## Vancouver, BC <br> October 17, 2011

## (PROCEEDINGS RECONVENED AT 10:02 A.M.)

THE REGISTRAR: Order. This hearing is now resumed.
THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Gratl.
MR. GRATL: Mr. Commissioner, good morning.
THE COMMISSIONER: Good morning.
MR. GRATL: Professor Lowman. I would like to begin, Professor, by --

THE REGISTRAR: Excuse me, Mr. Gratl, would you, for the record, if you would announce your name and who you represent please for the witness.

MR. GRATL: Thank you. Oh, certainly. Jason Gratl, independent counsel for Downtown Eastside communities.

JOHN LOWMAN, previously affirmed:
CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. GRATL:
Q And Professor Lowman, I would like to begin by discussing a number of the enforcement strategies that were deployed against what was considered to be the public nuisance presented by street-level sex workers.

Over the weekend, I have provided you with a package of documents to review consisting of documents excerpted from the concordance database,
a total of 220 pages. Did you have a chance to review those over the weekend?

A Yes.
Q And I'm sorry for burdening you with the extra work, but I thought it might be helpful to refresh your recollection. Do those documents assist you in refreshing your recollection?

A Yes.
Q One of the aspects of the street-level enforcement that was discussed last week by you was the displacement and containment policies. Those are effectively geographically selected use of the Criminal Code powers; is that correct?

A Yes, I think that would be a reasonable way to describe it.

Q So, if, if a street-level sex worker is operating in one geographically-bound area, they might be charged or threatened with charges, and if they were operating in another area, they wouldn't be; is that correct?

A That was my understanding from the press release, and according to the documents that you provided, there is plentiful evidence of that strategy existing.

Q Okay. And what it amounts to, that strategy, is a
tacit toleration of street-level sex work as long as it occurs in a determined area?

A Correct.
Q It, effectively, establishes a red light district although red light district isn't properly policed in your opinion; is that correct?

A I refer to it as an orange light district to the extent that a red light district is a formal arrangement, as I understand it. But the point that you make, it was an area of tolerance for street activity, seems to be borne out by the various documents.

Q All right. One of the documents in your report at Exhibit G, or appendix, appendix G, is entitled "Prostitution in the Vancouver Metropolitan Area in 1989-1995".

A Yes.
Q It's dated October 10th, 1995?
A Yes.
Q And at page 7 of that report, at the bottom paragraph, beginning, "according to our accounts"?

A Yes.
Q It sets out that:
Without a fundamental change to the law and other prostitution policy, from the police
perspective, the containment strategy is perhaps the best practical enforcement solution they can offer to deal with the nuisances attributed to street prostitution. That was your opinion as of 1995; is that correct?

A Yes.
Q Has that changed at all, since 1995? I mean, is that the best that the police can do without a change to the law, in your opinion?

A That is a comment that's restricted to enforcement strategies. Uhm, what the police might best do could be conceptualized far more widely than that. So, it's a qualified statement and it's trying to understand the situation through the eyes of the police at the time.

Q All right. So, that's, that's -- what you are setting out there is what you considered to be, as of 1995, the police perspective on the containment and displacement policies that was, from their point of view, the best practical solution?

A The best practical solution to a series of laws that seem to have contradictory effects if they're all enforced.

Q All right. Now, in terms of displacement, the police, in addition to having police members have
specific interactions with sex workers, they also assisted in organizing and facilitating neighborhood associations, residents' associations; is that correct?

A Yes.
Q That includes the Hastings North Residents' Association, the Burrard Residents' Association, Strathcona Residents' Association; is that correct?

A Yes.
Q So, they didn't confine themselves to acting themselves. They also put, essentially they put citizens up to the same tack, to assist in that displacement and containment policy?

A Yes, as part of a, what you might call a community policing strategy, members of the community were involved.

Q All right. So, of course, you are familiar, Professor, with the commissioner's 1994 report on community policing?

A Yes.
Q And following 1994, following the release of that report, there were efforts made, in effect, by the Vancouver Police Department to, to create and establish community policing offices and
neighbourhood safety offices?
A I believe it was, at that point, shortly afterwards, that the various community safety offices were opened.

Q All right. So, specific officers were assigned to those community safety offices and policing offices?

A Yes.
Q That, that occurred under the designation POPSU, P-O-P-S-U, referring to Problem-Oriented Policing --

A Yes.
Q -- Special Unit?
A That's, yes, that's my recollection of it.
Q And the, that acronym, Problem-Oriented Policing, referred to problems identified by those residents
or neighbourhood groups, correct?
A Yes.
Q And the problems identified by the neighborhood and residents' groups included sex work and open drug use --

A Yes.
Q -- in those neighbourhoods?
A Yes.
Q And the neighborhood groups, to your, to your
knowledge, were vociferous in their denunciation of sex work, having sex work within their neighbourhoods?

A Usually.
Q They provided very strong direction and guidance and demanded of the police action on sex work within those neighborhoods?

A Yes.
Q And of course, the problem-oriented policing units or community safety officers did respond to those demands?

A Yes.
Q POPSU, or POPSU, eventually, because of the ungainliness of that acronym, was renamed Team 11; is that correct?

A That I don't recall.
Q All right.
A And if that's in any of these records, then that's something I would have missed or not registered.

Q Okay. So, in addition to these community safety officers, police officers within VPD, the Vice Squad was also deployed for this containment and displacement policy?

A It would have been involved in it to the extent that the Vice Squad would have been responsible
for communicating investigations, --

Q And --
A -- section 213.
Q And Vice Squad, to your knowledge, was a specialized enforcement team that focused, among other things, on sex workers?

A Yes.
Q In addition to Vice Squad and community policing officers, patrol officers, general patrol officers, were involved in this containment and displacement policy?

A In two ways I would say. One would be putting them on various special task forces, and the other would be in terms of just the general duties while patrolling, that might include intelligence gathering, et cetera.

Q It's fair to say the VPD protocol for dealing with complaints about street-level sex work evolved over time?

A Uh, that would often be the case, especially with the Vice Unit.

Q Now, I just want to take you to a snapshot in time, the policy, as of October 27th, 1997. If you could turn to page 67 at the package of materials distributed to you.

Mr. Commissioner, I would ask at this time that this package of materials, a copy of which is put forward for Mr. Lowman, a copy of which has been provided to the clerk, a copy --

THE COMMISSIONER: Be marked as an exhibit?
MR. GRATL: Be marked for identification.
THE COMMISSIONER: Oh, I see. All right.
MR. GRATL: A number of the documents will assist Professor Lowman in refreshing his recollection, but he may not be in a position to identify all of the documents or group all of the documents into evidence, and I anticipate that officers who will be able to prove the documents will be called to testify at a later time.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
THE REGISTRAR: That will be marked as Exhibit A for Identification.
(EXHIBIT NO. A FOR IDENTIFICATION: Package of documents consisting of 220 pages excerpted from the concordance database)

MR. GRATL:
Q At page, at page 67 is page 1 of 2 of a City of Vancouver strategies for neighborhood safety offices document entitled "Street Prostitution Complaints in Vancouver".

At the, at the second full paragraph from the bottom, there is an indication that complaints to the police non-emergency line will be forwarded to the neighborhood safety office; is that correct?

A Yes.
Q And then a neighborhood patrol officer assigned to the safety office will be responsible for contacting the complainant and following up?

A Yes.
Q Is that correct?
A Yes.
Q And for complaints about sex workers, here entitled "Prostitutes", the neighbourhood patrol officer will interview the prostitute and request that he or she move?

A Yes.
Q If unsuccessful, the neighborhood policing officer will -- neighborhood patrol officer will contact one of the community agencies that work with sex workers --

A Yes.
Q -- and will ask the prostitute to move. And then if the prostitute persists, that is to say, doesn't move, the Vice Section of the Vancouver Police Department will be contacted for
enforcement action?
A Yes.
Q Further detail is provided on the strategy at page 74, if you could turn to that page.

A Okay.
Q You'll see this, this is page 7 of 8 of the City of Vancouver backgrounder on street prostitution in Vancouver?

A Yes.
Q Under the heading, "What Can You Do" there is a list of local neighborhood safety offices that it is suggested that citizens contact if they have a complaint about a street prostitute?

A Yes.
Q Included on that list are a Downtown Eastside neighborhood safety office at 12 East Hastings Street, --

A Yes.
Q -- and a Native Liaison Society at 324 Main Street?

A Yes.
Q And telephone numbers are provided for those organizations?

A Yes.
Q And those organizations, in effect, are delegated
the task of contacting complainants, sex workers and community organizations, and ultimately, Vice, to effect the displacement and containment policy?

A Yes.
Q Now, the community agencies specifically involved include, to your knowledge, the Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society; is that correct?

A That would have presumably been one of the agencies.

Q And another, another of the agencies would have been PACE; is that correct?

A That's a possibility, yes.
Q All right. That's an organization of which you were --

A A board member at that time, yes.
Q -- a board member. Were you aware of that, of your organization's involvement in implementing this policy?

A I was aware of PACE's involvement in trying to coordinate a variety of different strategies to assist sex workers.

Q All right. I take it, I take it that PACE, to your knowledge, was involved, in effect, in the community policing strategy in the sense that PACE was liaising with neighborhood and community
policing organizations --
A Yes.
Q -- in trying to minimize, in effect, the likelihood of charges and so forth that sex workers would face?

A Yes. I believe, at one point, PACE asked for a complete moratorium on enforcement of 213.

Q This policy containment and, and displacement was perceived to be a, a gentler way of addressing public nuisance issues than the previous tactics, which included periods of very intense prosecution and enforcement of communication laws?

A Yes.
Q That is, there would be hundreds or thousands of charges per annum against street-level sex workers?

A Yes.
Q In addition to geographic displacement and containment, there was also a type of temporal containment; is that correct?

A Yes.
Q And that temporal containment policy was implemented, in effect, after the geographic containment policy had proven successful, after the sex workers, street-level sex workers had been
cordoned within these dimly lit industrial areas?
A That I don't recall, but $I$ do remember, when $I$ read these documents yesterday, seeing a reference to "temporal displacement".

Q I will just, to refresh your recollection, if I could refer you to page 91 of this document. At page 91, we see the first page of a memorandum from Russ Mitchell, a constable assigned to the Hastings North neighborhood patrol, --

A Yes.
Q -- to Ken Frail, Sergeant Ken Frail, who is in charge of the Neighbourhood Policing Team for District 2?

A Yes.
Q Under the first heading, "Prostitution", Constable Mitchell summarizes that: More of the prostitutes are getting the message that working during business hours is not acceptable. I have noticed far fewer during the day (though there are still a number out from time to time).

A Yes.
Q And he goes on to say:
It is time soon to do an undercover sting against some of those prostitutes who are
continuing to work during the day.
A Yes.

Q
The community impact statement that I have been working on should be helpful to obtain meaningful bail conditions such as no-go's. In effect, what Constable Mitchell is setting out there is that temporal restrictions have been placed on street-level sex workers working within these industrial areas?

A Yes.
Q So that they're not allowed to work during the day?

A Yes.
Q That was in response to complaints by business owners within those industrial areas?

A Correct.
Q Who felt that their business was adversely affected by the --

A Yes.
Q -- presence of sex workers, correct?
A Yes.
Q And again, the same pattern appears, that
enforcement, Criminal Code enforcement is only brought to bear if street-level sex workers refuse to be contained in the way that the VPD wants them
to be contained?
A Correct.
Q If they don't take what amounts to informal
direction from the officers?
A Correct.
Q And none of, none of that containment and displacement policy is set out in the Criminal Code, is it?

A Not to my knowledge.
Q It's effectively use of discretionary enforcement powers --

A Correct.
Q -- of the Vancouver Police Department?
A Correct.
Q But according to these documents, it appears that the discretionary enforcement is done with the concurrence of the City of Vancouver?

A Yes.
Q And it's done with the concurrence of neighborhood safety offices --

A Yes.
Q -- within the community policing model?
A Yes.
Q And it's also done, to some extent, with the concurrence of some community groups?

A Yes.
Q Now, I don't want to spend too much time on this, but I just want to go through a number of additional enforcement tools or techniques or strategies used by the Vancouver Police Department in respect of sex workers from the period 1994 to 2002 .

A Okay.
Q One is decoy projects. What is a decoy project?
A Could you give me a reference to the document that that comes from?

Q This is page 17 of the materials. It's not elaborated on in the materials, but $I$ was hoping that you would be in a position to provide some details. Sorry, page 24.

A Okay.
Q Page 24 is a memo from Constable Jeannie Yee, District 2, Team 11, --

A Yes.
Q Team 11 is this community policing liaison-type role.

A Yes.
Q -- to Inspector Gary Greer. And in this memo, Constable Yee is asking for permission to conduct a prostitution project where sex workers are
working out of the tolerance zones?
A Yes.
Q And johns are targeted, and she asks to initiate another one of these projects.

A Yes.
Q In the third paragraph, she indicates that: The Bike Patrol Unit and several of the community officers have indicated their willingness to participate in this project.

A Yes.
Q But then she makes the comment:
However, we will still require additional
officers to act as decoys.
And I am wondering what that might be, acting as decoys?

A Okay. The enforcement of the communicating law, Criminal Code section 213, usually involves a police decoy. Uhm, on the one side, it will involve a female officer posing as a sex worker standing on the street waiting for clients to approach.

In the case of enforcement against sex workers, it will involve a police officer, in an undercover capacity, approaching sex workers standing on the street posing as clients and then
engaging them in a conversation to the point that they get sufficient evidence, i.e., the naming of a service and a price is usually sufficient to be able to lay a charge.

Q So, it's a fairly labour-intensive strategy then?
A Yes, it is, because you have one person acting as the decoy in ride-alongs where I was watching this enforcement. In the case of a female posing as a sex worker, you would have to have a backup car with two officers in it. So, that's a team of three. And in the case of enforcement against sex workers, you would have the undercover officer in one car and you would also have two other officers in a backup car.

Q Do you know, Professor Lowman, how many of these decoy projects, sting operations occurred?

