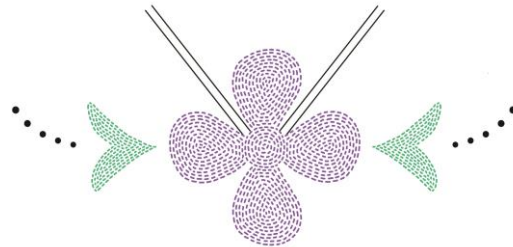


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part I Statement Gathering
Private Residence
Musqueam First Nation
Vancouver, British Columbia**



PUBLIC

Saturday November 24, 2018

Statement - Volume 599

**Maria Siegl & Audrey Siegl,
In relation to Adelene August & Genevieve Sullivan**

Statement gathered by Chanel Blouin

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NOTE

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

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Reporter's Certification 40

Statement Gatherer: Chanel Blouin

Documents submitted with testimony: none.

1 Vancouver, British Columbia

2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, November 24, 2018 at 5:52
3 p.m.

4 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Okay. This is Chanel
5 Blouin a statement taker with the National Inquiry into
6 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. We're
7 currently in Vancouver, B.C. It is November 24, 2018, and
8 the time is 5:52.

9 Today, I am speaking with Maria Siegl of the
10 Musqueam Nation, who resides in Vancouver, B.C. Maria's
11 here to tell her truth for her mother, Adelene August, and
12 her friend, Genevieve -

13 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Sullivan.

14 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Sullivan. Maria's also
15 here to share her truth as a survivor. Also present in the
16 room is Audrey Siegl, Maria's sister. She'll be here as
17 support and will also be sharing. Also for the record,
18 Maria, you're here voluntary to provide your truth and you
19 agree to the video taping and audio taping of your truth.
20 You also understand that at the end of your truth you'll be
21 able to determine whether you would like your truth to be
22 public or private at that time.

23 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yes.

24 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Okay.

25 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Thank you.

1 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** I'll just turn this down
2 a little.

3 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Want me to turn it down?

4 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah.

5 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Okay.

6 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Thank you.

7 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Is that better?

8 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Yeah. Can you still
9 hear it though?

10 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah, I can hear a little
11 bit. Is it too loud?

12 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** No.

13 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Okay. Okay. So what do I
14 first remember? I think being as a First Nations, even
15 child, men always looked at us different and hyper-
16 sexualized as even in elementary school. 'Cause my -- when
17 we would play in the playground then there would be men
18 there and they would, like, show themselves to us and try
19 and interact with us but we always went away. And then by
20 -- like, and even other boys in the class would always,
21 like, bug us and call us, like -- like, salmon-crotch, or
22 something. And then I'd learn how to do self-defence, and
23 stuff, earlier so I could always protect myself.

24 So I think by grade 6 or 7 I'd judo flipped
25 a few boys who had tried to do inappropriate things and

1 stabbed a few guy with pencils by that time. And then
2 finished grade 7 and my grade 7 teacher asked me out on a
3 date, I was 12 turning 13. And then starting high school
4 -- 12 turning 13, so then that's when, I think, the most
5 stuff started happening. My girlfriend said she was going
6 to have a birthday party for me and I went to her house --
7 I was still playing with Barbie dolls, and -- very
8 innocent, I think. I wasn't thinking about dating anybody
9 or anything, I was still playing with Barbie dolls. So I
10 go to the house with the party, and she's there with her
11 boyfriend and her boyfriend's brother, and they got me to
12 try booze for the first time. And then they got me drunk
13 and then the two brothers took me and took turns raping me,
14 so that was, like, my birthday. And then after that was
15 done, I went back and, I guess, retaliated. And then I got
16 pregnant from that and I got gonorrhoea from that. Sorry,
17 that makes me, like, really laugh.

18 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** M'hm.

19 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** And my dad didn't know
20 what happened, he just knew that I was pregnant. So he
21 said if I didn't keep the baby then I couldn't -- that I
22 couldn't live at home anymore. So then -- then I was
23 living on the streets, like, Main and Hastings with my
24 cousin, [Cousin 1] and she was a prostitute and we're both
25 only, like, 13, 14, on Main and Hastings. We used to stay

1 at the Rainbow Hotel (ph).

2 There would be, like, a group of us that
3 would -- we hung out with the transvestites and stuff
4 because then we were more protected, but if the cops would
5 come around and gather you then you would always have to --
6 like, you get taken away to Stanley Park, and either have
7 to pay -- give them money or pay in sex so that they
8 wouldn't take you away. But they would always take all --
9 we weren't doing drugs or anything, we were just drinking
10 and smoking pot, but whatever you had they would take, and
11 they would threaten you with going in -- into the system or
12 going away, right? So that was a normal thing. Like,
13 that's what they did all the time. The police were, like,
14 so shady. When we got caught with stolen cars or being on
15 the street because we were not allowed to be in the
16 downtown area -- I don't know what you would call that
17 but --

18 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** Red zoned.

19 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** We were red zoned. We
20 weren't allowed to be down there and every time they caught
21 us then -- then they took us for a ride. So be -- she was
22 the prostitute and I would collect license plates and go
23 along for the ride to make sure that she was okay.

24 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** M'hm. Like for her
25 safety?

1 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah, and -- yeah, for her
2 safety and just -- yeah, just to make sure she was okay. I
3 didn't have to do that but we didn't have any -- we didn't
4 know what else to do or what other options were. That was,
5 like, the safest thing because then there was a group of
6 us, who were all really young, who they wouldn't make money
7 and we would all chip in to have a hotel to sleep in. And
8 -- and sometimes, like really, one customer would come
9 along and say it's only going to be one person and you get
10 in the car, then they take you for a ride, and then there'd
11 be like, you know, like ten guys or something. Sorry.

