’s one of the most gayest communities in northern Alberta, or the swingiest, but everything is under surfaced, eh? Everything is surfaced because they don’t want to talk about the gay. They don’t want to talk about their bisexuality and et cetera. So it’s gone into a -- an underground. So I think that’s something too that we’re just really grasping.

But there is also a lot of that. We need to address -- the Canadian government needs to address the missing and -- missing and murdered two-spirited people because there’s nothing, absolutely nothing right now. And that’s one of the things that we’re going to be -- start pushing for.

**MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD:** M’hm.
MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: And I think that is important, important. But we are here for the sisters that we’ve lost. We’ve also lost, as they -- they expressed, there are men out there. Men out -- Indigenous men out there who are missing.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: (Indiscernible).

MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: One of them is Rufus Spyway (phonetic). He’s been missing for 19 years back home. And we still don’t know what happened. And one of the -- the young people was Bella McLean, who fell off some third plus stories in a Toronto apartment building.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: Balcony, yeah.

MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: And those are things that, you know, as a community -- as a community, we don’t focus on the individual aspect in many circumstances. We think about the collectively. And the collectively is that we -- we are traumatized regarding -- once we start talking about missing and murdered Indigenous woman, et cetera. We experience all the pain. We sit with our sisters. We know when we’re singing prayers and et cetera. And so we -- we feel the pain. And we feel -- and because there -- there’s an emptiness in there.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: M’hm.

MR. JERRY GOODSWIMMER: And there’s an emptiness in our heart. And -- and how do we help each
other? And I think that’s something too, that needs to be important is, as a group, as a community, I think that’s where we should go channel our -- the -- the funding resources, et cetera. Because if we start looking at one -- one individual, usually, when you go into a one -- to a psychologist therapies, fine, they’re sending us to therapies, but only one session is usually -- or one, two session, and that’s it, and then we quit that. But when we start dealing with collectively, it does wonders. It does wonders about -- regarding the residential -- she was excellent in -- by the way, in her residential school program. And she addressed it holistically, collectively. And so -- and that’s -- I guess, that’s -- that’s the main thing that we need to focus on.

And I think there needs to be a database for murdered and missing Indigenous women out there. But I think we also need -- Mr. Trudeau, we need more funding for our communities and whatnot. And so we can start addressing the wrongs of the Canadian government because it’s part of one of the -- Canada’s darkest histories. And we need to address that (Indiscernible).

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Okay.

MR. GARY MOOSTOOS: That way.

MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: Yes.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: (Indiscernible).
MS. MARIE AUDREY GIRARD: So with that, I think I will be turning off the camera. The time is 3:05, and I’m turning off.

MS. BRENDA GOODSWIMMER: I think we’re done, eh?

--- Upon adjourning at 3:05 p.m.
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST’S CERTIFICATE

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

[Signature]
Amanda Muscoby
January 10, 2019