A Uhm, no, I don't know -- well, there's two different kinds of enforcement. One is that you have continual enforcement. For example, you have members of the Vice Squad and perhaps uniformed officers seconded to the squad, and there is continual enforcement. And I think that was the, that was the pattern that I observed when I was doing the evaluation of the communicating law in the late 1980s. So, basically you are making
decisions on a daily basis about which areas you are going to concentrate on.

The other kind of operation is what you might call a task force. Problem areas develop, so you decide to put together a task force for a six-week period, that might involve many more officers.

When you look at different police jurisdictions across Canada in terms of the way they enforce the communicating law, you saw both those models used in different jurisdictions. And in a case like Vancouver, you might see both of those models used over a period of years.

Q All right. Another tactic that was used by the Vancouver Police Department included -- was, was roadblocks.

A Yes.
Q And that, roadblocks consisted, I take it, of members of the Vancouver Police Department, police members, who blockaded a road in order to prevent traffic flow, that is, vehicular traffic that would facilitate communication between sex workers and their customers?

A I would take that as meaning two different kinds of strategies. That would be one of them you would -- and one example of this was when
prostitution started to appear on 8 th Avenue north of Broadway for a period. Police put up -- it was mainly a residential street. Police wanted to move it out of that area. They moved it onto Ontario and Quebec, and one of the ways that that was achieved was by literally putting police cars across roads. That area was later moved down to 1st Avenue, which was another one of these tolerance zones.

The other kind of strategy that was used was blocking off streets on a permanent basis. You will see in the various documents you provided me yesterday, references to the area around Semlin and Lakewood. Basically what, what happened was a series of decisions about where to put roadblocks and on which streets to put one-way directions essentially meant that you created a pattern for trolling cars that would direct them back into the containment area in order to keep them out of the residential area. So, a variety of different strategies were being used to create these containment areas.

Q Now, this is skipping around a little bit to the municipal non-policing strategies. But I take it those permanent alterations of traffic flow
included putting up curbs, speed bumps; is that correct?

A Correct.
Q Signage?
A Yes.
Q Permanent diversions of roads to one-way streets rather than two-way?

A Correct.
Q Limiting options for traffic flow so that a vehicle could only turn left, for example?

A Correct. All of those were done in the Semlin/ Lakewood area to keep the traffic to the west along what had become the, some of the main strolls, Franklin and Pandora.

Q So, if people wanted to take a shortcut, say, off 1st Avenue on the way to downtown, if the traffic gets bogged down and they find themselves lost in a maze of streets, the reason for that is effectively enforcement against street-level sex workers?

A That could happen, yes.
Q You also, again, just on a tangent, you indicated that roadblocks were used to move sex workers from the Broadway area to the north, down the hill, on Ontario and Quebec Streets?

A Yes.
Q Through about the 5th to 8th Avenue area?
A It was a little further down than 5th, if I recall correctly. But yes, roughly in that neighborhood, yeah. No, that's about right. They kept it on Ontario/Quebec rather than coming west across 8th.

Q All right. And that, again, that's an industrial area?

A Yes.
Q All right.
A Mainly. It's the, the -- in the end, I think the decision was made to displace that to 1st Avenue, which was clearly an industrial area. There are some houses on Ontario and Quebec.

Q And so that was, again, displaced down to 1st Avenue --

A Yes.
Q -- near Quebec and Ontario?
A Yes. Immediately to the north.
Q And then finally, in a third move, that area, sex workers in that, working in that area at street level, were displaced again after the police headquarters was opened at 2120 Cambie Street; is that correct?

A It would have been around about that time,
although I wouldn't -- I'm not sure that that was the only reason for the gradual disappearance of the 1st Avenue stroll.

Q Sometimes the containment policies were, in effect, undermined by special projects --

A Yes.
Q -- that seemingly grated against the containment and displacement policy?

A Yes.
Q One example of that is the street safety initiative expansion project, which started as a four-week period in February of 1997?

A Uh, I don't remember the dates. I do remember seeing the reference to that in the documents that you sent.

Q I will just take you to page 25, if that assists in refreshing your recollection.

A Yes.
Q That's -- sorry?
A Sergeant McKellar was the author, yes.
Q Sergeant McKellar was the, in effect, he was the architect of this strategy?

A Yes.
Q And it was his notion that it would be a good idea to take a zero-tolerance approach --

A Yes.
Q -- to enforcement for a period of time?
A Yes.
Q In particular, a four-week period of time. So that four days a week, for a period of four weeks between the hours of $6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. and $4 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. , there would be a two-officer team who would carry out enforcement activities within the entire Hastings North period -- or Hastings North area?

A Yes.
Q Including the industrial zones?
A Yes.
Q And in addition to those two full-time dedicated officers, who did nothing but this type of zerotolerance enforcement, the entire Patrol Division was acting on those initiatives throughout the city?

A Yes.
Q What began as a four-week project expanded to a nine-week project. I will just refer you to page 44. At page 44, we have a March 13 memo from Sergeant McKellar --

A Yes.
Q -- setting out how many sex workers were checked?
A Yes.

Q The number there is 35.
A Yes.
Q There is an indication of where they're from. So, plainly, the officers were speaking with the women --

A Yes.
Q -- and asking them questions?
A Yes.
Q In addition to 35 sex workers, there were also four johns checked?

A Yes.
Q The proportion, at least on that day, appears to be predominantly sex workers who are checked?

A Yes.
Q The focus there is on sex workers, not the johns?
A Yes.
Q Over the page, on March 15th, again, Sergeant McKellar is setting out an overnight report on the special -- or on the Street Safety Unit project?

A Yes.
Q There the total number of sex workers checked is 36?

A Yes.
Q And the origins of those sex workers set out, were some of those set out?

A Yes.
Q But in addition to that, there is a, there's a notation for the number of intravenous drug users, among those, 36 sex workers.

A Sorry, where is that?
Q It's at page 45 just under the heading "Sex Trade Workers," it sets out --

A Oh, I beg your pardon. I was looking -- yes.
Q It says, intravenous -- "number of intravenous drug" --

A Yes.
Q -- "users are 21"?
A Yes.
Q But that's an indication that these officers here were, were asking sex workers, not only about their, their place of origin, but also about whether or not they were intravenous drug users, either that or they were conducting physical checks of some kind?

A Correct.
Q Over the page, again, dated March 15, is an overnight report on the SFU project. On that evening, the total number of sex workers checked was 15.

A Yes.

Q And the number of intravenous drug users is listed as four.

A Yes.
Q And the number of HIV-positive sex workers is listed as one?

A Yes.
Q Now, obviously, the HIV status is not something that an officer can detect from mere observation?

A Correct.
Q The indication here, or the obvious inference to be drawn from this document is that the officers were asking sex workers about their HIV status?

A That would be the inference $I$ would draw.
Q So, is an aspect of this enforcement strategy, the street safety strategy, to question women about their location, where they were from, to question them about their HIV status, and to question them about other matters, such as injection drug use?

A Yes. I guess the one other possibility with the HIV status is an officer's previous knowledge. It's a possibility. But all of the other conclusions that you draw, and perhaps that one too, it was information volunteered as a result of a question, that yes, officers were asking about all of those different characteristics of the
persons they were interviewing.
Q At page 48, there is a memo from Sergeant McKellar to "All Districts".

A Yes.
Q And it appears from this memo that Sergeant
McKellar is a little bit frustrated, because he is writing in all caps.

A Yes.
Q He indicates that it has come to his attention that some of the members of the Vancouver Police Department are probably unsure of the Department's initiative regarding street solicitation in the City of Vancouver and directs members to not tell sex workers to simply stay five to six blocks from schools to ply their trade.

A Yes, there are indications here that the right hand and left hand did not know what each other were doing.

Q So that the patrol officers in some places in the city were telling sex workers that they could carry on their business as long as they stayed contained, --

A Yes.
Q -- while Sergeant McKellar's Street Safety Unit was taking a zero-tolerance approach?

A Yes.
Q At page 49 -- and I'm sorry, Mr. Commissioner, to go into such detail, but these matters are, are of some importance.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right.
MR. GRATL:
Q At page 49, there's a further memo dated March 27th, 1997, again from Sergeant McKellar.

A Yes.
Q And there is an indication that the number of members assigned to the Street Safety Unit expanded project team is seven officers.

A Yes.
Q One non-commissioned officer and six constables?
A Yes.
Q Again, working from 6:00 in the evening until 4:00 in the morning, --

A Yes.
Q -- four days a week, and that the duration of the project is indicated as "ongoing, possibly three to four months"?

A Correct.
Q And so it appears from the February memo on to the March memo, that this is, this zero-tolerance policy seemed to take place for at least three or
four months --
A Yes.
Q -- in early 1997?
A Yes.
Q Now, aside from special task forces like the Street Safety Unit, there were also other strategies deployed, including parking in front of sex workers?

A Yes.
Q This is just officers who take their marked vehicles while they're in uniform and park in front of sex workers?

A Correct.
Q Effectively destroying any chance they have of making contact with a customer?

A Yes.
Q And so they're forced to move along?
A Yes.
Q You mentioned last week that there were, in your observation, oppressive searches done, dumping of purses, taking condoms from sex workers?

A Yes.
Q Another strategy deployed by the Vancouver Police Department is the DISC program, which you mentioned last week?

A Yes.
Q At page 95 of the materials, a description of Project DISC is set out. Have you had an opportunity to review this --

A Yes.
Q -- material?
A Yes.
Q Could, could you summarize the intent and method of the DISC project, Professor?

A Uhm, the acronym stands for "deter, identify sex trade consumers." And the purpose of the program was to collect information from men who were witnessed making contact with sex workers on the stroll. That information would be collected together in a database.

There were various protocols in place if a person was to appear for a second time. Uhm, one of the other strategies, I don't know that this applied to the DISC program throughout its existence, $I$ believe it continues to this day, but another strategy was to send a thing called a "Dear John letter" to the home of the man who had been entered into the database. So, there were a variety of different aspects of that program. It was the brainchild of Officers Ramos and

Payette, and $I$ believe over the years, it almost became a full-time assignment. I don't -- I get that impression from some of the documents that you supplied here, and there is certainly a variety of references throughout these documents to perceived success of that program. There may be other aspects of it that I haven't mentioned here, but that's roughly the. . .

Q In respect of the Dear John letters, it wasn't necessary for an individual sex trade -- or sex consumer to, to purchase sex services? All that had to be done is the, by that individual, is to be sort of lurking in and around the area, persistently attempting to make contact with sex workers?

A That's the indication from the documents describing the program, yes.

Q The person would be detained and asked what business they had in the neighborhood or in the area, and if they couldn't provide an account of their reason for being in the area, a Dear John letter was issued?

A Yes. So, researchers didn't get them.
Q Now, individuals weren't told at the time that they were detained that a Dear John letter would
be sent in order to maximize the effect?

A No, I believe they were not told.
Q Yes, that's what -- that was my question, --
A Oh, sorry.
Q -- that they were not told in order to maximize the --

A No, I believe there was a specific instruction that they not be told that they would be receiving one of these letters, and the reason that they were not told is that it would be a surprise, with the inference being that others would see the letter.

Q And others being spouses and loved ones?
A That was the implication.
Q I mean, it could be a spouse? It could be a wife of a male sex consumer?

A It could be a daughter or a son.
Q Or a daughter or son, just whoever opened the mail?

A Well, it may not be -- I mean, if it's addressed to the name of that person. But what's on the envelope indicating what the contents might be, I don't know.

Q All right. Project DISC involved the creation of a database, a special database?

A Yes.
Q And it involved the expenditure of funds on specific software?

A Yes.
Q And then eventually the expansion of that software to allow other policing organizations throughout North America to use that software?

A Yes.
Q And so it became interoperable across North America? Any police agency that wanted access to that information would have access to the information in the database?

A That was -- yes, that was the intention. I don't know how far that got. Certainly the documents indicate that it became available to other police jurisdictions in British Columbia. But I -- my understanding is that the database is generally accessible by police agencies.

Q In addition to tracking the names of sex consumers, the DISC database also tracked the names of sex workers; is that correct?

A That $I$ don't know.
Q I can refer you to, to page 133 of the materials.
A Okay.
MR. HERN: Mr. Commissioner, if I could just interrupt my
friend for a moment. It's Sean Hern on behalf of the VPD.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MR. HERN: I understand what my friend is trying to do with this witness, and I am not trying to interfere with that, but there is a, there is a slippage going on between looking at the documents that my friend has prepared --

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MR. HERN: -- and asking this witness to, who has reviewed them yesterday, to refresh his memory. But what is actually going on in many instances, it seems, is he's refreshing his memory about the documents that he read yesterday. And all I want to put is a caveat on the record that what is not being clarified is whether this witness actually recalls certain programs being done by the VPD and, and so on. And, and I am not -- these documents show many things and my friend is reading with the witness inferences that can be drawn out of them, and that's fine, and I don't want to interfere with that. But I don't want it to be taken by my silence that the VPD accepts that this set of documents is exhaustive of, of what's out there, or that this witness's reading of those documents
is necessarily a complete and accurate portrait of these programs.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well, thank you, Mr. Hern. I think that's a given. I mean, he is reading the document and there may well be qualifications and they might well be expanded upon by your clients, and I fully realize that. And I realize that, that when the Vancouver Police officers testify, they might well have a different take on what they were trying to do at that time. So, I expect -- I accept that, that there are limitations to what's happening.

MR. HERN: Yes. And it's just the use of the term "refresh" has to be -- we have to be careful as to what we are refreshing.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right, thank you. Mr. Gratl?
MR. GRATL: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. It was my, my impression that Professor Lowman is being quite clear about matters that -- where these documents refresh his recollection, and other cases where he's being informed by the documents.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I get that from his evidence as well except that Mr. Hern's point is, is well-taken, that is, that he doesn't want this inquiry to come to the conclusion that, that what is being said is exhaustive, and that there may well be
qualifications and the VPD might well have done other things as well.

MR. GRATL: I understand.
Q At page 133, Professor Lowman, the fourth paragraph reads:

The software program developed for D.I.S.C.
will also be able to accommodate the
F.A.C.E.S. Program (Fight Against Child

Exploitation), and the Vancouver Police
Department's tracking and registry of Sex
Trade Workers.
Were you aware, prior to reading this document, that the DISC program was being used to facilitate the Vancouver Police Department's tracking and registry of sex trade workers?