12 And I didn't remember all this stuff until
13 this year because this year -- last year for Christmas one
14 of my friends drugged me for three days and raped me and
15 then it brought everything up. And, I guess, I created an
16 alternate personality for all this stuff. So I kept it,
17 like, a story that wasn't me, but it was me. And I'm just
18 realizing this because I was talking to Audrey about stuff.
19 And this one time these guys had gotten us and took us out
20 to Surrey and, you know, like, raped us and stuff and were
21 keeping us in this room. And we were naked and then they
22 -- they closed the door for a little bit and I jumped -- I
23 think it was the second or third floor apartment, and I
24 jumped out of the window naked and started running. And
25 that's all I remember about that. But I -- in my head that

1 wasn't me that was somebody else, and I guess Audrey --
2 through all of these experiences, my poor sister, even
3 though I wasn't -- I wasn't living at home I would still go
4 home when stuff would happen, to my dad's house. Or show
5 up after, like, severe things had happened and my poor
6 sister, Audrey, would have to take care of me, which I
7 totally forgot about and didn't realize. And, I guess, I
8 was running naked down the highway for a long time until
9 somebody tried to help me, and that was only -- like, I was
10 only 14. All that stuff had been happening.

11 So then out of that there's more stuff.
12 Like, guys would always be in groups and whenever they
13 think -- 'cause -- Davie Street and Richards Street, and
14 Hastings and Powell were, like, areas for prostitutes, so
15 guys would always troll for you and then they'd always --
16 they liked to go in packs and like hunt you down,
17 basically. It was like a game to them. I don't remember
18 anyone really being nice or respectable. If they -- if you
19 were standing on the corner on the street, and it didn't
20 matter how old you were, you were just a piece of meat.
21 And it was a really gross feeling and it made me very
22 animalistic, I think, and very violent and -- yeah. And
23 from that, you know, that I would -- I would mug people or
24 assess people really quickly and learn how to deal with
25 them, wasn't a very nice person but I wanted to survive.

1 And I never sold myself. I never became a prostitute, but
2 I became very persuasive and learnt that I was very good
3 looking and that I could get what I wanted by being
4 charming with people. And never did drugs or anything
5 until I was 35, but -- which is kind of insane, especially
6 for where we were living.

7 And I thought I was getting saved because
8 the first boyfriend I met I was 14 and he was 28, [C.].
9 He's, like -- that's too old now that I realize it, but he
10 was better. He wasn't abusive or anything. It was just he
11 was suicidal too. He tried to kill himself. And we lived
12 together, and it was just sex, and it somewhere safe. But,
13 I mean, now when I think about it, it's really weird for
14 him to be that old and for me to be that young. And then
15 he broke up with me so then I -- then I was walking down
16 Granville Street and I met this -- these two other guys
17 from Sweden. I guess because I looked older and they asked
18 me out. And then I ended up going with [Partner 1], who I
19 was with until I was almost 28, and he was about 14 years
20 older, and wealthy, and physiologically and physically
21 abusive, but it was better than being on the street and I
22 got back into school. And then I got discovered for
23 modelling, but I didn't -- I didn't realize, like, until
24 now how abusive it was because he was older. Like,
25 whatever sexually he wanted to do -- he's like the first

1 person. I was like 14 or 15 and he and put me in the
2 bathtub and shaved everything off of me because he didn't
3 like -- he, like, groomed me to be who he wanted and do
4 whatever he wanted sexually. And then if he wanted to, he
5 would give me away to his friends for, you know, sex, and
6 -- yeah. I was just an object I wasn't a real thing, and I
7 didn't realize that until after 'cause I was really messed
8 up. And I stayed with him for a long time and I didn't --
9 yeah.

10 What else, I don't what else to think -- so
11 basically all the rapes, like, there were multiple rapes.
12 Like, I remember with the police or one time with this
13 nurse that had taken care of me at St. Paul's. Then he
14 lived in the same building as my auntie and he invited me
15 over for tea but that turned out to be rape. It was just
16 lots of people who you would think you would trust, and I
17 kept trusting people -- like, I still trust people, and
18 believing people. And I just turned off because it's just
19 physical, it didn't matter, just let them get what they
20 want and then it will be over. I mean, like, there's lots
21 of people who have it worse or, you know, like, at least I
22 wasn't prostituted out. So that's how I survived, I think.
23 I can't think of anything else right now. Can you?

24 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** M'hm. That -- a timeline
25 alongside of what Maria shared that -- that was around her

1 14th birthday that her friend set her up to be raped by the
2 brothers, and an idea of how -- how innocent we were. We
3 bathed together until -- we say we, we -- we're a year
4 apart but we'll say when we were 12, and I didn't realize
5 that was confusing for people because we're sisters, you
6 know, "not twins". But -- so at 12 we weren't -- we were
7 too (indiscernible) by the time Maria was in grade 7 she
8 was already 6 feet tall and I was not far behind in -- in
9 height. And we cried because we couldn't be in the bath
10 together because we'd always bathed.

11 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah, we were really
12 innocent. Our dad didn't really -- yeah.

