National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
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Winnipeg, Manitoba

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Friday December 14, 2018

Statement - Volume 611

Gwen Wilson,
In relation to Hillary Angel Wilson

Statement gathered by Pamela Vernaus

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## Table of Contents

**Statement Volume 611**  
Gwen Wilson  
December 14, 2018  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Testimony of Gwen Wilson</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporter’s Certification</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statement Gatherer:** Pamela Vernaus

**Documents submitted with testimony:** none.
Upon commencing on Friday, December 14, 2018 at 3:35 p.m.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: So today is December 14th, 2018, and we are in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and I'm sitting with Gwen Wilson. And Gwen has understood that she will be signing the consent form after we do the statement.

My name's Pamela Vernaus. I'm a statement gatherer, and we're in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

So Gwen, whenever you're ready to tell your story. You have all the time in the world to share with us today. And if you need to take a break, just let me know; we will stop.

MS. GWEN WILSON: After all that's happened, I find myself wanting to just not trust anyone anymore and not to -- I'm hurting a lot, so I'm not able to move on; it's really difficult to move on. No one has been arrested yet, and that's what I'm waiting for. There are people out there that I know have information about what happened to Hillary.

Hillary was found on August 20th, 2009. Her lifeless body was found on the side of the road, and I wasn't informed until days later. I'm upset with the Winnipeg Police and the RCMP for this.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: M'hm.
MS. GWEN WILSON: They -- when they found her, they didn't inform me to go identify her or anything like that.

At times, I don't believe that this has happened, but I seen my daughter in a coffin. I want to know who murdered her. I want to know what happened to her.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. GWEN WILSON: I want to know who did that to her. I want them caught. I want to see these evil people that did this to me and my family, taking away my beautiful daughter's life. She didn't deserve for this to happen to her. I am been -- I have been angry ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. GWEN WILSON: --- a lot and I am carrying that anger.

My daughter was trying to come home, as we were trying to get ready for my son's 18th birthday. Her brother and her are not far apart; they're the same age for a while. She was supposed to come home and help me decorate and prepare for the birthday party, to prepare the food and we're decorating, and she knew that we always did things like that.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. GWEN WILSON: She was on her way home,
and I don't know who she met up with that night. Like I 
calling her friend's house. There was no response, 
nothing. Now, when I see them today, they just run away 
from me. So I'd like to know why these so called friends 
are doing that.

MS. PAMELA VERNIAUS: Yeah.

MS. GWEN WILSON: They don't talk to me, 
they don't try to help me out to find out what happened. 
And hard for me and my family, we don't deserve this. We - 
- no one deserves to be treated like this.

When she was murdered, a huge part of me 
died. My heart hasn't been the same since. When I try to 
get my kids ready for birthday parties now, I am -- I do my 
best, I try to do everything that I can. And she's -- and 
we know she is not there. It's a great -- there are 
sometimes that we know that she's there with us in spirit.

MS. PAMELA VERNIAUS: Yeah.

MS. GWEN WILSON: The RCMP and the Winnipeg 
Police, I want them to do what they have to. I would like 
them to arrest who did this to Hillary. I want them to -- 
I want them to catch who did this to her. Hillary was very 
loving, beautiful person. We just loved her so much, we 
miss her so much, we love her so much.

I have been not feeling well since then. 
I've been in and out of the hospital, in and out of
emergency because there are times when I just feel that --
I feel a heartache. I have trouble breathing, sleeping
because I miss her.

I had to move from our house where we lived
together, and ever since then I was -- I'm always -- it
seems like it doesn't matter where I move to, I wait for
her.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. GWEN WILSON: I am still waiting.

Because when she called, "Mom, I'm coming home" --

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. GWEN WILSON: --- I asked who she was

with. I remember some names.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. GWEN WILSON: Those people, they know I
know their names. I want them to please tell the truth.
Whatever they know, I would like them to tell the truth.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Have you shared the

names?

MS. GWEN WILSON: I have shared names ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. GWEN WILSON: --- with the police, yes.

From day one I have been trying to ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: You shared them ---

MS. GWEN WILSON: --- help them.
MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: You shared them with the lawyers before; right?