A No.
Q Were you aware of, quite apart and independently of the DISC database, whether the Vancouver Police Department was tracking and registering sex workers?

A Yes, they were.
Q And how long have they been doing that?
A Since at least the beginning of enforcement of section 213. When it was enacted, it was 195.1, but the Code was renumbered in 1988 I think it
was.
Basically most enforcement of the soliciting law ended after 1978. It was not until December the 20th, 1985, that that changed, at which point, when police began charging both clients and sex workers under the communicating law, they were keeping very careful records of who they were prosecuting. One of the reasons that I know that is because they provided a database that allowed, that allowed the ascertaining of the rate at which people were re-offending, which was a very important consideration when we were looking at the effects of the law.

There was also a unit set up, I believe it was in 1996, called the Provincial Prostitution Unit, which was also an intelligence -- I mean, it had many functions, but one of them was intelligence information gathering. And there was always a member of the Vancouver Police Department on the Provincial Prostitution Unit. Indeed, one of the officers who is repeatedly mentioned, or the author of these various memoranda of other documents, Russ Mitchell, was on the Provincial Prostitution Unit for a while. I believe that Detective Little may have been on it for a while
as well. But the membership varied. There were other players on the Provincial Prostitution Unit as well.

Q Aside from keeping a list of names of street-level sex workers, what other information was gathered by the Vancouver Police Department about the people who were listed?

A In, well, in terms -- at the point that they were charging people under 213?

Q Sure. I take it, I take it that some of the information they had on their registry of streetlevel sex workers included their last-known address?

A Okay. What -- because of the evaluation and because of the concern leading up to the reform of the law, the prostitution law, the street prostitution law, what the VPD did was create what they called a Form 1, which was placed on the front of the information on any given charge, which recorded various kinds of information: where the charge occurred, person's age, their perceived race, their address, occupation in the case of, of clients; a variety of other kinds of information. And it was through those Form 1s that it was possible to track all of those cases,
the reason for tracking them being the interest in how much of a deterrent is this new provision.

Q When was that Form 1 created?
A I believe it was created immediately at the point that the first charges were laid. And the reason I say that is because, when we were working in 1987 and 1988 on the British Columbia component of the evaluation of the communicating law, those Form 1s were an invaluable source of information for us, and that they went back to the first series of charges. I mean, the police department was being very systematic about the information that it was collecting.

Q How long were those Form 1 s in use?
A That I don't know. They, they, they were certainly in use all of the time that I was doing direct observation. And when we were doing the violence study, which was 1992, '93, and into '94, the Vancouver Police Department was still able to generate statistics showing the number, the overall number of charges against both sex workers and clients, the number of recidi -- the number of re-offending and so on. And so you were able to tell the recidivism rate of sex workers versus clients, for example.

Q So, in addition to this database of sex workers, the Vancouver Police Department also maintained photo books of known sex workers, --

A Yes.
Q -- people who were believed to be sex workers?
A Uhm, well, I can tell how the photographs were taken, if that helps.

Q It does.
A Uhm, and again, this comes from my experience doing ride-alongs in backup vehicles observing the way that the law was enforced. The woman, once she had been charged with a communicating offence, after a police decoy had got the necessary evidence, she would be sat in the back of the police cruiser and a Polaroid camera would be used and she was simply asked, was it okay to take her photograph, and the photograph would be taken. Most of the women did not resist or ask whether they were obliged to have their photograph taken.

Q So, these Polaroids were taken, they were assembled in, I take it, three-ring binders?

A That I don't know.
Q Okay. Did you ever hear of those photo books being referred to as "hooker books"?

A No, I don't recall that.

Q In addition to Dear John letters and the registry of sex workers, the DISC program, oppressive searches and so forth, there was also something called "the John School"?

A Yeah. Well, it was actually call "the Prostitution Offender Program." John School was the, the vernacular.

Q And that was a, that was a program that was used in conjunction with the alternative measures program, that customers charged with communicating offences were diverted into John Schools where they had to spend a day being lectured about the social, psychological cost to sex workers of engaging -- of purchasing sex?

A Uhm, that was some of what the offender program included. But my understanding is that, after a while, clients were not ever charged even. And I discovered that, and you may recollect that I had to change the title on one of the tables in my report. Uhm, what I realized was that what were being recorded -- I mean, the same thing was being recorded, there had been an interaction between a decoy and a client, but I realized that a charge was not even being laid. I think that the offer to be able to go into the diversion program
occurred before the charge had even been laid, which is why I didn't understand why there were so few charges in particular situations, when these men were actually going into the Prostitution Offender Program.

Q So, as opposed to the diversion program, which actually brings accused persons into the criminal justice system, only to later stay the charges after they satisfy various conditions, what you're saying is these potential offenders, or potential accused, were never even brought into the criminal justice system at all?

A That's my understanding. I don't think that was the case during the period that I was observing, but that was prior to the introduction of the Prostitution Offender Program, and my memory would have that as being in the latter part of the 1990s, but $I$ don't recall the exact date.

Q The Traffic Section of the Vancouver Police Department was also deployed to target areas by giving out violation tickets, suspensions, licence suspensions and driving law-related charges; is that correct?

A That's my understanding, yes.
Q And that was in service of the containment and
displacement policy?
A Not only that. Remember, that clients were not treated any differently in or out of the containment areas. Really, the containment strategy applied primarily to sex workers during a period where -- and many of these memos speak to it, and certainly my recollection speaks to it -where the opinion was shifting from the idea that sex workers were the problem to the idea that johns or clients were the problem, which is part of a much wider set of discourses which are playing out in -- all over the world today about the nature of responsibility in prostitution, how that figures into what the law should be, should there be prohibition and all sorts of other issues. But one could say, to cut to the core, that the moral boot was shifting from the sex worker to the client.

Q Right. And that moral shift had to do principally with a shift in general responsibility, that the sex consumers who were largely men, were being confronted with a higher level of responsibility than the women they were purchasing sex from?

A Correct. Or at least -- on the street that was the case. They could buy sex with impunity from a
municipally licenced establishment.
Q And so, so the enforcement emphasis went on the consumer rather than the sex worker or --

A To be more precise, the street consumer.
Q So then to return to the Traffic Section, the Traffic Section would be deployed on a targeted basis in certain geographic areas, to discourage, again, to discourage vehicular traffic?

A Yes, that is my understanding. So, my impression at the time was, you know, if there was a taillight out, that would be, you know, a ticketable offence. So, that you would make sure you were picking up all of those small -- you know, depending on how you look at it, but yes, those were the kinds of strategy.

Q All right. I don't know, Mr. Commissioner, whether this is a good time or do you want me to continue?

THE COMMISSIONER: How long are you going to be?
MR. GRATL: I am going to be a while. I'm going to be at least the morning.

THE COMMISSIONER: At least the morning?
MR. GRATL: At least the morning.
THE COMMISSIONER: All right.
THE REGISTRAR: This hearing will now recess for 15 minutes.
(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 11:02 A.M.) (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 11:19 A.M.)

THE REGISTRAR: Order. This hearing is now resumed.
MR. VERTLIEB: Mr. Commissioner, just to give everyone a sense of our timing, it seems that Dr. Lowman is obviously going to be some further time in giving evidence. He cannot be here this afternoon, and that's because he has commitments at the university that we've known about for a long time.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MR. VERTLIEB: And so just to give -- the result of that, it seems to be that Dr. Lowman, the best time is for him to come back on Thursday, to finish.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right.
MR. VERTLIEB: And that should allow for my learned friends or the remaining participants to deal with him. He will leave at the lunch break. And then we would like to have Dr. Kate Shannon, deal with her evidence this morning, or this afternoon, and then into tomorrow morning, and she may be the whole day. It's hard to estimate at this early stage. And we have Catherine Astin for Wednesday, who is a public health nurse, a community nurse. THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

MR. VERTLIEB: And then Dr. Lowman on Thursday.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right.
MR. VERTLIEB: I just wanted to give you a sense, and everyone else here, of how $I$ think this is shaping up for the next few days.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right, thank you.
MR. VERTLIEB: You are welcome. Thank you.
MR. GRATL:
Q All right, Professor, another strategy employed by the Vancouver Police Department involved actively seeking from Crown counsel no-go conditions for sex workers who had been arrested for prostitution offences?

A Yes.
Q So, that was another aspect of, or at least an attempt to displace sex workers?

A Yes.
Q Another aspect of sex work enforcement policy involved a Downtown Eastside Extraordinary Policing Program?

A Yes.
Q Referred to often by the acronym "DEEP"?
A Yes.
Q This was a three-year program that started in November of 1998 involving 36 constables and three sergeants?

A Yes.
Q The total cost of which was 7.2 million of which $\$ 3.6$ million was provided by the City?

A Those were the figures that I would have seen yesterday.

MR. DICKSON: And Mr. Commissioner, Tim Dickson for the VPD. And I'm sorry to interrupt my friend, but I'd just here echo Mr. Hern's caveat that he placed earlier, in that $I$ think we just heard that $\operatorname{Dr}$. Lowman read those figures yesterday. And, and so, if my friend could, could try to make clear what Dr. Lowman knew from before, from his research, and, and what he's just viewing yesterday.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right.
MR. GRATL: Thank you, Mr. Dickson. I think, I think Professor Lowman is doing a very fine job of that himself.

Q Of the 40 positions, 20 positions were funded by city hall and 20 were funded from reassignments within Vancouver Police Department?

A Again, according to the, the information supplied yesterday.

Q All right.
A I may have seen those at the time. It's a long time ago. I don't remember, but --

Q Those, those officers were deployed out of the
community policing offices; is that correct?
A According to this information in the binder, yes.
Q All right. Do you remember this program?
A I remember of its existence, yes.
Q All right. And an aspect of its focus was to deal with the open-ended drug market?

A Yes.
Q And another aspect was to deal with forms of street disorder, which would have included streetlevel sex work?

A Yes, although I noticed in much of the documentation, it's not mentioned explicitly.

Q But to your knowledge? To your knowledge --
A Street, street disorder would most certainly include, uhm, street prostitution activity, in my understanding.

Q Now, I would like to ask you a few questions about a strategy that was not during the relevant period used by Vancouver Police Department, and that is the use of a sex trade liaison officer. You have referred in your, in your report to -- attached as appendix J, the report entitled "Violence Against Women in Vancouver's Street-Level Sex Trade and the Police Response"?

A Yes.

Q This was a report developed and written for PACE Society --

A Yes.
Q -- by Leonard Cler-Cunningham and Christine Christensen.

A Yes.
Q The date of the publication is 2001.
A Yes.
Q Is that correct?
A Yes.
Q And again, you were on the board of directors of PACE Society at the time?

A Yes.
Q Mr. Cler-Cunningham led this delegation to the Vancouver Police Board in December of 2000.

A I attended.
Q At that Vancouver Police Board meeting, this portion of which occurred in camera, Mr. Cler-Cunningham presented a draft copy of this report --

A Correct.
Q -- to the, to the Vancouver Police Board?
A Yes.
Q And in addition, distributed a copy of your paper, "Violence and the Outlaw Status" --

A Yes.
Q -- which is also attached as an appendix to your report?

A Yes.
Q The purpose of providing an advance copy of the 2001 "Violence Against Women" research paper to the Vancouver Police Board was to provide the Vancouver Police Board with an advanced opportunity to get ahead of the media by creating a position of sex trade liaison officer in advance of the release of that report?

A That is my recollection of it. The liaison position was, was one that PACE believed might be able to play a very important role in a program trying to prevent violence against sex workers.

Q All right. So, this 2001, what the report that was ultimately published in 2001, spoke to the extreme levels of violence faced by sex workers in Vancouver?

A Street-level sex workers.
Q But extreme levels of violence --
A Yes.
Q -- against street-level sex workers?
A Yes.
Q And PACE held out this proposal for sex trade
liaison officer as one way that street-level sex workers could engage in a constructive manner and have a portal or a window to police -- to the services offered by the police?

A Correct. There was the feeling that communitylevel policing should involve all levels of the community, and that includes sex workers, and without that inclusion, one runs into problems, because one needs that input.

Q The reports, the 2001 report and the draft report, included findings that sex workers were reporting extreme amounts of violence, and additionally reported distrust of the police and willingness to report that extreme violence to the police?

A Those were some of the principal findings.
Q The proposal for a sex trade liaison officer was intended to provide a mechanism for street-level sex workers to contact the police to report the violence and to gain the protection of the police?

A That would be one of its primary objectives.
Q And in the face of that report, the draft of the 2001 PACE report, "Violence Against Women," what did the Vancouver Police Board do?

A Uhm, well, in short, it rejected the proposal.
Q What reasons did it give for rejecting the
proposal?
A The various -- well, it was obvious that certain members of VPD, the report and what it said did not sit well with them. Uhm, they thought that, and I believe the term that was used was that certain individuals involved with PACE needed an attitude adjustment. And they basically made the statement that, while there were some problems, in general, VPD was doing a very, very good job of managing these various problems and that the sextrade liaison position was not needed. There were a variety of different vehicles that would achieve the same kinds of results.

Q And these are, within the Vancouver Police Department, these are serious -- or senior management officers who, firstly, reject the empirical findings of the 2001 study; and secondly, advocate against the adoption of a sextrade liaison officer policy or program by the Vancouver Police Board?

A The specific individual, Russ Mitchell, made those kinds of comments. I don't know how far they went in terms of what other senior members of the VPD who would have been present, I don't think we were -- I can't remember if we were privy to that, to
some of that discussion. I do know the outcome of it, which was the proposal was rejected.

Q All right. And you appreciate that the officers within the Vancouver Police Department who advocated against the creation of sex trade liaison officer position did so, in part, because they rejected the empirical findings and conclusions of that report?

MR. DICKSON: Tim Dickson for the VPD. Mr. Commissioner, I just, just note that Dr. Lowman mentioned one officer. Mr. Gratl has mentioned officers.

THE COMMISSIONER: That's what he said.
MR. GRATL:
Q Was it confined to Constable Russ Mitchell, this opposition?