13 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** We were so innocent and
14 intelligent. By the time we were three, our dad had taught
15 us -- we were raised by a single -- single dad in east Van
16 in the 70s. By the time we were three, we could read and
17 write, do all of our math, and play chess and backgammon.
18 And we were still these beautiful, innocent, little girls
19 and Maria didn't know what it was that those boys, those
20 teenagers, had done to her. And it was in P.E. class, not
21 -- a few months later she was doing sit ups and lactating.
22 And one of her friends had said, Are you pregnant? Oh, my
23 God. And they were freaking out and they took her to the
24 bathroom and were talking to her. They said, Are you
25 pregnant? And she didn't know what that meant. And she

1 said, Is this from what those boys did to me? And then we
2 went to our mom to talk to her about what had happened,
3 because we weren't sure how our dad would react because I
4 think most men's reaction is to shut down or to literally
5 want to go and kill. So doesn't really give women a good
6 place to go when these are the options that -- that men go
7 to. So our dad then told Maria that he wouldn't have a
8 murderer in his house and that if she was going to have an
9 abortion she couldn't live there, so she went to stay with
10 our mom and out on the streets. And our mom was really
11 messed up and would -- if the police came to look for
12 Maria, excuse me, at our mom's then our mom would let the
13 police into the room with her knowing what they were going
14 to do to her. She would drug her and try to sell her to
15 men, but Maria got really good at getting fast -- getting
16 out the window really fast between the two skinny houses in
17 the west end, and -- and this was all in -- in that one
18 year of, like, 14 years --

19 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah.

20 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** -- old. And one thing
21 that I know about our grandmother, our mother, our auntie,
22 my sister, my auntie, I believe my nieces, they have all
23 been raped so many times that they don't even know how many
24 times. Raped --

25 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** (Indiscernible)

1 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** -- again, raped, beaten.
2 The police were some of the worst predators taking with
3 them to Stanley Park and forcing them to have whatever kind
4 of sex they wanted, including oral sex.

5 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah.

6 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** And then still charging
7 them or threatening them, bringing them back to the police
8 station then making -- letting -- taking them to rooms
9 where there were no cameras and videos and letting any
10 other officer who was available come in and violate them
11 sexually all over again. Hold them hostage there and then
12 let them free with a threat that if you say anything -- as
13 far as I know, we don't remember any of the police
14 officer's names.

15 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** I don't -- yeah, no.

16 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** But there were regulars.

17 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah.

18 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** There were regular
19 officers. There were officers who did this on -- in a
20 recurring fashion and other officers knew. There was no
21 way that other officers didn't know, separate from the ones
22 who participated in the sexual assaults. That the impact
23 that I saw, the emotional, spiritual impact was that a
24 beautiful, innocent girl was spiritually mutilated. That
25 -- my sister has always been tough and a protector and how

1 Maria had to learn to live, to survive, that there was
2 violence and abuse amongst even the groups of -- in -- in
3 Boys Town and with the transvestites that --

4 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah.

5 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** -- Maria and our cousin
6 were. There was violence, abuse, sexual assaults, and
7 they're everywhere Maria went. She was being violated.
8 She was being abused, and she got tough and tougher, and
9 even smarter, and even more capable of surviving in really
10 extreme circumstances that --

11 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** That I just thought were
12 normal.

13 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** -- that it -- it became
14 so normalized that there was no -- there was no expectation
15 or belief that anyone -- that anything would change, or
16 anyone would come and save them, or that they could trust
17 anybody. There were -- from the first rape, I will say it
18 has been 30 years of huge amounts of time of Maria being
19 suicidal.

20 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah.

21 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** And that comes out in
22 different ways with self-destructive behaviour, alcohol,
23 drugs, hyper-sexual behaviour that is never for any
24 satisfying, healing, connecting purposes. But because I
25 think the temporary shut off with it that -- there were

1 times that Maria would come back to our dad's, and usually,
2 even though you had a key --

3 MS. MARIA SIEGL: Yeah.

4 MS. AUDREY SIEGL: -- you would knock on the
5 door, and I would -- I would answer the door and she was
6 beaten or dirty clothes, you -- you knew what had happened.
7 And she just would want to go and yet -- most of the time
8 couldn't talk so we would go in the shower and stand in the
9 shower, and then get rid of all of the clothes and just sit
10 and wash and just -- just have to be so gentle, you have to
11 be so gentle. And then ironically, because our dad said
12 she couldn't live there, he still kept her room, but she
13 would sit in the closet for sometimes weeks and wouldn't
14 come out. And it would be hard to leave and go to school
15 and worry and come back and know if she was going to be
16 there. If she was going to be alive.

17 One of the recurring themes is that, from
18 maybe 16, Maria would always say, When I decide to kill
19 myself, you'll never find a body. I know what to do so
20 you'll never find me. So in the times that Maria would
21 disappear for months and our relationship was that -- we
22 come from a family of three people, our dad and the two of
23 us, and it's always been Maria and I. When we were little,
24 we would go to the bathroom together. If one had to pee,
25 we'd wake up the other one and we were so little that, you

1 know, when you -- you have to balance sitting on the seat?
2 We would sit back to back and have our little -- our little
3 night pee together. And everything we did was together so
4 this huge, devastating impact on our relationship, on seeing
5 how -- for Maria, to see how things affected me, for me to
6 see how things affected her. That it created massive
7 division between our dad and Maria. We never really had
8 our mom so for all intents and purposes Maria was on her
9 own. From --

10 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** I was never in a group
11 home.

12 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** Nope.

13 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Or anything. And with the
14 -- the first rape and pregnancy, it wasn't until probably
15 five or six years ago that I stopped counting the age of
16 that baby because I -- I had created a separate reality for
17 that baby, that that was a son that I had lost. And all
18 the stuff that I'm just realizing now and -- yeah. That I
19 created an alternate ego and personality for all the really
20 bad things and I didn't even realize it until recently.
21 And that -- I don't know, my mind is going blank.