MS. GWEN WILSON: Yes.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Okay.

MS. GWEN WILSON: I am waiting for someone to tell me what happened to her. I want something done about what happened to her. My family and I are yearning that.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. GWEN WILSON: My sons and daughter, we're not the same anymore. When she was found, I just -- I didn't believe it, I couldn't believe it. I thought no, you have it all wrong. Where is Hillary?

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. GWEN WILSON: I want to know where is Hillary.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: M'hm.

MS. GWEN WILSON: She was on her way home, and I want to know where she is.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. GWEN WILSON: I would like to know where she is.

Hillary loved people. She was very forgiving. She had a lot of friends. And I want those friends to come see me. There is one of them that has said
awful things about her, and apparently, she's told me and
she's said things over somebody's recorder and a camera,
and she said awful things. I want that person questioned.
I know she was involved.

**MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** What's her name?

**MS. GWEN WILSON:** [Woman 1].

**MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** [Woman 1]? Okay.

**MS. GWEN WILSON:** I -- there is a video that
has been seen so many times. That person is friends with
Hillary's other friends.

Very abusive individual. She -- this person
fights her mother; this person is not in a healthy state of
mind. She fights her family members; she is awful. I have
heard a lot of bad things about her.

She said things about Hillary in detail,
like she knows what happened, she was there when it
happened. Trying to hide the fact that she knows what
happened is not going to help her. Everybody that does
wrong will be judged for what they did to anyone, hurting
anyone.

This so-called friend of hers, I haven't sat
with, and I don't think I ever will. She is afraid.
Clearly, that states that she was there. Her family and
friends are hiding her, I guess. And there isn't just her.
I believe that there is more that were there when this
happened to Hillary.

For the police to say that she was involved with the sex trade, I would like to know who ---

**MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

**MS. GWEN WILSON:** --- has facts on this.

Saying that is being judgmental. I don't trust the media, I don't trust the police, I don't trust anyone. I told you that ---

**MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

**MS. GWEN WILSON:** --- it's hard to trust anyone.

**MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

**MS. GWEN WILSON:** When I try and share anything about Hillary, I try to be very careful because I know there is people out there that know what happened to her, and all that I'm asking is please for the truth.

There is a lot. There is missing women out there, girls, women that have been murdered. It has to stop. It has to stop. They don't deserve this. We don't need this crap.

**MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** No.

**MS. GWEN WILSON:** We don't deserve this shit that's happening to us.

We have to learn to get along and to help one another regardless of race or anything. Everyone has
sinned and come short of the glory of God. It's written --
it is written. For those of you that read the Bible,
(indiscernible) and all you guys know, people know what I
am trying to say here, it's hard to put into words what I
am trying to say.

I am angry, I am hurt, I am sad, I am lost.
I am broken. Ever since my daughter, Hillary Angel Wilson
was murdered, my heart, our lives are not the same anymore.
I never felt so lonely. That loneliness, that loneliness
and these hurts, when you try to do things for your kids,
and you set a table I'm not setting (indiscernible) for
Hillary, she is not sitting there. We expect
(indiscernible) for her to be happy too with her siblings,
(speaking Indigenous language). We miss her so much. We
love her. We want justice done for her.

I know, and I have heard some things, I have
pieced things together. In this world, nobody's perfect.
Hillary, we love you, we miss you. We will continue to
fight and wait for justice to be done for you. (Speaking
in Indigenous language) Manitou, Creator, God, we pray this
(speaking Indigenous language). We wait for that day
(speaking Indigenous language).

A lot of families out there are hurting.
Stop hurting us, stop hurting our girls, stop hurting our
women. We don't deserve that. We are loving people. Just
love one another. Amen? That's what it means
(indiscernible).

Hillary was a very loving and forgiving
person. However, these people are that did that to my
daughter, my heart, my broken heart is in question to
forgive you. I want the truth, I want to know what
happened to Hillary. Why did you do that to my daughter?
Why did you take her away from us? Why would you do that
to somebody so beautiful, somebody so loving?