A I don't think so. The impression that one got was that discussions had occurred about -- in various parts of the police department about the nature of problems that existed, whether problems existed, whether there were problems in the way police were dealing with sex workers; and that, after discussions in the police department, the general impression was the VPD was doing a very, very good job.

Q All right. I will just refer you to page 200 of
the documents. This is an excerpt of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Vancouver Police Board held on December 6th, 2000.

A Okay.
Q And referenced at a PACE delegation, and its submissions is found -- begins at page 199. But turning to page 200, the third full paragraph beginning "the Chief Constable"?

A Yes.
Q I will just read this to you and ask you if it -if your recollection accords with this document. There it said that:

The Chief Constable said the VPD shared the concern of PACE about preventing violence against women and he requested Inspector Wayne Melymick to speak to the proposal. Do you recall that?

A Yes.
Q I take it that the, obviously, the chief constable was in attendance. Did the chief constable support the proposal for a sex trade liaison officer, to your knowledge?

A Not to my knowledge.
Q All right. Now, Inspector Melymick also spoke to the proposal. Did Inspector Melymick support the
proposal --

A No.
Q -- for a sex trade liaison officer?
A Not to my knowledge.
Q All right. And in effect, what he told the
Vancouver Police Board is, there are enough services in place to ensure the, the proper safety and protection of sex workers?

A Yes.
Q So, he's, in effect, arguing against the sex trade liaison officer position?

A Yes.
Q And he's plainly doing so with the concurrence of the chief constable?

A Yes.
Q Now, what the, what the Vancouver Police Board ultimately does is, is asks for a written report from the Vancouver Police Department in response to the sex trade liaison officer proposal?

A Yes.
Q And it asks Inspector Melymick and PACE to liaise in, in the interim?

A Yes.
Q Have you ever seen a copy of Inspector Melymick's response?

A Not to my recollection.
Q All right. But Inspector Melymick and PACE did liaise in the interim, correct?

A There was some liaison, yes, I do believe so.
Q And specifically what happened is the, is that a representative of PACE was recruited by the inspector to provide sensitivity training about sex workers to new recruits?

A Yes. That was happening at the Justice Institute, if my memory serves me correctly. So, that was the, from PACE's point of view, the only positive outcome of the interaction.

Q Okay. So, that Russ Mitchell was involved in that sensitivity training as well, or was involved in that recruit training?

A I think he was, yes.
Q All right. And in effect, to balance out Russ Mitchell's opinion or Constable Mitchell's opinion, was Raven Bowen from PACE --

A Yes.
Q -- gave the perspective of sex workers?
A Uh, Raven was involved in that. Also, a woman by the name of Marika Sandrelli.

Q All right. But that involvement of PACE in sensitivity training for new recruits was
short-lived, because once PACE publicly released its research paper, "Violence Against Women in the Vancouver Street Level Sex Trade," the Vancouver Police Department took umbrage, correct?

A Yes, very much so.
Q Very public umbrage. It criticized PACE and Leonard Cler-Cunningham vociferously in the media; isn't that correct?

A That is my recollection.
Q And moreover, in addition to vocal criticism of PACE and Leonard Cler-Cunningham for releasing this report, PACE was cut out of the sensitivity training of recruits?

A Raven certainly was.
Q All right. Was anybody left within PACE providing sensitivity training to, to new recruits, to your knowledge?

A I'm not sure whether Marika would have still been involved in that after that point.

Q All right. Turning then to a different topic altogether, community enforcement strategies. These are at -- these are strategies undertaken by members of the community or community associations or merchants' associations.

A Okay.

Q One -- there is a reference in your paper to a, a picketing program known as "Shame the Johns"?

A Yes.
Q This was a -- would be a group of community members who would, in effect, engage in protest, lawful protest?

A Yes.
Q They would have signs. And although the program was entitled "Shame the Johns," in fact, the pickets seemed to be directed at sex workers themselves?

A Yes. My -- the first time I observed a Shame the Johns campaign was in 1984 in the West End, and in that particular case, most of the activity was focused on the sex workers. That's been true of all the other similar kinds of programs, simply because if somebody is driving around the streets and they see people with placards saying "Shame the Johns," they're hardly going to stop. So, most of that activity was about picketing sex workers.

Q In addition to this Shame the Johns or, in effect, the "Shame the Sex Worker" campaigns, there were also community patrols?

A Yes.

Q And these community patrols sprung up from time to time in different residents' associations?

A Yes.
Q So, in 1991, Strathcona Neighborhood Action Committee was formed?

A Yes.
Q And they engaged in some patrolling?
A Yes.
Q Then there was the Hastings East Neighbourhood Action Group, --

A Yes.
Q -- with the assistance of Constable Mitchell, engaged in some community patrols?

A Yes.
Q And aside from those two examples, there were other neighborhood groups that were organized and facilitated by the Vancouver Police Department?

A There have been similar groups in Mount Pleasant, like, the Mount Pleasant Action Group and Court Watch.

Q All right, I will return to Court Watch in a moment, but just for the moment, this citizen patrol strategy, which worked, worked in conjunction with the community policing offices?

A Uh, to varying degrees, yes. Some of the earlier
ones didn't because the community policing offices didn't exist at that time, but once they did, some of that activity was coordinated.

Q All right. What, what they, what they would do is they would march around the neighborhood and they would take -- they would march around the neighborhood and make themselves conspicuous?

A Yes.
Q All right. Interfering essentially with the trade?

A Essentially trying to disrupt the trade.
Q They would also take licence plates?
A Of men cruising the area, yes.
Q All right. In addition to neighborhood -- and these neighborhood patrols would also have personal confrontations with sex workers from time to time?

A Yes.
Q They would approach them and talk to them and discourage them from engaging in sex work in their own neighbourhoods?

A They would certainly do that, and often you would get the women on the street voicing their opinions about what was going on as well. Uhm, in, in situations that I'm aware of, it was a potentially
explosive situation.
Q So, aside from organized community patrols involving more than one person, sometimes there would be individual confrontations?

A Yes.
Q So, it would be just an individual resident would confront an individual sex worker?

A Yes. And I'm not saying that, that that was the intention of community policing. It's just that that would be sometimes the outcome.

Q All right. In, in one of the studies, well, you refer to at page 19 of your report, that 69 percent of sex worker respondents through a survey reported general harassment?

A That was page 19?
Q This is page 19.
A Oh, yes. Which could consist of a variety of different kinds of problems.

Q All right. And included within that category would be this type of individual confrontation or confrontation by a group?

A Yes.
Q So, 69 percent of respondents reported that type of harassment?

A Well, harassment of one kind or another, not
necessarily these groups. I mean, you have another phenomenon that women talk about, the looky-loo, people driving around the stroll who have got no real interest in what's taking part, other than sightseeing. But also women would report being harassed, young men on the street, would, would report being harassed; people would have things thrown at them out of buildings. There's a variety of things that would be captured under that rubric of general harassment.

Q All right.
A But some of it would be some of this kind of activity as well.

Q Aside from individuals in their own capacity, some of the merchants' associations and some of the individual merchants hired security guards to patrol?

A Yes.
Q This tendency of hiring, or the pattern of hiring security guards was eventually formalized through business improvement associations by way of the Ambassador Program?

A Okay.
Q Is that -- do you know that?
A I do recollect that.

Q That is the downtown ambassador, sort of quasiuniform, standardized uniform security guards?

A Yes.
Q Who were neighborhood specific or connected to neighborhoods, and they would confront any manner of street disorder that they encountered?

A That's my recollection of the, of the program.
Q There were also petitions that were circulated?
A Yes.
Q At one point, 3,000 people in Vancouver signed a petition to get the law enforced?

A Uhm, that was an Eastside petition, not a general one I believe. I can't -- I --

Q I don't have a copy of that petition. I just have seen reference to it. Do you know what was on that particular petition?

A Uhm, I can't remember the details of it. I think, uhm, one of the local residents, Cindy Chan Piper, may have had something to do with that one.

Q All right. And she was in charge of the Strathcona Residents' Association; is that correct?

A She was a member of it.
Q Okay. But one of the leaders, if I could put it that way?

A Oh, certainly a, a very vocal figure. She was on the board of PACE for, for a period.

Q All right. And in addition to those tactics, there was also postering, various types of postering, some postering without threats that you have already referred to, that, that you said used inclusive language that considered sex work as part of the community?

A Yes, those were the ones documented in our 1989 reports before this particular period. Then you have the other one that I mentioned in the report, I believe it was 1992, which resulted in Staff Sergeant Bob Taylor's report. That was one where notices were put up by a local business owner which were, to say the least, threatening. I mean, the, the innuendo of those was that there would be physical violence if people didn't vacate the area.

Q And Staff Sergeant Taylor went to speak to that individual?

A Yes, he did.
Q And he went to speak to other business owners in the area?

A Yes.
Q And he, he had effectively told them to cool it?

A Yes.
Q But no charges were laid, --
A No.
Q -- despite the presence of threats?
A Correct.
Q The Vancouver Police Department also involved itself in what was described as a Court Watch Program.

A The original program by that name was one devised by a group in Mount Pleasant back in the mid-1980s by one Stephanie Haag (phonetics) who was a resident of that area. That name subsequently became used for the program that you're referring to. I don't think this -- I mean, there's a connection with the idea but --

Q As I understand the Court Watch Program, and please correct me if I'm wrong, that involved citizens attending court --

A Yes.
Q -- to assert their presence in the courtroom; --
A Yes.
Q -- to encourage the proper application of what they consider to be the proper application of the Criminal Code; --

A Yes.

Q -- to collect statistics on individual judges' sentencing patterns; --

A Yes.
Q -- and to report all of that to the community policing officers?

A Uh, yes I think so. That was the intention, yes.
Q And Court Watch was supported by -- the Court Watch Program was supported by the chief constable?

A That I -- I suspect there is documentation that may show that, but I can't say that I can recall that.

Q And there is certainly a frustration within the Vancouver Police Department about the lenient sentences meted out to sex workers?

A I'm not sure about that.
Q All right.
A I think -- it's very, very difficult -- I mean, one of the things that, that I've tried to do in responding to questions is, is not cast Vancouver Police Department as all of a piece. Yes, it has an administration, which is all of a piece that makes decisions, but we've seen a variety of situations where the left hand and the right hand don't know what they're doing. And while I have
made the comment that certain officers seem to have a problematic attitude, that's not across the board. It's a nuanced situation. I just want to say that for clarification.

Q All right. And, and you were certainly clear about that in your testimony before. You said Constable Dave Dickson was, was definitely one of the good apples?

A If that's the term that you want to use, yes.
Q And aside from Constable Dickson, there were other members of Vice who were known to be -- to, to give favourable treatment to sex workers?

A Yes. And I think I also mentioned at one point, and this would have been in the 1980s, through my association with Alliance for the Safety of Prostitutes, there was, the Sexual Offence Squad at that time was regarded as being somebody that you could take a complaint to and get listened to. But these things change very quickly. One individual can have an enormous effect on policy, and I think there are many cases where one can see that happening. And, and that's not necessarily prescribed by the administration and sometimes not known by the administration. A lot of things are happening in a police force with, you know, well
over a thousand members at that time and, you know.

Q No, and it's definitely -- of course, it's a human institution and so --

A Yes.
Q And even within this proceeding, it's obvious that not all members of the Vancouver Police Department are on the same page. But that was true from 1994 to 2002, in your experience?

A Yes.
Q The Court Watch Program, in addition to reporting to the community policing offices, also, from time to time, reported to the Vancouver Police Board?

A Yes, I believe that was the case.
Q And in addition, members of the community were asked by community policing officers to provide victim impact statements for the Crown --

A Yes.
Q -- to attempt to get the Crown to ask for and obtain stiffer sentences for sex workers?

A Yes.
Q At the provincial level, there were, there were a number of initiatives, the chief of which was the Provincial Prostitution Unit.

A Yes.

Q That was a unit consisting of two police officers from VPD Vice?

A I think it shifted over the years that it existed. My recollection is that there was always at least one and often two VPD officers on it, Crown counsel, various other members.

Q An RCMP officer?
A Yes.
Q And a community coordinator?
A Yes.
Q So, the Provincial Prostitution Unit was formed in 1996?

A Yes.
Q And it had community ties. The community coordinator would speak at community meetings on strategies to deal with street sex work?

A Yes. I mean, originally, the PPU's mandate was quite broad. It involved intelligence gathering. It involved education, enforcement issues, a variety of, or a variety of kinds of enforcement issues. I think it gradually morphed over the years so that it lost the sort of education component and became more enforcement oriented, and one of the primary mandates was trying to figure out what to do about sexual exploitation of
children.
Q Right. But in addition to the sexual exploitation of children aspect of their work, the Provincial Prostitution Unit also advised neighborhood associations on setting up citizen patrol teams --

A Yes.
Q -- and court watch programs?
A Yes.
Q So, in effect, what we have is a picture of where the Vancouver Police Department, neighborhood associations, city hall and provincial teams, are all working very closely together to surround sex workers in a very tight, constricting net of enforcement and civilian action?

A Yes, with the safety valve being that the enforcement would be relaxed when the women worked in certain areas.

Q All right. I want to turn the topic of my questions to negative interactions between police and sex workers.

A Okay.
Q Of course, when police interact with sex workers, they're at risk of being arrested for engaging in sex work?

A Yes.

Q They're at risk of being arrested for drug offences?

A Potentially, yes.
Q And they're at risk of being arrested for -- on warrants for administering of offences?

A That may be well -- well be one of the, the more immediate risks from their point of view, I would think.

Q All right. And many sex workers, because of their involvement with the criminal justice system, might be subject to terms of probation, bail or parole?

A Yes.
Q And they might be at risk of being arrested, in the absence of a warrant, for breaches of probation, bail and parole conditions?

A Yes. And it's important to point out that that would be their perception. Whether those, you know, whether police officers would arrest a woman and charge her with communicating because she committed that offence, who knows? But it's, when things are perceived to be real, they're real in their consequences.

Q All right. Well, let's, let's turn then to the, to the empirical, to the real.

A Okay.
Q And I would like to refer specifically to this PACE report that was received with such consternation at the Vancouver Police Department, and that is found at appendix $J$ to your report.