22 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** That, like,
23 disassociation we see so much with survivors of extreme
24 sexual trauma. In order -- in order to survive, it -- it
25 has to have happened to someone else. We saw this with our

1 mom our whole life, she had these alternate realities and
2 we were always puzzled. What is mom talking about?

3 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah.

4 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** What is she talking
5 about. She would say how she raised us, and she taught us
6 this, and she taught us that.

7 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** And she didn't.

8 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** She actually wasn't
9 there. She was gone for most of our life. She would come
10 back for a day, a week, she -- a month. Maybe she lived in
11 the west end a lot of the time. And from when we were
12 babies -- because Maria had a whole year of having our mom
13 and dad, just the three of them, and Maria and our mom were
14 very close. And then knowing that what happened to our
15 mom. Our mom was residential school, but she was taken at
16 4 before she was even taken from this Musqueam community in
17 1957, '58, I think that would have been. Men in the
18 community and our family had already been messing around
19 with her and they were also residential school. We're two
20 or three generations residential school, so the impact's
21 not just a residential school and colonization, but the
22 normalization of rape, sexual violence, alienation,
23 exclusion, policies created by governments, enforced by
24 systems of laws and police forces that, as Maria said, we
25 -- we have no value unless it's to serve or police any of

1 those entities. So seeing what that did to our mom had an
2 impact on us that she was drunk a lot of the time. She was
3 always in abusive relationships. She would get herself
4 steady and then -- and then she would just disappear again.

5 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** And when -- when I lived
6 with my mom, the guy that she was dating, [Mom's
7 boyfriend], used to beat us both up but then I got tired of
8 it so then I stabbed him with a fork and a knife because he
9 kept trying to, like -- like, he was an asshole. And then
10 all the neighbours finally found out all the stuff that was
11 going on, and they were, like, really surprised and upset
12 about it. And I was like, Oh, that's just how it is.
13 Yeah, I used to have a quick escape route out of the
14 bedroom. I kept a garbage can by the window so that I
15 could jump out because that's when -- yeah, the police
16 would -- they knew where I lived so then they would -- with
17 my mom when I was living there, then they would just come
18 to the door and ask for me. I was really messed up.

19 And then -- I'm trying to think of what
20 else. Sorry, my mind just went blank. But basically, it's
21 a lot of abuse. And all of us, like even my girlfriend,
22 Genevieve Sullivan [*Note: the following thirty-three lines*
23 *of testimony about Ms. Sullivan, who passed away on March*
24 *30, 2018, were removed pursuant to Rule 55].*

25 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Cause how old was she?

1 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** She was doing -- she's a
2 straight 'A' student studying to be a nurse and she was
3 about 32 now. I met her when she was 19. Then she
4 travelled, like, the world, like, a hobo, hopping trains
5 and was very strong and -- and feisty. [*Two further lines*
6 *about Ms. Sullivan removed pursuant to Rule 33*].

7 But, yeah, with the sex stuff for me. I go
8 through stages where -- so basically through all of this it
9 has made me super competent, but I peak to survive -- like,
10 survival living only and then I crash and then I'm
11 suicidal. It wasn't until the last year that I've stopped
12 thinking of, like, my plan for suicide. I always had a
13 plan. This is the first year, ever, that I've been able to
14 live in -- in a place consistently, not been moving, not
15 been homeless, and feel safe, unpack stuff, like, my teddy
16 bear from when I was 1. And to, like, to feel safe in a
17 place. But -- but there's lots of weird little habits from
18 all the survival living, like always hiding, like, weapons
19 around the house or always being ready at -- in an instant
20 to, like, fight. That's the biggest, hardest thing for me
21 is to stop being like that. I don't have to stop being
22 like that but I don't have to think everyone's a threat all
23 the time, and that's the hardest thing is that I'm very
24 angry and I'm always on edge and I'm ready to fight at any
25 moment. Like if someone knocks on my door that's

1 unannounced, I have three doors I can go out of to come and
2 see who they are. Like, all that kind of stuff. Thinking
3 that way. It's only been one year not thinking like a
4 survivor, reactionary or that people are out to get me.
5 But there's always been problems with, like, stalkers and
6 men and just -- it's gross. But that's why I wanted to
7 talk about it was for my girlfriend, Genevieve, and for mom,
8 and for everybody else, so that people know that -- there's
9 lots of people who knew what was going on and there's lots
10 of opportunists and perverts and pigs that take advantage
11 of that, and it's -- it needs to stop.

12 That's all I can think about right now.

13 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** And now in the last year
14 or so, so it's been --

15 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Oh, the physical illnesses
16 out of admitting and realizing. Like, when I told my
17 sister -- she didn't know what had happened because it was
18 Christmas day -- see it's always on big days that this --
19 these wonderful rapes happen. Christmas eve, Christmas day
20 and Boxing day, this person had drugged me for three days
21 and --

22 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** This was a year ago?

23 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah. And raped me. And
24 then everything else started coming out. And I was living
25 with Audrey and I was really partying hard, and -- and,

1 like, doing lots of cocaine. Like, that's how I just used
2 to stay numb 'cause that's how you -- I became, like, a
3 hustler because I just always wanted to be drunk and always
4 wanted to be high, and there's -- and I never had to sleep
5 with anybody or anything, if you just ask enough of these
6 pig men they will make sure you're fucked up forever 'cause
7 that's how they like you. Never have to pay for anything,
8 we can always get a free ride. But -- yeah, I don't know
9 what I was going to say.