(Speaking Indigenous language) that
someone's jealousy, someone's hatred, someone's evil took
her life. You won't get away with that. Even if ever you
go in front of a judge and you get convicted, when you all
get convicted someday, you'll still have to stand before
God to voice your reasons for what -- why you did that to
my daughter. That day is coming soon for everyone.

I pray that, and I don't want hatred, I
don't want anybody hating on each other. Truth needs to be
said. Whatever you know, wherever you are out there
(speaking Indigenous language) that know things. Her
family is hurting. We miss her. We want justice done for
her.

There was bruises on her arms. One of the
bruises looked like a crowbar or a -- some kind of weapon
they use on her. What awful evil people hitting her
repeatedly, kicking her to the point where they killed her. You're sick. You need help. Confess your sins and tell the truth.

Whoever did this to Hillary, I want to know who you are, all of you. Come see me. I want to know what happened, everything that happened. You had no right to do that to Hillary. Hillary was not a violent person. (Speaking Indigenous language) to do that to her.

These people that are being allowed into Canada and given snacks at the gates, you know what when you come here to Winnipeg, Canada, we don't welcome you to come and kill our girls and women, we don't welcome you here. They would say (indiscernible), we don't.

Keep your hands to yourselves. Leave us alone. Leave this girls and women alone. Leave our families alone. In fact, maybe you should go back to where you came from. Why don't you go treat people somewhere else like that instead of coming here to Winnipeg and doing that?

And I've heard a lot of things, heard a lot of things. I had to bury my daughter (indiscernible) house.

I remember someone mentioning in some video about Hillary being 6 feet underground, saying things about her. You, who was saying that, know that I'm not scared of
you, I'm not scared of you at all. I am not afraid of you, and nor will I ever will be. Whoever did this to my daughter, I am not scared of you. I am waiting for you to come see me. I am waiting for you to come and tell me why you did that to my beautiful daughter.

You're sick. Whoever did that to my daughter, you're sick. You're sick, you're evil, pathetic. Someday you will be punished for what you did to Hillary. Someday this might happen to you in your family. Don't make fun of me, don't make fun of my family, and don't bother telling lies. We want the truth.

Whoever took her body to Highway 59, whoever did this to Hillary, who took her to Highway 59? Who left here there? Who took her there? Who took Hillary to Highway 59? Who took her over there? Why did you do that? Why would you do such a thing to a beautiful, young woman?

(Speaking Indigenous language.) Not good. What you did is awful. Whoever did this to my daughter, to take her to Highway 59 and murder her, I want to know who you are. Come and see me, come and talk to me. I want to see how well you look today. Do you feel no pain or remorse for what you did? No, probably not, because you're sick in the head, all of you are sick in the head for even touching Hillary in that way.

But I am not afraid of you. Come and talk
to me who did this to Hillary. I'll see you sometime.
Tell the truth. Lies, I don't want to hear anymore of your
lies. I want to know what happened. I have the right to
know why you took her beautiful life away. You hurt me and
my family.

You broke a commandment, Thou Shalt Not
Kill. (Speaking Indigenous language), and it's written in
the Holy Bible. Something Hillary read when she was a
child, Bible. (Speaking Indigenous language.) She read
that, she wrote tests even. I have those still. She knew
better. To murder someone and think you're going to get
away with it, no.

Sad. You left us sad and heartbroken.

You're sick. Whoever did this, you're all sick.

The person that found Hillary, just a young
boy walking his dog. The dog didn't want to go back to the
owner. He was barking. Hillary loved puppies as a child.
She had some from our neighbour, her grandma. And we were
back home, happy with those dogs.

When I found out that it was a dog that
found her, I didn't know what to think, and I just thought
-- I couldn't believe it, I couldn't believe. No, I want
my daughter back, I want her back, I want her home, I want
her here with us. Whoever left her there, I want to know
why you did that to my daughter.
This is something that we made at a gathering we had called Wiping Away Their Tears. Being there with other families is something that we have to do and that we will continue to do to support each other, to hug each other, to love and help one another, to try to find out things why this is happening, how can we stop it, what can we do. (Speaking Indigenous language) question a lot of people have.

I'm very upset, very hurt, angry, tired, empty. The police that found her, I don't believe that they did a very good investigation when they were there where she was found because we found things after. It just seemed like there were just -- they didn't do much. And when I did try to work with some -- one of the RCMP, all of a sudden, they took him away.