A Yes.
Q And at that, turning to page 43 of that report, we can see that what the report sets out is a number of charts dealing with various categories of violence inflicted on sex workers according to their own report?

A Yes.
Q And that reporting was done in a safe context to outreach workers from PACE?

A Yes. These would be situations where anonymity would, would be the case in most situations. The researchers would not know the name of a person. If they did, they would be giving a guarantee of strict confidentiality in terms of the identities of respondents.

Q So, and I am not saying that this information is collected under ideal circumstances, which would lead us to have a hundred percent confidence in all the numbers, --

A $\mathrm{Hm}-\mathrm{hmm}$.

Q -- but I do suggest, Professor Lowman, that the circumstances of these reports and statements made to the researchers were made in a context sufficient to give reasonable practical certainty as to the validity of the results.

A Yes. And you also have cross-study validity to the extent that these, or similar findings, appear in other studies, and that is when one can replicate findings, I mean -- or I shouldn't say -- one is not necessarily trying to, to do anything. But if findings are replicated, then you have a greater degree of confidence in the findings, and we do, with these results, see very similar findings across studies.

Q At table 33 of this report, at page 43, --
A Yes.
Q -- we see a reference to the responses given by sex workers to the question of when they were robbed, who robbed them.

A Yes.
Q Eight point two percent of robberies reported by sex workers were attributed to Vice and to uniform police; is that correct?

A Yes.
Q Over the page to page 49, at table 49 --

A Sorry, table 49?
Q Table 49, --
A Yes.
Q -- 6.4 percent of threats with a weapon reported by sex workers were attributed to Vancouver Police Department Vice Squad and Vancouver Police Department uniformed officers.

A Yes.
Q Over the page to 55, at table 66.
A Yes.
Q Nine percent of assaults with a weapon reported by sex workers were attributed to Vice and to uniform police?

A Yes.
Q On to page 63, 7.9 percent of attempted sexual assaults reported by sex workers were attributed to the Vice Squad and to uniform police?

A Seven point nine?
Q Yes.
A Yes, yes.
Q And then at page 66, at table 94, 5.7 percent of kidnappings reported by sex workers, street-level sex workers, were attributed to the Vice Squad and to uniformed police?

A Yes.

Q Now, these were the findings from the PACE that were given to the Vancouver Police Board in December of 2000; --

A Yes.
Q -- is that correct?
A Yes.
Q And the Vancouver Police Department refused, in the face of these numbers, to create the position of a sex worker liaison officer, correct?

A Correct.
Q What you were asking for, at that time, was not a new, newly funded position, but rather, a shift of personnel into a new position, into a new role?

A That's my recollection.
Q No new money was requested, and still it was turned down?

A That is my recollection.
Q So, in addition to being at risk of prosecution for sex work, for the use of or possession of drugs, for failure to appear, breach of probation, breach of bail, breach of parole, sex workers also, according to their own words, have very good reason to be fearful of the Vice Squad and of police members in uniform?

A That would appear to be the case.

Q And as a consequence, there was a deep level of distrust between the sex workers and the Vancouver Police Department members?

A There is certainly a deep level of mistrust and one can imagine that these kinds of experiences, as captured by this research, is -- contributes to that problem.

Q Did sex workers who were subject to robbery, threats or assault, or even more serious offences by the Vice Squad or uniform members, have any recourse?

A They could have gone to some trusted officer to try and make a report. They could do that.

Q Did you, in your time, ever hear -- in your, in all your time, in all your experiences with the Vancouver Police Department with your open-door policy that gave you access to VPD materials, did you ever hear of a police officer being charged with any offence committed against a street-level sex worker?

A My recollection is that there were two charges against VPD officers, and I'm just trying to remember when that would have been. Do I know of any women who had reported any of the incidents that presumably would have been in the background
that led to these research results? I don't recall anybody having reported one of those incidents.

Q And just to be clear, when this report, alleging serious offences committed by police officers against sex workers, was released to the public, the official Vancouver Police Department response was to condemn the report as inaccurate; is that correct?

A That's correct.
Q And to publicly state that there was no violence by police officers against sex workers?

A That I can't remember. There was -- clearly, the report caused great umbrage and it was criticized.

Q It was criticized by the Vancouver Police Department, and what amounts to a personal attack was mounted against the author of the report?

A That's my recollection.
Q I would like to turn then to the public opinion as manifested by the Vancouver Sun articles.

A Okay.
Q In your discourse of disposal article, you conducted analysis of many years of Vancouver Sun articles dealing with violence against sex workers?

A Yes.
Q You identified a discourse within the Vancouver Sun of efforts by politicians, police and residents' groups to "get rid" of street prostitution?

A Yes.
Q Is it your, in your opinion, this discourse of disposal encouraged violence against sex workers?

A Yes.
Q I take it, by minimizing the moral barriers to commission the violence against sex workers?

A Yes. For many years, beginning in the mid-1970s in Vancouver, you had people talking about the street prostitution problem and how to get rid of it, and it came in a variety of forms at a variety of different levels. And I coined the term "discourse of disposal" to capture the main flavour of news reports, what politicians were saying, what police were saying, what frustrated residents were saying.

And there is a term in criminology used to describe some of the strategies that offenders use to justify what they do. They're called "techniques of neutralization". And in this particular case, in the context of that discourse,
get rid of these women, with letters being published in The Sun saying to Clint Eastwood, "yes, bring your gun," that it made it easier for predatory, misogynistic men to target street prostitutes.

Q Was it, in effect, lending approval to, to sex predators?

A Tacit approval.
Q And sex predators, of course, were known, serial sex predators, including serial murderers, were known to target street-level sex workers?

A Yes. One of their primary targets is street-level sex workers.

Q You refer in your report to Gary Leon Ridgway, the Green River killer?

A Yes.
Q To Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper?
A Yes.
Q Robert Lee Yates, the Spokane killer?
A Yes.
Q Arthur Shawcross, the Genessee River killer?
A Yes.
Q Joel Rifkin, a New York State killer?
A Yes.
Q In addition, there was, locally, Gilbert Paul

Jordan?
A Yes.
Q There was also Keith Jesperson, who was born in Chilliwack, British Columbia. Are you familiar with that name?

A Uhm, I don't recall that name.
Q George Waterfield Russell?
A Don't remember that name.
Q In Oregon. Kendall Francois?
A That name rings a bell. I, by the way, the -when I drew up that particular list as exemplars of serial killers of street-level prostitutes, uhm, it was offenders with 10 or more victims, known victims. So, it's not an exhaustive list of men who have been convicted of murdering more than a single street-level sex worker.

Q I appreciate that. But their activities, these serial killers, their activities are notorious in criminology circles and in policing circles?

A Yes.
Q They're --
A Ever since the revelations of Jack the Ripper, uhm, which is the first sort of celebrated case at the point that the press is becoming a major force in western cultures, those murderers and those
victims are iconic, tragedy iconic.
Q And that was Jack the Ripper who operated during late Victorian times?

A Yes.
Q Okay. So, all of these sex workers -- these killers of sex workers were operating in a time of moral panic about sex work and street-level sex work?

A I wouldn't necessarily say that. I think periods of moral panic may produce, sorry, not produce, but may enhance the ability of a person to neutralize some of the actions they would like to carry out, for whatever reason.

Q In addition to those other names, Clifford Olson was known to have targeted at least one sex worker?

A Yes.
Q So, it would have been inconceivable for any investigation of a serial killer not to consider this pattern of predation?

A Yes.
Q And it would be inconceivable, when considering violence against sex workers, not to consider this pattern of serial killing?

A Inconceivable to me, yes.

Q And even within Vancouver, 56 workers were murdered between January 1982 and December 1994 in Vancouver?

A I believe that figure was British Columbia.
Q All right. Thirty-one of the women were killed in what could be described as an intimate way, where there was physical contact between the killer and, and his victim?

A Yes.
Q That is, strangulation, beating or stabbing?
A Yes.
Q In seven of the 14 stabbing cases, police used the term "overkill" to describe the killing?

A Correct.
Q Suggesting that more force than necessary was used to kill?

A Correct.
Q Which indicates, to your mind, a hatred that extends outside of that specific relationship?

A Yes.
Q That's part of your evidence for what amounts to a pattern of misogynistic violence against women?

A Yes.
Q Using sex workers as the opportunity, --
A Yes.

Q -- where the hatred is more generalized towards women and sexuality?

A Often.
Q Now, from 1985 to 1993, nearly all the murders of sex workers were murders of women who came from the low-track strolls of Mount Pleasant and the Downtown Eastside?

A Yes, though I refer not to use the term "low track".

Q It's just found in the report. That's why I used the term.

A Yes. No, it wasn't a criticism of you. It just disturbs me.

Q I would like to turn briefly to the phenomenon of bad date sheets.

A Okay.
Q These sheets were first used by the Alliance For Safety of Prostitutes and then Prostitutes and Other Women for Equal Rights?

A Yes.
Q And then they came out of -- they went out of existence and then they were brought back into being by John Turvey of DEYAS?

A Yes.
Q And the bad date sheets were effectively an
alternative to sex workers reporting to police?
A Yes.
Q Instead of reporting violence committed against them to police, sex workers would report the violence to a non-profit group that would collect the data and publish it to sex workers and others?

A Yes. I think WISH also collected bad date sheets over the years, but that was -- would have been after this period or perhaps coterminous with it, but several organizations did do that.

Q Is it fair to say that the volume of violence reported on bad -- DEYAS bad date sheets was massive?

A There are a lot of bad dates.
Q I take it there was no Vancouver Police Department program, to your knowledge, to investigate the serious violence and identify the predators reported on the bad date sheets?

A I think that VPD, at various points, looked at the bad date sheets.

Q Was there a program to review the bad date sheets and initiate investigations as a result of the information set out on the bad date sheets?

A Not to my knowledge.
Q The bad date sheets contained, on your analysis, a
very significant number of repeat offenders?
A Yes.
Q They would be identified, the repeat offenders would be identified by the description of the individual and the repetition of licence plate numbers recorded?

A Yes.
Q And consistently, 20 percent of those bad date sheets would involve repeat offenders?

A Uh, where do we get that figure from? I can't, I can't keep them all in my head.

Q Appendix $D$ of your report, page 57.
A Okay. No, as I said, I can't remember all the details of these hundreds and hundreds of tables but, but I certainly know that there are repeat offenders and there are clear patterns.

Q So, appendix D, page 57. Now, just for the record, appendix $D$ is your study entitled "Violence Against Persons Who Prostitute: The Experience in British Columbia"?

A Yes.
Q This was the 1985 report --
A '95.
Q 1995 report?
A Yes. Hang on.

Q Oh, sorry, 1995 report?
A Yes.
Q Prepared at the behest of the Department of Justice?

A Yes.
Q Well-funded study?
A No.
Q Looked at sex work from a wide variety of perspectives?

A Yes.
Q And provided, in any event, enough funding to review the bad date sheets?

A No. We did a lot of the work on our own time off the side of the table because the funding for this was nothing like the funding that was given to looking at the effect of the communicating law.

Q So, you're saying federal funding for research from the --

A The violence against prostitutes paled in comparison to the research that they were funding that might give us a better understanding of how to protect neighbourhoods, an understandable goal, but nothing like the funding that was given to those kinds of projects.

Q So, the --

A The total funding for three years of our research was $\$ 20,000$.

Q And what was the level of funding for research into the public nuisance aspect and how best to suppress the public nuisance aspect of streetlevel sex workers?

A These would 60, 70 -- 50, 60, $\$ 70,000$.
Q All right. Returning then to page 57, you will see about halfway down the page, there is a reference to table 72?

A Yes.
Q And the number of known repeat offenders --
A Yes.
Q -- identified either by the persons reporting the bad date or through our check for licence plate numbers reported on more than one occasion?

A Yes.
Q The two data sets, it's been suggested, reveal a similar proportion -- proportions of known offenders. And then in table 72, the percentages, 17.6 percent of known repeat offenders?

A Yes.
Q This report was, of course, provided to the Vancouver Police Department?

A Yes.

Q And the Vancouver Police Department had access to the DEYAS bad date sheets?

A I think so, yes.
Q The data was available to the Vancouver Police Department?

A Yes.
Q Did the Vancouver Police Department, to your knowledge, ever have a program to take that data and act on it by identifying the known repeat offenders and initiating investigations to stop them?

A Not to my knowledge.
Q Your report sets out, in a number of places, demographic information about street-level sex workers?

A Yes.
Q Your information concludes that they may be at some places 70 percent aboriginal in origin?

A Some -- different studies come up with different proportions for the Downtown Eastside. They vary between 30 and 70 percent. It depends on some of the sampling issues that we discussed previously.

Q Approximately half the women are in relationships in the sense that they share accommodation with boyfriends or spouses?

A Yes.
Q Seventy-three percent of women reported working in the sex trade before their 18th birthday?

A Yes.
Q They cited, of those, 74 percent of them cited economic reasons for their involvement?

A Yes.
Q And 17 percent reported that their involvement in the sex trade before their 18th birthday was influenced by abandonment and their status as runaways?

A Yes, or throwaways. Runaway is a loaded term.
Q Pivotal factors for entering into the sex trade before the age of 18 include a lack of economic alternatives, quite simply, poverty?

A Yes.
Q No other source of income?
A Yes.
Q And they also include child sexual abuse?
A Yes.
Q Seventy-three percent of women who report that they started in the sex trade before their 18 th birthday reported childhood sexual abuse?

A Yes. And we're talking street-level sex workers here.

Q Now, perhaps as a consequence of these matters, sex workers have an extremely high incidence of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder?

A Uhm, there is a great deal of controversy about research on PTSD in terms of various populations. So, that while you have claims being made, it's not clear about the, the prevalence of PTSD.

Q I, I only say that because at appendix $K$ of your report you have included an article in the -published in the Journal of Transcultural Psychiatry --

A Yes.
Q -- in June of 2005 entitled "Prostitution in Vancouver:" --

A Yes.
Q -- "Violence and the Colonization of First Nations Women"?

A Yes.
Q And Melissa Farley is the lead author of that?
A Yes. It's the generalization of those results to the entire sex worker population that is highly controversial, and what is also controversial is in the measurement of post-traumatic stress. What exactly produces it, that's a whole different issue. When we're looking at these populations,
we're dealing with people who experience extreme hardship. There is no doubt about that. And that, yes, depression and various feelings of frustration and hopelessness are part and parcel of the experiences of many of the women involved in Downtown Eastside prostitution.