10 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** Then how --

11 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Oh, that -- now that I've
12 been dealing with all this rape stuff. I've had -- I've
13 been, like, insanely sick. I've been asking for help with
14 a trauma therapist, holistic therapist, drug and alcohol
15 therapist. Trying to get on disabilities so that I can go
16 to treatment, and all of these physical things are coming
17 out, like cysts and tumors, and my vagina and uterus.
18 Like, I had the entire summer of going into hospital every
19 day for two days for surgeries and they never froze me.
20 Like, is that normal to not freeze somebody when you're
21 going in for an operation every two days and they're
22 cutting you open and taking stuff out of you? Like, that's
23 not normal I don't think, but it's just every time I tried
24 to deal with things properly, I never get the help that I
25 want. It seems like it's, like, a never-ending battle and

1 all of these physical symptoms are coming out. All of
2 these psychological symptoms are coming out and I'm happy
3 to deal with it now but it's tiring and I'm tired of not
4 being treated -- I don't feel like I'm being treated fairly
5 for that amount of help that I think I need to deal with
6 all that because it's a lot.

7 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** M'hm.

8 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** That's how I feel, and I
9 want other people -- like, I want First Nations women to be
10 treated fairly. Like, just to think that our mom was
11 forced to have a hysterectomy because she was Native. You
12 know, like, all those things. It's just like little things
13 inside your head. But that was normal for us to be treat
14 -- treated bad but I'm tired of it. I'm tired of asking
15 for help and not getting help. I think it has to change.

16 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** Or -- I want to say, the
17 better part of two decades Maria has been looking for a
18 doctor, a simple GP, and a therapist to talk to, to deal
19 with what is real post-traumatic stress. And not just
20 PTSD, the brand new defined CPTSD, the complex.

21 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** M'hm.

22 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** Because this isn't just
23 inter-generational, it is, you know, 200 years of the same
24 things happening to our women that it becomes normalized.
25 And it becomes normalized for us because the way the

1 doctors, the way the police -- all of the people who --

2 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Are supposed to help you.

3 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** -- we're told are
4 supposed to help are some of the worst violators and
5 predators or the worst turn a blind eye, turn the other
6 cheek, I'm not going to do anything to help. And where it
7 leaves people is exactly where my sister ended up and this
8 last year of not have to worry so much about suicide and
9 about spinning out and -- what -- what people call
10 relapsing. Do you know Maria has this home because our mom
11 died of a fentanyl overdose.

12 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** In her own
13 (indiscernible).

14 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** Before this Maria was
15 floating around from 14 years old for 30 years. Now, for
16 30 years, my sister has had to find ways to survive, not
17 just violence, sexual trauma and abuse, but neglect and
18 endangering already the most endangered and targeted
19 population in Canada.

20 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** M'hm.

21 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** That's not just inhumane,
22 it's evil. That -- I look at my sister and I still see the
23 beautiful little girl. It took forever for her to be able
24 to -- to see -- to actually look in the mirror and see
25 herself again. To -- the process of learning to trust

1 again. The process of learning to -- something simple,
2 like just unpack. Something simple, like here's a nice set
3 of dishes, and Maria has a hard time accepting the nice
4 things that go in -- nice gifts or -- because, I mean, we
5 have our own healing to do in our relationship.

6 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** And the fact that my mom
7 was in that abusive relationship with so many, that -- for
8 the last couple years I was taking care of her because she
9 had a broken knee, so I was bathing her, taking her to the
10 toilet and everything. And the entire time, while trying
11 to help her and telling her how much I love her and how
12 much I want to know her, she's getting fucked up on crack,
13 and drinking, and there's people here all the time. And I
14 have to, like, board my door up so that people don't walk
15 in on me all the time. When she's just messed up, and she
16 can't hear me. She never -- I just wanted to know her, and
17 she never heard me, like, she never listened. She couldn't
18 listen. She was so far gone and so messed up and so lost
19 that she couldn't accept love and then -- then I started
20 doing drugs with her and drinking with her. And then I was
21 like I can't fucking do this, like, this is just the worst.
22 And then I go and did the same thing that I started being
23 the biggest coke head ever, like, high every day. And it
24 led to me having -- my mom dies and then I had a -- a crazy
25 seizure for a really long time.

1 That's another thing that we're trying to
2 deal with, is that I had a seizure last year and it was
3 longer than ten minutes, and I don't remember, like, people
4 that I met in the last two years. Like, I am going to job
5 sites and introducing myself to people and they're just
6 like, Oh, we worked together. And I'm like, I don't know
7 who you are. My short term memory is -- is really fucked
8 up, but they're just trying to tell me that it was just a
9 grand mal seizure, it wasn't that. And if I look at my
10 entire history of everything, thinking about stuff, I've
11 always had seizures, absence seizures. There's all these
12 things, see? And then now I got to fight for this, like,
13 try and ask for help for that. Because they're just like
14 -- they just poo-pooed it and, Well it just -- it was a one
15 off seizure and it's just because you did drugs and
16 alcohol. And I'm like, Well, normal seizures you don't lose
17 your memory to that extent.

18 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** And your motor skills.

19 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** And -- and I -- yeah, I
20 had to -- my motor skills and speaking, I stuttered for a
21 long time and -- yeah, my body was really beat up from
22 that. Like this last year has been the worst physical year
23 ever, it's just tiring and I'd like to be healthier but I
24 need to -- I want this stuff gone.