I even heard that a police officer lost some information. That is so wrong.

**MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

**MS. GWEN WILSON:** That is unprofessional to lose information regarding an investigation. I trusted those police and I didn't want to, but I thought maybe they will get something done had I tried to help.

They took away the RCMP detective that I was helping for two years. They moved him. They they took away statements away from an Aboriginal police officer that was
trying to help. They told him stay out of it, and they
told him this is not your caseload, this is not your file.
They told him to stay out of it. They told [Officer 1]
(ph) to stay out of it.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: M'hm.

MS. GWEN WILSON: He was working on the
taskforce. They told him to stay out of it. Why? Why did
d they tell him to stay out of it? He was trying to help.
He had a lot of pages of my statement, a lot of information
that I had. He had that and I don't know what happened.

I've had dreams even of the police being
there when this happened to Hillary. I'm not trying to
point fingers at the city police or the RCMP. It's hard
not to though.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. GWEN WILSON: Sorry to say this, but
it's hard not to.

There was a mark on my daughter's arm. It
seemed like someone hit her with what's called the
nightstick, I guess the police have some kind of -- when
they hit somebody.


MS. GWEN WILSON: A baton. It just seemed
like she was hit with that right across this way.

When I see the police, they just -- they --
it's just like they want to avoid me right away. They're like, oh no, it's Gwen Wilson. She's going make us work. Now she's going say all this and that. Well, sure I am. I'm -- my daughter was murdered, of course I'm going to say and ask things. I am going to because I want to know what happened to her. If it was your daughter, you would want to know too. You know, I will stay mad unless I -- I know some of them are okay and some of them are not.

MS. PAMELA VERAUS: One second.

(Indiscernible.)

MS. GWEN WILSON: I didn't write anything.

MS. PAMELA VERAUS: You're doing amazing.

MS. GWEN WILSON: I am just flashbacking to the field. Yeah, for the detective, I'm flashbacking with working with him. That's what coming as I'm talking to -- if I pause ---

MS. PAMELA VERAUS: That's okay.

MS. GWEN WILSON: --- that's because it's coming. I apologize.

MS. PAMELA VERAUS: No, don't apologize. You're doing great.

MS. GWEN WILSON: This is all my children at Christmas time. This is one of the photos. Hillary's over here holding up her gift. Although we were not rich, like I still made sure that my kids had gifts for Christmas and
for their birthday.

It's not easy to try and go on with life, but for my children that are alive now I try to cheer them up, I try to help them to just -- I smile, I hold them when they cry, I hug them, I comfort them and I tell them positive things that someday whoever did this to Hillary will get caught. (Speaking Indigenous language), Hillary. We love Hillary. We miss her.

Please, to her friends that were with her that night, whatever police might have been involved, you need to tell the truth. My heart's broken. My life not the same. We need answers. We need answers. We want justice for Hillary. We will not stop looking for answers. We will not stop looking for clues. We won't stop until this is done.

Somebody had hit her, somebody hit her head, her body. Why would you do such a thing? You shouldn't have done that to my daughter. You shouldn't do that to anyone.

If you are like that to hurt people, go get help. Go talk to someone, but don't go around killing people. Only Satan does that. And if you're like that, Hell's not a nice place. You know where Hillary is, she's in heaven. She's in heaven, she's in a better place.

Those of you that took her life away if you
want to see Heaven, if you want to see your friends someday, you'll have to confess and tell. You have to tell the truth. Ask God to forgive you. Tell the truth. We're hurting. We miss her. You took somebody away from us.

    I want answers, and I'm waiting, and I'm hoping and praying that whoever you people are that took my daughter's life please come forward, tell the truth.

    Please. Thank you very much. Miigwetch.

    MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: So time is 4:15 p.m.

    MS. GWEN WILSON: I didn't know what else to say. I didn't know what else to say.

    MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Just stop time,

    4:15 p.m.

    --- Upon adjourning at 4:15 p.m.
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST’S CERTIFICATE

I, Suzanne Jobb, 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.

Suzanne Jobb

January 25, 2019