Q All right. So, leaving aside the psychologically laden tags or the formal tags of --

A Yes.
Q -- PTSD and depression, these women suffer from extreme hardship?

A Yes.
Q And they turn to alcohol and illicit substances to self-medicate?

A Yes. There's, I mean, there is debate whether sometimes addiction leads to prostitution or prostitution to addiction. In these circumstances, it's clear that prostitution more generally doesn't lead to addiction, because there are so many women involved in prostitution who are not drug addicted. But this is a very specific kind of population that we're talking about here, and there is a vicious cycle which involves prostitution and drug use reinforcing each other.

Q And the cycle also involves sexual abuse,
including childhood sexual abuse, reinforcing participation in the sex trade, and the sex trade leading to further victimization, further physical and sexual abuse?

A Correct.
Q In terms of the ability to liberate oneself from the cycle, you are familiar with the availability of social services in the Downtown Eastside?

A Yes.
Q Are there, in your view, sufficient -- is there sufficient access to trauma counselling to meet the demand?

A There does not appear to be. I mean, if we take the issue of female substance use, abuse, addiction, my understanding, through most of this period, was that there were something like six beds available for women trying to deal with those issues.

Q Six beds and how many women?
A If you recall the police report, Staff Sergeant Taylor's report, in one year, 1992, 480 women and youths, but mostly women, adults, had been identified as street involved, i.e., at one point or another, involved in the street-level drug trade and sex trade.

So that gives you an -- and then if we look at, say, Sue Currie's report, and if we look at the percentages, this was a 1995 report, the percentages of the women reporting problems with alcohol, heroin, cocaine, uhm, crack by that time, we were dealing with 70 to 80 percent of the women that she interviewed. And so we're looking at perhaps in excess of 300 females who would benefit from those kinds of assistance.

Q So, in addition to struggling with childhood sexual abuse, the lack of economic alternatives, serious drug addiction, women also had to cope with the numerous police and community enforcement strategies inflicted on them by the Vancouver Police Department and the neighborhood community associations, Vice Squad, the patrol officers, community policing officers, the Provincial Prostitution Unit; all of those forces the women were left to contend with?

A All of those forces constituted a very important component of the urban environment.

Q And if that weren't enough, they had to deal with the discourse of disposal coming from the Vancouver Sun and other forms of media?

A Yes.

MR. GRATL: Mr. Commissioner, this is perhaps a good place to stop.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right, we'll adjourn. So, Dr. Lowman can now be excused, and is Dr. Shannon coming in this afternoon?

MR. VERTLIEB: Yes, that's the plan; and then Dr. Lowman to return Thursday morning.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right.
THE REGISTRAR: Is he still under caution?
THE COMMISSIONER: You are still under cross-examination. I have to give you the same caution that $I$ gave you before.

THE WITNESS: Yes, Commissioner.
(WITNESS STOOD DOWN)
THE REGISTRAR: This hearing is now adjourned until 2 p.m.
(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 12:30 P.M.)
(PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 2:00 P.M.)
THE REGISTRAR: Order. This hearing is now resumed.
MS. BROOKS: Good afternoon, Mr. Commissioner.
THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MS. BROOKS: Our next witness is Dr. Kate Shannon and she is in the witness box. Mr. Giles, could you affirm the witness please?

KATE SHANNON, affirmed:
THE REGISTRAR: Would you state your name please?

THE WITNESS: Kate Shannon.
THE REGISTRAR: Thank you. Counsel?
MS. BROOKS: Thanks, Mr. Giles.
Mr. Commissioner, you should have before you
a brief of materials relating to Dr. Shannon.
THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
EXAMINATION IN CHIEF ON QUALIFICATIONS BY MS. BROOKS:
Q Dr. Shannon, do you also have a copy of a brief of materials?

A Yes, I do.
Q Dr. Shannon, you were retained by the Commission to write a report on several issues that relate to the health and safety of women involved in streetbased sex work in the Downtown Eastside; is that correct?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q Is a copy of the instruction letter found behind tab 1?

A Yes.
Q And a copy of your curriculum vitae, and behind that, a list of publications and grants you have received is found at tab 2?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q There is a copy of your report at tab 3?
A Yes.

Q And then also included is an addendum $A$ and $B$ to your report and those are at tabs 4 and 5?

A Yes.
Q Are the sources that you relied on to form your opinions found at tabs A to L?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q Dr. Shannon, you are currently an assistant professor in the Department of Medicine at UBC?

A Yes.
Q You also hold a cross-appointment in the School of Population and Public Health?

A Yes, as an associate faculty.
Q You were appointed to the faculty in 2009?
A Yes.
Q And in addition to your faculty appointment, I understand that you are also a research scientist with the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, as well as the director of the Gender and Sexual Health Initiative at the Centre?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q What's the mandate of the Centre?
A The Centre was founded in 1992 and it has the largest provincial organization focused on research, education and treatment of HIV-positive individuals across the province, and also works
with vulnerable individuals who are vulnerable to HIV infection.

Q And would street-level sex workers in the Downtown Eastside fall within that vulnerable population group?

A Yes, for sure, and as a -- it's a core aspect of the program that I direct at the Centre, the Gender and Sexual Health Initiative.

I'm going to take you now through your education and your research achievements. You completed your undergraduate studies in health sciences, sciences and history at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario?

A Yes.
Q You then worked for a couple of years in an outreach and community development capacity?

A Yes.
Q Did you then pursue your master's degree in global health at Curtin University in Perth, Australia?

A Yes, with the Centre of International Health, yes.
Q And why, why did you choose Curtin University for your master's work?

A For several reasons. I had just been in Australia and there were not, at that time, not a large number of public health schools in Canada. That's
sort of been fairly new in the last five or so years.

Q The program that you were taking at Curtin University was in global health, was it?

A Yes.
Q And what's the study of global health?
A Global health is essentially a branch-off of public health which focusses on community and population level health.

Q What was the focus of your research in your master's program?

A My research was focussed on reproductive health and maternal nutrition among women in rural Bangladesh.

Q And your master's was completed in 2003?
A Yes, that's correct.
Q After you completed your master's degree, did you then return to $B C$ and start working at the Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS?

A Yes.
Q And you were a researcher there?
A Yes.
Q What was the focus of your research at the Centre at that time?

A Uhm, I continued to work in women's health but I
was particularly focused for the two years, from 2003 to 2005, in the evaluation of health services for Downtown Eastside residents.

Q Okay. And this research that you are referring to was -- it became, it became known as the Maka Project, which I understand is quite a substantial project?

A Yes. So, that that initial, or that evolved sort of in 2004 out of contacts I guess I'd made in community organizations I was working with as part of the research.

Q Okay. I will ask you some specific questions about the Maka Project in a moment, but could we just define a couple of terms? You have used the expression "street-based sex work". What do you mean by that?

A It generally refers to women who solicit or are street involved and essentially solicit or contact their clients on the street. They may service clients or see clients indoors or outdoors, but primarily, the initial contact is on the street. Q Now, Dr. Shannon, I have a tendency sometimes to speak quickly. I see that you may also have that tendency. So, from time to time, I may remind us both to just slow down.

A Sure.
Q And this is one of those times. So, what does "survival sex work," that's something we've heard here, --

A $\mathrm{Hm}-\mathrm{hmm}$.
Q -- what does that refer to?
A "Survival sex work" is a term that is often used to refer to individuals who may exchange sex for money as a means of basic subsistent needs, so essentially for survival, and sex work is largely on a continuum, used on a continuum, with survival sex work being one end of that continuum.

Q Is street-based sex work in the Downtown Eastside also known as "survival sex work"?

A Uhm, it is often referred to as. So, many of the women who are street involved and engaged in sex -- street-based sex work, yes, are often referred to as also working in survival sex work.

Q I would like to ask you some questions about the Maka Project. I understand that the project was the result of a research partnership with the Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS and the Women's Information Safe Haven also known as "WISH"; is that correct?

A Yes.

Q You were the co-principal investigator for the Maka Project partnership?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q I will be taking you through some detailed questions later about the development and the methodology of the project, but could you just explain now for the commissioner, in a general way, what the project sought to investigate?

A Sure. I mean, the project evolved as a large -looking broadly at the HIV prevention needs, including the health and safety of women in street-based health sex work, and that included looking at barriers to HIV prevention, health and safety and access to care within, largely within the Downtown Eastside, although as well as areas surrounding the Downtown Eastside.

Q Okay. So, so just to repeat then, as I understand it, the project was developed to investigate health-related harms, service barriers and the impact of current harm reduction and prevention strategies among women working in the survival sex trade in Vancouver?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q Did the research methods include both quantitative and qualitative methods?

A Yes.
Q What's the difference between those two methods?
A So, for our quantitative methods, it involved data collected through our questionnaires, so structured questions that we could then analyze using statistical methods. Qualitative methods were open-ended questions. So, we were looking at -- the data is largely the narratives deriving from those interviews.

Q So, you used both questionnaires and then you had open-ended interviews?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q And I understand that the majority of the participants for the project were women involved in street-level sex work in the Downtown Eastside; is that right?

A Yes. So, just over 80 percent, 83 percent lived in the Downtown Eastside at the time of the interview.

Q How many women participated in the study?
A In the larger cohort, so in the large questionnaire, 255 women.

Q And I gather you are distinguishing between a cohort that participated in the questionnaire and then a subset of that cohort participated in the
qualitative --
A Yes.
Q -- portion?
A Yes, that's correct.
Q Now, is a summary of the Maka Project behind tab 4 in the brief of materials before you?

A Yes.
Q So, just looking at the list of core topic areas at the bottom of that page, could you review for the commissioner and explain the kinds of information that you sought to obtain for each topic from this group of, of women?
A Sure. So, the questionnaire focused on several key sections. So, demographics asking about age, ethnicity, education, housing, both current and past housing situations; sex work environment, so, both current, types of places people were working, where they're connecting with clients; uhm, as well as past history of the sex work. We also asked about violence, about bad dates. So, violence by either abusive predators, clients, as well as other types of violence, so, whether that be partners, pimps, police. We then also asked about current and past drug use; health services, so what services people were accessing, where
those services were. We had several health questions that were actually asked by the nurse that included questions around HIV and Hepatitis C; and then finally stigmatic experiences.

Q And you started this data collection process in 2005; is that right?

A Yes.
Q And while the data collection began in 2005, you were asking participants questions about their past experiences?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q Which would have included experiences since or before 1997?

A Yes. So, the average duration of length of time that women had worked in sex work was 20 years. So, at the time of interview, many women would have been, or the majority would have been working in and around 1996.

Q I would like to turn now to your Ph.D.
A Okay.
Q You obtained your Ph.D. in epidemiology and public health from the University of British Columbia?

A Yes, from the School of Population and Public Health.

Q And what is epidemiology?

A Epidemiology is essentially a subdiscipline of public health or a methodology within public health that focuses on the determinants and distribution of health events, including disease.

Q And I understand that within epidemiology, you focused on social epidemiology?

A Yes. So, most of my work is focused on looking at -- so, when we're looking at the determinants of health events, looking at the social determinants, in addition to the individual determinants.

Q So, as I understand it, that means that you were looking at the social and structural factors external to the individual that could impact on their health and safety risks?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q So, in the context of survival sex workers, what would be meant by "social factors"?

A So, social factors could be interpersonal factors. It could be experiences of violence. Many of the sort of interpersonal factors would have been part of that social aspect. Stigma would be another example of social factors.

Q What is meant by "structural factors"?
A Structural factors are more sort of larger systemic factors. So, those could be laws,
policies, larger factors such as poverty.
Q What was the focus of your Ph.D. dissertation?
A So, my Ph.D., which was embedded within the Maka Project, drew on data from the Maka Project. It was focussed on social and structural factors that were shaping HIV prevention, as well as barriers to health and safety for women in street-based sex work. So, again, drawing from the Maka Project.

Q A summary of your Ph.D. is, is -- can be found at tab 5; is that right?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q You obtained your, your doctor in 2008?
A Yes.
Q And I understand that, in 2009, that the Centre for Excellence in HIV, it was awarded a grant from CIHR, which is the Canadian Institute of Health Research, and the U.S. National Institutes of Health, to expand on the research that was conducted in the Maka Project?

A Yes, that's correct. The one grant was awarded, from CIHR, was in 2009. It would have been 2010 by the time the U.S. National Institutes of Health grant was awarded.

Q And this project was called "AESHA"?
A Yes.

Q And that stands for "An Evaluation of Sex Workers' Health Access?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q What was the purpose of the AESHA study?
A So, the AESHA study essentially builds on our work over several years through the Maka Project, but extends to both sex workers working in the street and off-street sex work across metro Vancouver. So, continuing to evaluate the health and safety needs of sex workers.

Q So, it's expanded essentially to look at off-street --

A $\mathrm{Hm}-\mathrm{hmm}$.
Q -- sex workers --
A Yes, and across metro Vancouver.
Q So, I would like to take you back to your report now at tab 3. If you could turn to page 1 in the first paragraph.

A Yes.
Q The middle of the paragraph, you state that you have published over 45 peer-reviewed papers relating to health outcomes among vulnerable populations, particularly sex workers, including studies in the Journal of the American Medical Association, Canadian Medical Association Journal
and the American Journal of Public Health. Is that what it says?

A Yes.
Q And are these journals that you have listed, are they top-ranked scientific journals in the field of public health?

A Yes. They're all sort of top-level medical journals and public health journals.

Q You have referenced a number of papers in your report to support your opinions, which we have established are at tabs 8L. Are they among the 45
peer-reviewed papers that is referred to at this page in your report?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q I would like to just take you to a few of these papers, so that you can describe them for the Commissioner, starting with the, with the paper at tab A. And we won't go through them all. I just want to highlight a few of them.

At tab A, you've written a paper -- you're one of, out of a number of co-authors -- entitled "Sexual and Drug-Related Vulnerabilities for HIV Infection Among Women Engaged in Survival Sex Work in Vancouver, Canada"; is that correct?