25 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** M'hm.

1 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** For --

2 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Audrey has been taking
3 care of me.

4 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** Happily. A lot of our
5 women by the time they get to a point where they're
6 actually capable and ready to start dealing with what they
7 -- what they have endeared, they -- because of the lack of
8 support and because with this work that I do and watching
9 what's happened to my women my whole life, I've been lucky
10 because -- because they protected me. I did not have as
11 bad of things happen to me because they protected me, but
12 I've seen that when the women start to try to heal,
13 spiritually and emotionally, it comes out physically
14 because what -- because they carried it for so long where
15 -- where is it supposed to go when you have therapists and
16 counsellors, when you have doctors, when you even have
17 dentists who have such huge wait lists. When you go to
18 hospitals and you're not taken seriously when -- if you
19 smell like booze or if you are honest about the fact that
20 -- that you do drugs, automatically everything is
21 dismissed. If you say you have an anxiety issue or
22 depression then it's not treated with the seriousness that
23 it deserves, and this is another huge reason why so many of
24 our women just don't make it.

25 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** It's easier to stay drunk

1 and high then to try and deal with the system and deal with
2 everything. Like, it's -- it's been such a really hard
3 cycle for me to break, to not run and get completely drunk
4 and wasted because there's lots of stuff that's coming up,
5 and it's, like, that's my instant thing to just go. Let's
6 go on a bender for, like, a week. But I'm doing good.

7 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** And --

8 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** But it's -- and I don't
9 want that anymore, but it's really hard. And I didn't
10 realize how much of a problem it was because for the last
11 year I was like, Oh, no, no, no. I can deal with it. I can
12 deal with it. And then I'm like actually no. Like when my
13 girlfriend died, then I held off for a couple months but
14 then I -- then I went and got crazy but I, actually, asked
15 Audrey for help and admitted what I was doing. Because I
16 was, like, I can't be embarrassed because I feel like I'm
17 going to lose control to the point where I won't stop, and
18 I'll just kill myself with doing drugs. And I didn't want
19 to do that. Like, finally after saying and realizing how
20 much I affected everybody in my family and that they did
21 care. Like when I actually reached out and told my dad and
22 my sister that day. I said, I want to die because it
23 happened again. And I'm -- you know, like it hasn't
24 happened for a long time but every time you get drunk
25 there's always some creep hanging around who thinks Native

1 women are easy. I hate saying that but that's how they act
2 and that they can watch you get drunk or give you booze and
3 then they can take you up and do what they want with you.
4 And I -- lots of times I fight, lots of times I don't so
5 I'm -- I don't want that anymore.

6 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** M'hm.

7 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** I just want to be
8 healthy and I want to help people. That's it. I think
9 that's everything. Yeah. Thank you.

10 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** I have a question.

11 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah.

12 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** So for your healing now,
13 what -- what do you do to --

14 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Well, I was seeing a
15 therapist. I have a holistic therapist and I have
16 (indiscernible) yoga. Like Musqueam, we have a lot of
17 options, but I need to -- I want to go away to treatment.

18 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** M'hm.

19 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Like, I want to go away
20 for, like, a couple months, and I need trauma treatment
21 because, like, the amount of anger that I have that I just
22 keep down and I'm polite and nice when really I just want
23 to, like, massacre people.

24 And, like, there won't be any records of
25 anything with all the cops because they never did anything.

1 Like I never have any charges pressed on me. I've never
2 had charges pressed on me for anything, so there is no
3 record of anything. There is no one to, like, hold
4 accountable. I just have to say what happened and then let
5 it -- I just have to let it go, and, hopefully, that will
6 stop happening to other girls because I know it still
7 happens. And the amount of -- like, even living here on
8 the rez, I have -- I know a whole family where this young
9 girl that I've had drinks with, and she'll message me and
10 she'll be drunk and then she'll pass out and then her
11 uncles will rape her, and she's like it happened again.
12 Just like that it happened again, and I'm like, What am I
13 supposed to do with that? How can I make it stop? What
14 can we do to make it stop?

15 Like, I'm -- I'm tired of this. Or how many
16 girls I've found on Musqueam -- it's like I'm a magnet for
17 dogs and women who've been raped. If I walk anywhere, I
18 usually find them. Like, there was this other girl a
19 couple summers ago who's running down the street in her
20 underwear and she had just had a baby and bunch of guys
21 raped her that year. And she told me who it was, and I
22 went to the house with a baseball bat, but nobody was
23 there, of course. And she wouldn't give a statement just
24 like I would never. Like, why am I going to call the
25 police? They're just as bad. Like, they don't help. And

1 when I got attacked here with my mom last time by my mom's
2 husband, they didn't even let me go stay in safe housing.

3 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** The police.

4 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** The police or anybody. I
5 had -- I got kicked out and I was attacked in my sleep, and
6 I'm, like, I don't want to fight anymore. I just want to,
7 like, be normal. I'm like 46, 45. Can I please stop
8 fighting.

9 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** M'hm.

10 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Like, do I have to fight
11 until the last day? Sure. Yeah, maybe it's nice being a
12 gladiator but it's a little tiring.

13 **(LAUGHTER)**

14 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** But I think that's about
15 it. Yeah.

16 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** One last question I want
17 to add.

18 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah.

19 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Do you have
20 recommendations that you thought of? Because the
21 Commissioners will be watching your statement.

22 (Indiscernible)

23 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Oh, for where I'm going to
24 go?

25 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** No. Recommendations --

1 more that could help ensure that First Nations women are
2 safe.