A Yes, that's correct.

Q You are the -- are you the lead author?
A Yes.
Q Does this research draw on the Maka Project data?
A Yes, it does.
Q So, many of the women referred to in the study would be from the Downtown Eastside?

A Correct.
Q And it's published in the Canadian Journal of Public Health and, as you mentioned, that's a leading journal and it would have significance across Canada, would it?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q Can you give the commissioner a short description of the aim and findings made by this study?

A Sure. So, this was a baseline assessment looking at what factors were associated with HIV infection. So, comparing women who are HIV positive with women who are HIV negative, to look at what potential factors were associated with HIV infection.

The core findings were that sex workers are women who had initiated sex work prior to 18 years of age, so during adolescence, were at increased vulnerability for being HIV positive. We also found, consistent with other research about

Vancouver and elsewhere, that aboriginal women were much more likely to be HIV positive. As well, in terms of drug use patterns, we found that intensive daily crack cocaine use, as well as cocaine injection, were both significant factors associated.

THE COMMISSIONER: Are you qualifying her as an expert witness?
MS. BROOKS: Yes.
THE COMMISSIONER: So, these are still a part of your qualifications?

MS. BROOKS: Yes, qualifications. Yes, Mr. Commissioner.
THE COMMISSIONER: It just appeared to me that she was going into a substantive part of her evidence, but maybe you know better.

MS. BROOKS: No, she is just going to describe for you a couple of the leading publications that relate to her qualifications around health and safety risk for street-based sex workers.

THE COMMISSIONER: What, what are you qualifying her as, and what are you saying that she should be able to give opinion evidence on?

MS. BROOKS: So, I am seeking to tender Dr. Shannon as an expert in public health and social epidemiology able to give opinion -- expert opinion evidence with respect to health and safety
risks for street-level sex workers in the Downtown Eastside.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right. Is there any doubt about her qualifications? Are there any concerns? Is anybody going to cross-examine her about her qualifications? I have asked about three questions there in one.

MR. DICKSON: Sorry, Ms. -- Tim Dickson for the VPD. Sorry, Ms. Brooks, it was able to give expert evidence with respect to health and safety risks in the Downtown Eastside?

MS. BROOKS: For street-level sex workers.
MR. DICKSON: We won't be cross-examining on that.
THE COMMISSIONER: Does anybody have any concerns? Okay, why don't you lead her through quickly? It appears all your learned friends are satisfied with respect to her qualifications and her competence to give opinion evidence.

MS. BROOKS: Thanks, Mr. Commissioner.
THE COMMISSIONER: All right.
MS. BROOKS: So, the -- so, Mr. Commissioner, if there are no objections to her qualifications, maybe now is the appropriate time to mark the brief as the next exhibit?

THE COMMISSIONER: All right.

THE REGISTRAR: It will be marked as Exhibit Number 6. THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
(EXHIBIT NO. 6: Document entitled "Expert Report and Appendices of Dr. Kate Shannon")

MS . BROOKS :
Q Dr. Shannon, rather than go through each one of these publications then and summarize them, maybe I will just highlight a couple more things about your qualifications and then we will move on to your opinion.

A Sure.
Q At the first page of your report, you have highlighted that you're an international expert on sexual health and HIV prevention among sex workers and people who use drugs. In what ways are you involved in this research at an international level?

A Sure. So, I am an associate editor of the International Journal of Drug Policy. I also serve on a number of review committees for both U.S. National Institutes of Health, as well as Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

I have also chaired a number, and spoken at a number of sessions of international conferences, including the International AIDS Society, World

HIV Conferences and the International Harm Reduction Conferences.

And in addition, as part of, together with colleagues from the Gender and Sexual Health Initiative, I'm also acting as a consultant with the World Health Organization evaluating current evidence on violence against sex workers globally, as well as links to HIV infection.

Q Okay. Thanks, Doctor. I don't have any more questions on your qualifications now. So, let's turn to your opinion.

MS. TOBIAS: Mr. Commissioner, I hesitate to interrupt my friend, and I am not standing -- it's Cheryl Tobias for Government of Canada. I'm not standing to interrupt anything. I am just standing to please slow down a little bit. My fingers don't move that fast.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yeah, I think we're probably -- you are probably both driving the court reporter crazy, in short. All right.

EXAMINATION IN CHIEF BY MS. BROOKS:
Q Dr. Shannon, your report, if you could turn to, turn to your report. I just want to clarify a couple of matters. Your report addresses questions 1 through 5 and 9 as set out in the
instruction letter; is that correct?
A Yes, that's correct.
Q And with respect to questions 6 through 8, which relate to a bad date sheet analysis, I understand that, that you had hoped that you would have some ongoing research published by now and that it's still going through the peer-review process, and so you didn't feel comfortable answering those questions?

A Yes, that's correct. The paper has not yet been peer reviewed.

Q Okay. So, as a result, you didn't give your opinion with respect to the bad date sheet analysis at question 6 through 8?

A That's correct.
Q Now, the questions that you did answer relate to two broad subject areas: violence experienced by women in the street sex trade and the relationships between women involved in the street sex trade and the police; is that correct?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q And as I understand it, the specific sources that you have referred to, to answer each question, relied, for the most part, on the Maka Project data?

A Yes, they're all peer-reviewed publications from the Maka Project, that's correct.

Q And because they relate so heavily on the Maka Project data, I would like to ask you some questions about the development and the methodology of that project. So, first, the data relates to information that's been obtained from street-based sex workers mainly from the Downtown Eastside?

A Correct.
Q And are street-level sex workers considered to be a highly marginalized and vulnerable population?

A Uh, yes, certainly the majority of the women in the cohort live in poverty, experience high rates of homelessness, as well as, as you will see from the results, high rates of violence as well. So, certainly a very vulnerable population.

Q And as I understand it, that the information that you were obtaining from the women was also of a highly sensitive nature?

A Certainly. I mean, any questions that you are asking, both of an illegal context, such as drug use, as well as questions that may be sensitive to anyone, in terms of violence, they're certainly a sensitive nature.

Q So, you were asking questions about very personal experiences with respect to violence and trauma?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q As well as their drug use and involvement in the sex trade?

A Yes.
Q And, and in eliciting this kind of information from a marginalized population, I am interested to, to know what kind of concerns that raises for you as a researcher.

A Uhm, certainly. I mean, I think there is a lot of ethical concerns in making sure that you're doing research that's both of a sensitive nature, and that you're getting accurate information by being cognizant of those issues and sensitivities.
Q Do you also though need to give consideration to creating interview conditions that will generate reliable responses?

A Certainly. I mean, and part of the process of giving -- or getting informed consent is making sure that individuals are interviewed in a safe and confidential space and feel that they are giving information in a confidential context.
Q So, given those considerations, I just want to review how you went about collecting the
information from this particularly marginalized population. So, so how did the Centre for Excellence become involved in the project?

A Well, it was actually a colleague of mine, Vicki Bright, who was working together with the WISH Drop-In Centre and was asked, we were asked, as part of that, to help with an initial needs assessment of the health needs of sex workers attending the WISH Drop-In Centre.

Q So, the project started as a collaborative one?
A $\mathrm{Hm}-\mathrm{hmm}$.
Q And it was to conduct a needs assessment of the women attending the WISH Drop-In Centre?

A Correct.
Q The centre then, in collaboration with WISH, developed a research project and sought funding?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q Funding was provided by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research?

A Yes.
Q And after the grant was awarded, what was the next step in carrying out the research?

A Uhm, well, before we even started with the research, the next step was to bring together a community advisory board that included many
members within the community. So, both women from the community who represented different organizations, whether that's sex work organizations, VANDU, other groups, women's groups in the community; as well as service providers from those organizations.

Q So, the community advisory board is struck. And what's the function of the board?

A So, the community advisory board was essentially brought together to help us advise of the best approach going forward in terms of the research, to look at our overall research questions, and sort of the best way to ask those questions as well.

Q Who, who was involved in making decisions about how to go about obtaining information from this particular population?

A Well, this -- the first sort of recommendation or discussion from the community advisory board was to hire peer researchers as part of the process, that would be women represented from the community. So, all the peers would be, researchers would be women from the community who had either currently or in the past worked in street-based sex work.

Q Why was it important to use peer researchers?
A It was felt by all the community members that it was really important that we reduce the power imbalances by actually having women from the community ask the questions, so that women could feel confident in their sense of confidentiality in responding to the questions.

Q And in reducing power imbalances, was it important that the peer researchers be women?

A Yes. I mean, certainly, again, that was a recommendation that, given the extreme rates of violence that women had experienced in the community, and ongoing stigma that women experience, as well as concerns around power imbalances that women face in the community, that it was really important that all the interviewers, the peer research team, the coordinator, the nurse, all the research staff were women, and that it was a women's-only space during the interview hours.

Q How were the peer researchers hired?
A They were hired through a panel that was put together. So, drawing on women who were in the community advisory board. So, again, women from the community, together with myself and other
researchers.
Q Did you get much interest in the position?
A Yes, we definitely, I mean, we had to select from, I don't remember the exact number, but certainly we had a number of women interested and we had to narrow it down to the 10 positions that we had funding available for.

Q What were you looking for in a candidate?
A Well, it was important that I knew sort of the main tasks the women that were going to be involved in, in forming their research, so, as well as being involved in doing the direct outreach and interviewing. So, women had to be comfortable asking questions of their peers and had to be comfortable in that process. So, we wanted women who either had experience in the community in previous peer roles or were comfortable in that context.

Q Did the women -- did the peer researchers need to have a lived experience as a survival sex worker?

A Yes. So, that was, that's definitely a criteria, is that all the women had worked or were currently working in sex work.

Q How many peer researchers were hired?
A Ten women.

Q Were they paid?
A Yes, they were paid a stipend.
Q So, what methods did you use to gather information from, from this particular population? How did you go about getting information from them?

A So, we go through questionnaires, so, interviewadministered questionnaires. So, that's structured questions that were part of the questionnaire that's asked by an interviewer. So, one of the peer researchers. And the second method was through qualitative research. So, that was co-facilitated by a researcher, an academic researcher and a peer researcher, to ask more narrative questions. So, to get more discussion and context.
Q And how, how were the questions formulated for each of these methods?

A So, again, that's a collaborative process. So, I mean, we had a team of research or academic investigators that informed the questions and, in turn, based on the topic areas that we discussed with the community advisory board. But we then brought those back as part of a process of peer training with women from the community, to make sure we got input from them on the sensitivity of
the questions, whether we were capturing the right issues, or whether we were maybe missing issues that were important to include in those questions.

Q So, you have hired these peer researchers and they all have lived experiences as survival sex workers. Do you give them any training before they start asking questions of their peers?

A Yes, definitely. So, uhm, we, I mean, we give sort of any, sort of standard training around confidentiality and ethics within the research. Uhm, we did some training. So, one of my colleagues, Dr. Thomas Kerr, who is a counselling psychologist and a co-investigator on the Maka Project, also came in and did some training around asking questions about violence and trauma.

Then we also had PACE Society, which is a sex work group in the Downtown Eastside, came in and did a fair bit of training on the role of peers, working with peers, as well as, again, asking questions around violence and trauma, given the amount of exposure women have basically had to violence in the community.

Q So, you have talked about the fact that these women in the cohort were going to be asked questions relating to violence and trauma. I
would like to just get a little more information from you about the specific instructions that the peer researchers were given about how to ask questions of that kind of sensitive nature.

A Well, I think -- I mean, there was two parts. One was making sure that women themselves having potentially experienced violence and trauma were comfortable asking those questions. But in terms of how to ask those questions, I guess the other important place was providing a safe space for women to do that, a confidential space. So, as I mentioned, we had a research office on Hastings Street, which was where women would come in and do their interviews. So, we made sure that women felt they were interviewing in a confidential and safe space, and that we also gave women enough time to do those interviews. So, sometimes the interviews would only take 45 minutes, but other times women hadn't had a chance to, or anyone, to discuss any of the past experiences with them, and the interviews may take two or three hours.

I guess the other means was also just making sure there were referral mechanisms in place, so that women were able to give referral, whether that's counselling, seeing another doctor or nurse
in the community.
MS. BROOKS: Mr. Commissioner, how is the speed?
THE COMMISSIONER: Sorry?
MS. BROOKS: It's a bit fast.
THE COMMISSIONER: Maybe you'd better ask madam reporter.
MADAM REPORTER: Try to slow down please.
MS. BROOKS:
Q Were things like teaching peer researchers about voice inflection and tone, would those things matter in an interview that -- where you were asking people to retell experiences of violence?

A Well, I mean, as I think I mentioned, that it be a standard questionnaire. So, I mean, it was important we all understood the questions and how they were responding, but they were all closed responses. But certainly as part of that training process and what we do in any sort of training with researchers, was we sat down and did modelling of asking the questions. So, made sure everyone, a) was interpreting the questions properly; if there were any discrepancies, we could discuss those. There was a fair bit of training and modelling around that.

Q Now, you mentioned that the first part of actually getting the participants was to do outreach. How
was the outreach carried out?
A So, the outreach involved I guess several stages. Initially, we mapped together with the team, the peer research team, key strolls around in the Downtown Eastside and surrounding areas. Uhm, and as part of sort of mapping those core areas, we then did targeted outreach to each of those areas. So, we'd ask -- we'd have the peer research teams head out and essentially go to each of these strolls during either evening or late night hours, let people know on the strolls about the project, and then refer them back to the project office for more information.

Q So, what I have heard then is that you mapped out the strolls?

A $\mathrm{Hm}-\mathrm{hmm}$.
Q And you actually went into the community and then you walked around those areas?

A Yes.
Q Is there a reason why you just didn't go into a centre, like WISH, where these women are known to visit and get participants that way?

A For sure. I mean, WISH is an important service and certainly many of the women we were interviewing accessed WISH. But we also wanted to
make sure we reached out and connected with women who may be working in more isolated areas, who may not have access to the drop-in centre.

Q And in doing the outreach, I understand that you would then give the women, a potential participant, a summary of what the project was about?

A Yes.
Q And then you didn't book an appointment on the spot?

A Well, we would give people an appointment card, so -- but we wouldn't -- we would then refer them to the project office for more information.