3 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Well --

4 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** And just like moving
5 forward, if -- if that's -- if there's something that
6 you've thought of just, like --

7 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** I think --

8 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** -- something that could
9 be put in place, like a policy or --

10 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** I don't -- I never --

11 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** -- or safe housing for
12 instance.

13 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah. Well, they need to
14 listen to what we're saying and believe us, help us, and
15 actually, like, why don't we have -- I think everyone needs
16 to -- the hardest thing is to break down the barriers
17 because there's so many generations of barriers, and
18 secrecy, and hiding, and shame. You'd have to break that
19 down first and then people will be able to be honest, but
20 communities protect their -- communities we need to remove
21 the rapists out of communities. I didn't grow up here, but
22 I see how it is and it's not a joke, it's disgusting, and
23 it is happening consistently and it's generational. But we
24 need to have like a real safe house, people really
25 listening, and opportunities to, like, heal. Like, there

1 are many reserves where lots of women probably couldn't
2 have the funding to go away to trauma treatment.

3 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** M'hm.

4 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Or, you know, just being
5 safe period. Like, there is no bus from here, at Musqueam,
6 to go to the bus stop, and it's like 2 kilometres of black
7 walking through the bush. And there's -- we just have to
8 walk it, if you don't have a car then you just have to walk
9 it. Like, why don't we have a -- a safe system or anything
10 like that? It's insane. People are just still in denial,
11 people need to listen. And that's what I think. And I
12 think, all girls should learn self defence starting at age
13 5. It helped me, otherwise, I'm sure I'd be dead. That's
14 all I can think of for now.

15 And we need our own -- our own, like, safe
16 house. We have a safe house, but they pick and choose who
17 goes in there. I'm, like, How's that possible? Like, if
18 you get attacked that doesn't -- and you need somewhere to
19 stay, you don't have a right to go there? I didn't have
20 anywhere to go, it was insane. But that's all I can think
21 of.

22 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** And for your -- so Maria
23 does archeological work. It's -- it's her calling.
24 It's --

25 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah.

1 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** -- it's her skills. And
2 because of all of these, not just physical but emotional,
3 side effects of -- coping mechanisms of the life -- of
4 everything that's -- that's happened. Because of the
5 anxiety, the PTSD, Maria hasn't been able to work. And
6 it's not that she doesn't want to work, she gets up and she
7 get ready and then a crippling panic attack will take hold.
8 And then since the seizure she's had -- she's had minor
9 seizure -- she's had other seizure symptoms since then.
10 There actually have been little tremors and seizures
11 happening all along.

12 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah.

13 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** And then that's it, she
14 -- she can't leave the house, so then she can't go to work.
15 What about the income for women? What about the emotional,
16 physical, spiritual, and financial support? And making
17 available resources so that actual real healing can happen,
18 and if that means it's on the land or if that means it's --
19 someone needs to be in their home, whatever that looks
20 like, there need to be access to whatever it takes to make
21 that happen. Because my sister has been fighting so hard
22 for so long and in the last year making such amazing
23 progress, and leaps and bounds in dealing with stuff that
24 would break most people. That we are pushing for support
25 for her.

1 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** And it -- like, it's hard
2 to keep a normal job when you're just trying to make sure
3 that you want to wake up and deal with the day. 'Cause I
4 still -- all the stuff is bubbling up and percolating out.
5 So how do you explain that to somebody? Oh, I can't come
6 to work today because I had nightmares about, like, the
7 rapes or whatever, like running. Like whatever trauma has
8 happened is coming out -- is coming out in dreams and it
9 makes it hard for me to function. Like sometimes I don't
10 leave my house for -- unless Audrey's here.

11 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** Because it's been -- it's
12 been since spring, at least, that every night for hours and
13 hours each night, the memories are surfacing
14 and --

15 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** And I -- I can't just shut
16 it down. I can't break this cycle. I just -- I keep
17 trying but how do you keep a job with that? You don't tell
18 your employer, Oh, I can't come to work because I'm having
19 rape nightmares. Like, no body wants to hear that.

20 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** No. So a lot of the
21 time, like, the safe space is -- is the truck. We have
22 some, like, normal -- we have a normal little route we go
23 and do together and it --

24 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** She takes me out.

25 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** -- if I didn't have my

1 sister when I -- if my sister hadn't taken care of me
2 before, I wouldn't be here. And now for me to be able to
3 use the skills and the healing that I've been lucky enough
4 to find because they protected me. Just to make sure that
5 she can leave the house, that she knows that somebody loves
6 her --

7 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah.

8 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** -- that -- that she's not
9 alone. Most of our women have nobody.

10 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** And who do you trust?

11 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** Yeah. We're still
12 learning to trust each other.

13 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah. Because I didn't
14 even -- yeah. I didn't -- I didn't even know that she knew
15 all that stuff about all the stuff that was happening
16 because I don't remember it.

17 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** And that --

18 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah.

19 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** -- had a whole new level
20 that then Maria had spent months carrying the weight of
21 feeling terrible that I knew these things, and -- and then
22 seeing how it has affected me. So there needs to be other
23 people in between her and I because it -- in a lot of ways
24 it's too close.

25 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** M'hm.

1 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** And there's only so much
2 that I can do.

3 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah. And dealing with my
4 therapists and stuff -- well, I don't know. It's like the
5 -- the labels that you put on stuff, that doesn't mean
6 that's just who you are so then they put you in this little
7 category and then that's the only treatment you get. I
8 don't want to be on anti-depressants, I don't think that's
9 the answer. I think the answer is dealing with the trauma.

10 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** M'hm. Yes.

11 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** And they always just want
12 to stick you on -- on anti-depressants and leave you alone.
13 And I'm, like, that isn't working. I've been trying that
14 for 30 years and it isn't working. I need, like, real
15 help.

16 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** And the alcohol and drug
17 counsellor down here hasn't been available for six weeks.

18 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** No, she's sick --

19 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** So on -- on the
20 reserve --

21 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** No, there was a change
22 over. I got a hold of her.

23 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** So because of these --
24 again, a lack of funding and looking at the real trauma and
25 abuse that -- that happens within First Nations

1 communities, to First Nations women, having more than one
2 alcohol and drug counsellor available so that people aren't
3 waiting four --

4 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** M'hm.

5 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** -- weeks, six weeks,
6 three months. Whether the reason is legitimate, if a
7 person is in -- is in a situation where they need now, a
8 week, three weeks, six weeks is too long to wait.

9 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** And then they just shut
10 down and they don't want to leave the house. So I'm, like,
11 well I have heat, hot water, internet, a dog, I could just
12 stay here. Putter away. But I miss the person. Like, I
13 miss going for hikes. I miss going for my walks and I miss
14 -- like, I'm positive but I -- I want to go back to work.
15 I love my job, but it's just too hard to deal with right
16 now, too much stuff. But I want to go back. Like, that's
17 part of the reason for living for me. Is -- I think that
18 helped saved my life, definitely, archeology.

19 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** M'hm.

20 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** So problem doing stuff,
21 it's just a problem breaking the cycle and dealing with the
22 actual shit. Yeah. Do you have any other questions?

23 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** How'd you like people to
24 remember your friend and your mom?

25 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** As two really crazy strong

1 First Nations women who held on as long as they could and
2 then finally something cracked. And I don't want -- I
3 don't want to crack. I want to live now. This is the
4 first time ever in my entire life that I want to live.
5 After her, like, what's the point? Like, I don't want to
6 be another story. I want a good story for all of us to
7 come out of this, not just tragedy. Yeah.

8 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Thank you for sharing.

9 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Yeah. Thank you for your
10 time.

11 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Thanks.

12 --- Upon recessing at 6:47 p.m.

13 --- Upon reconvening at 7:01 p.m.

14 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** I've met this girl from
15 Somalia and I was modeling and then she had a place in
16 Paris and she was married to some really rich French guy.
17 And they invited me over and when I got there it wasn't at
18 all how they said it was going to be. I was depressed
19 because I was fighting with - with [Partner 1], all we did
20 was fight. Like, if I didn't do what he wanted and, like,
21 give him all of my money, basically, then he would be
22 really mad because -- we had lots of businesses, but I was
23 making really good money modeling. And so I took off to go
24 to France to stay with her, and when I got there, I had
25 this little room, they had locked me in a room where I

1 didn't have a key and I was mentally broken. And they just
2 dressed me up and took me out to this club -- to go on
3 dates with men. And that was a friend. And I thought -- I
4 was so defeated, like, I either have one -- two things, I'm
5 defeated, and I just give in and do it because I don't want
6 to fight and I don't want to be hurt. It's just easier if
7 you give in because then you don't get hurt so much, and
8 then you just turn off -- you think it's just your body.
9 Or -- or you fight, and -- yeah.

10 That's one thing I wanted to add to it, was
11 that it didn't matter what country or where ever you are
12 there's always people that wanted to take advantage of your
13 weakness but also eat -- I feel like I've been eaten alive
14 consistently because I'm Native and because I'm good-
15 looking.

16 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** M'hm.

17 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** And it destroyed me and
18 that's why I gained, like, probably, 70 to 100 pounds, so
19 people would stop looking at me because I'm tired
20 objectified. I'm tired of being a thing or a novelty. You
21 know, like, when my husband used to travel around, we'd be
22 in Sweden and it'd just be like, Oh, look at she -- she's
23 so pretty and she -- she has good manners, like -- like I'm
24 a savage beast and I'm tamed. It was disgusting.

25 That's what I just wanted to add, was the --

1 the novelty factor for First Nations women. Like look at
2 the lies about Pocahontas and shit, right?

3 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** And that even now that
4 you've put on weight, they still --

5 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Oh, yeah.

6 **MS. AUDREY SIEGL:** -- it's still -- nothing
7 has changed.

8 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Nothing's changed. It
9 doesn't matter if I'm skinny or fat, men still are creepy.

10 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** And you wanted to add
11 about --

12 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** That's --

13 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** -- Malaysia?

14 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Oh, being so ashamed of
15 being First Nations, I created a lie that I told everybody
16 when I did -- when I was able to go back to school, 'cause
17 I had a little bit of stability, that I told everybody that
18 I was a Malaysian princess' daughter. That my father was a
19 naval officer and my mother was Malaysian. She died giving
20 birth to me. And until last year, my girlfriend didn't
21 know that that wasn't true. I lived with -- she had lived
22 with that lie all along and it's pretty trippy to be that
23 ashamed of who you are, to hide everything to not be First
24 Nations, but -- but being something else fantastical was
25 okay. And that's it.

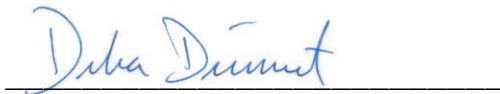
1 **MS. CHANEL BLOUIN:** Okay. Thank you.

2 **MS. MARIA SIEGL:** Thank you.

3 --- Upon adjourning 7:04 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Debra Diemert, 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.



Debra Diemert

January 6, 2019