Q And certainly you didn't administer the questionnaire on the spot?

A No. So, a part of the process was letting people know the study and then referring people to the project office for more information and to follow up for the interview.

Q Okay. And why, why was it important that you give women that time to consider whether they wanted to participate?

A Well, I mean, that was part of the recommendation from the community. It was also part of our ethics through UBC, was that we ensure that people
have enough time to make informed consent. So, we would tell people about the project. We'd give them appointment cards. If they were interested, we could book an appointment then. But we wanted to be as flexible as possible, to give people as much time as possible, to know -- to make that decision.

Q Now, tell us about where the interviews were, were conducted. What was that space like?

A So, the majority of interviews were conducted at our project office on Hastings Street, and that was a storefront location right around the corner from WISH and many other services in that area. And it essentially involved separate interview spaces where people could go in and do -- would have the one-on-one interview questionnaire administered, as well as an office space for the nurse.

Q Was it somewhat of an inviting space? Was there things done to make the space comfortable?

A For sure. I mean, in the front area, there was couches, resources available. So, kind of a waiting area where people could access resources, could get a coffee before their appointment. And then we also made sure that, in addition, and the
reason I said that, the majority were conducted there is, should people feel that it was an unsafe area or had reasons that they didn't want to be on that particular section of Hastings, we would also have the technical approval to do the interviews somewhere else the person could identify as a safe place.

Q Why was it -- you mentioned that you were flexible about appointment times. Why was this particular population, was it important to be flexible in, in, in their appointments?

A Well, for, I mean, a number of reasons. Mostly, women work, you know, a range of hours, and we wanted to make sure that if people were working late-night hours, that we didn't book them in a 9 a.m. appointment. So, we wanted to make sure that our office was open. Sometimes it was open from 9:00 to 5:00. Other days we didn't open until 1:00 and we'd go till 9:00 or 10:00 at night. And that was directly from the community in terms of what was -- making sure we were as flexible as possible in reaching women.

Also, many of the women are drug users, may be on methadone, maybe need to pick up their methadone in the morning. So, there were a lot of
considerations to make sure it was as flexible as possible with women's schedules.

Q So, you wanted to accommodate their work schedules, which can be all sorts of different hours, as well as, to the extent that they were using drugs, you wanted to be sensitive to that as well?

A Correct.
Q Of the women that you invited to participate, what percentage actually participated?

A Just over 90 percent. So, 93 percent.
Q Do you know what happened to the, to the remaining percentage, why those women didn't participate?

A I mean, I think there's a, a number of reasons. We, certainly, we gave that information card. Women may have chosen not to participate. Uhm, women may also have just moved or just been unable to make appointments the next day. So, even of those 93 percent, some of those people didn't show up the very next day for their appointment. They may come in a week later and say, "I missed my appointment," and we would rebook it then. So, I think there were probably a number of reasons, but certainly I think not being able to get to that appointment and/or just deciding not to
participate.
Q Now, in analyzing the results after you obtained the information from the women, did you seek any community input?

A Well, certainly once we had -- I mean, from the questionnaire data, once we would have done initial analysis, we would certainly go back for questions to our community advisory board to make sure, uhm, we were interpreting properly the results. And a number of our studies are actually co-authored with people from the community, to make sure that we got their input in terms of context of what was going on.

Q After the research was complete, what did you do with it?

A Uh, the research, well, certainly all our research we make sure is peer reviewed. So, it's all published in peer-reviewed journals. Once it's been published in peer-reviewed journals, we do a number of things, both to distribute it within the academic community, so, through conferences and sort of standard venues that way; as well as through community. So, we had a number of presentations where we would go back to either WISH or other organizations and present the work.

The work has also been presented to a bunch of others. So, there were more policy discussions as well.

Q So, it was presented in traditional academic venues and then it also was translated directly into programming for service providers in the Downtown Eastside?

A For sure. So, in some cases, I mean, we presented to the community and then the community could use it to inform their programs, to write funding proposals. And then I guess we also wanted to make sure it was accessible to the public. So, on many occasions, we would do press releases to make sure that that, that the wider audience had that access to the information.

Q So, in terms of the community initiatives that had been struck as a result of the research, I understand that one of them was developing a bad date database to increase the monitoring and response to violence against sex workers; is that correct?

A Well, we received some funding in partnership with WISH, who currently houses and distributes the bad dates, collects and distributes the bad dates. And until that point, the bad dates had just been
collected as hard copies and were essentially collected in binders. So, what that meant is, if someone was trying to look up and see if there was a trend in the bad date, it essentially meant, involved going through, flipping through old binders to look for them.

So, given the resources we have available through research, we helped them set up a database that it still has at WISH, and it's a WISH database, but essentially enters all the information that's collected through the bad date sheets.

Q What, what is a bad date sheet?
A A bad date sheet, it's been collecting information on violence by violent predators and clients, and women report these bad dates to any number of sex work agencies, or women's organizations, or other organizations in the Downtown Eastside. WISH collects these and then distributes them out to the community. It was initially started by DEYAS, another organization that collected these from, I think it was 1993 through to 2004, and then WISH has since taken them over.

Q What information is recorded on the bad date sheet?

A The bad date sheet asks a number of questions. It's, again, it came -- adopted from the community as a safety strategy for women to be able to inform each other of potentially violent predators, uhm, and any bad dates. So, the women would mark what type of violence they had experienced, locations, either where they're picked up and/or where the incident happened, if they know that. They would also record type of car, licence plate numbers, if they were able to get that; any descriptors of the perpetrator.

Q In the Maka study, did the women report relying on the bad date sheets to govern their behaviour?

A Yes. There is a number of safety strategies, when we asked, that women used to keep themselves safe, and certainly a large number, I believe it was 85 percent to -- would collect -- would use the bad date sheets. Before they would go out, they would check them and pick them up from an agency and make sure to use those where and if possible.

Q Dr. Shannon, I would like now to turn to the specific questions and answers in your report. So, if we could turn to Page 3, I would like to deal with this, this question. So, the first question asks you to describe In chief by Ms. Brooks
the common characteristics of the women involved in sex street work. So, I would like to just review your findings. So, you found that many women involved in street-level sex trade in the Downtown Eastside had been living on the street for the first time since the age of 17?

A Yes, that was the average age. That's correct.
Q Forty percent of the sample were aboriginal?
A Yes.
Q The vast majority of them reported unstable or no housing?

A So, were living in unstable living situations, yes.

Q What does that mean?
A So, that would be based on the last six months, they had moved several times between housing. So, it could be anything from transient, you know, moving several times, living in shelters, as well as no fixed address or living on the street.

Q The majority also reported high rates of drug use?
A Yes, that's correct.
Q One-fifth had difficulty accessing drug treatment facilities?

A Yes, that was one-fifth who would have tried but been unable to access drug treatment.

Q With long wait lists being cited as the primary barrier?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q And one-fifth had one or more dependant children?
A Yes.
Q Now, at the bottom of page 4, you state in the last sentence:

Of the total of 255 women, 9 percent reported having ever been to Pickton's farm, and 73 percent reported knowing women who had been to Pickton's farm. Since these women were reporting on visits to his farm, would they have been referring to occasions before the arrest of Robert Pickton?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q Why would the researchers want to know whether any of the women had been to Robert Pickton's farm or knew any of the women who had been to his farm?

A Given what we know from previous researchers, as well as our qualitative research, past trauma, past violence and exposure to violence can certainly increase fear of ongoing violence. And in this case, we wanted to know how many people had been, directly knew someone who had been to the Pickton farm.

Q Turning now to question 2. Question 2 asks you to describe the violence faced by women involved in the street sex trade, and your answer is set out at pages 4, 5 and 6 of your report. And to answer this question, you cited a quantitative study on page 4, and that's at $2(a)$, and is that study found at tab $G$ of the brief of materials?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q And just dealing with that study then, you say, at the bottom of page 4, you refer to a review in the Lancet on the global magnitude of gender-based violence. That's at the bottom of page 4. Is the Lancet a leading medical journal?

A Yes, it's one of the top medical journals.
Q And what's meant there by gender-based violence?
A Gender-based violence is defined by United Nations Elimination of Violence Against Women, as well as the World Health Organization, as violence perpetrated, whether that's physical, psychological or sexual, on the basis of gender, the majority of which is violence perpetrated by men against women.

Q You state there that: The Lancet review found that rights violations and abuses against female sex
workers were seldom considered in discussions about violence against women.

And so was the purpose of the study cited on page 4 to build on that research gap and show the prevalence of violence against street-based sex workers?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q For the purpose of this study, you relied on the Maka cohort?

A Yes.
Q And it was a cohort that completed both the baseline and then follow-up, follow-up visit?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q The sample size was 237?
A Yes.
Q And what was the prevalence of violence reported by the participants?

A Well, over the 18 months followup, 57 percent of women reported either or both a physical and sexual violence, with a quarter of women reporting having been raped over the 18 -month followup, and 30 percent reporting client-perpetrated violence.

Q Now, the 30 percent that reported clientperpetrated violence is broken down in a chart on page 5. It's a bit blurry, and I am just going to
read what the percentages are, and you can tell me if I've accurately read it.

So, a hundred percent of the, of the group reported verbal harassment, and this is from their clients, 67 percent reported physical assault or beating, 49 percent reported assault with a weapon, 27 percent reported strangling, 26 percent reported abduction or kidnapping, 21 percent reported attempted sexual assault, 20 percent reported being thrown out of a moving car and 16 percent other; is that correct?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q So, turning now to the qualitative study, which is at page 6, and is this study found at tab $H$ of, of Exhibit 6?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q At the top of page 6, you state that the narratives -- and these narratives are open-ended interviews with 46 sex workers?

A Hm-hmm. Yes.
Q You state that:
The narratives reveal the pervasiveness and commonplace sense of violence and victimization by clients or bad dates. What do you mean by "commonplace sense of
violence"?
A Uhm, women described a pervasive and really everyday sense of violence that they were experiencing by violent perpetrators, by clients, uhm, as part of bad dates; and really a feeling of lack of response by both police and the legal system, and generally in society in terms of response to the ongoing violence.

Q And did they report that attempts to keep themselves safe were more important than other concerns?

A Yes. So, because this -- I mean, this study was set out in the context of looking at how violence may be associated with HIV prevention, in particular, negotiating condom use. Women talked about how the immediate threats of violence and ongoing violence limited their ability to negotiate safety.

Q So, as I understand that, they are often stuck in a position of having to negotiate a condom or, or avoid being assaulted?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q And so this is, this is sort of largely summarized at the last sentence before the first quote, where you state:

Bad dates are frequent [and then you also note] and go largely unreported.

Did the women discuss why they don't report the violence?

A Yes. So, I mean, many women, in many of the narratives women discussed the barriers to reporting were both due to the fact that little had happened, and that in terms of the delayed action around the missing women and the fact that women continue to experience violence. And so a sense of apathy that no one was going to do anything. Women also talked about a fear of arrest if they're disclosing sex work, should they report it for violence.

Q And you reproduce a quote in your report from that study. What was significant to you about this quote that you say illustrates this sense of commonplace violence?

A Can you just clarify which quote? Sorry.
Q The quote on -- Mr. Vertlieb had the same question -- the quote on page 6, that's in italics in the middle of the page.

A Uhm, so, I think the, I mean, the significance -if you are referring to the third quote down was -- I mean, several of the quotes all talk about
the everyday experience of violence. All three quotes talk about how women are forced to prioritize the immediacy of violence over other safety, such as condom use.

Women also -- the last quote talks about a women's experience in the legal system in which she did go for -- in the legal system, it felt like she wasn't respected, that she was being stigmatized for being a sex worker and a drug user and wasn't being taken seriously.

Q So, these -- it's all, it's three different quotes here?

A Correct.
Q So now over -- sorry, pardon me. At page 6, after those quotes, you state that the women spoke of the inaction and delayed response taken in reference to over 60 women from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside who have gone missing in the last decade. How did their perceptions of police inaction translate into a belief of how they were perceived by the police or the public?

A Uh, well, as you can see by the quotes that follow, many women spoke about a feeling of complete dispassion or apathy, the fact that women continued to go missing and that such a delayed
response had happened, and again, that women continue to go missing right as we speak. And several of the questions -- the quotes really talk about a feeling of being completely disposable.

Q And that's what you're referring to then at the bottom of page 6, when you say that there is a discourse of disposal surrounding the missing women?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q I would like to turn now to the next question at page 7, but maybe we'll save that for after the break. Is now a good time, Mr. Commissioner?

THE COMMISSIONER: All right, we'll adjourn.
THE REGISTRAR: We will recess for 15 minutes.
(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 2:57 P.M.)
(PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 3:22 P.M.)
THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MS. BROOKS: Dr. Shannon, we left off at question 3, and that's on page 7 of your report. And this question deals with the factors that are associated with an increase in violence against sex trade workers. So, you have cited a number of different predictors of an increased risk of violence.

A Yes, that's correct.
Q So, I would like to review those predictors,
starting with the strongest. What was the strongest indicator of an increased risk of violence for street sex trade workers?

A The strongest predictor was police harassment.
Q And so, I would like to understand that a bit more. First of all, can you tell me what level of an increased police harassment caused in terms of violence?

A Sure. Police harassment was associated with a threefold increased risk of client violence, and a twofold increased risk of rape among sex workers.

Q So, how could prior police harassment increase the risk of violence that women face? What does police harassment mean in this context?

A In this analysis, police harassment was actually direct violence or assault. Police harassment, as we know from that qualitative research, can also include a number of other aspects, which can include detainment without arrest; it may include taking sex workers, and women talked about being taken out to isolated areas and being left there; it also talked about, women talked about being -having equipment confiscated, so, either clean syringes or condoms being confiscated without arrest; as well as being followed. So, they might
be followed while they're with a client or when they're on a stroll, but not actually arrested.

Q Okay. So, I'm just trying to get down what you're saying.

A $\mathrm{Hm}-\mathrm{hmm}$.
Q So, in this context, police harassment means direct violence, which means assault?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q Assault by police to the sex trade worker?
A Yes, that's correct.
Q It also means -- did you say "detainment without arrest"?

A So, those are other means of police harassment that were described in our qualitative research. But for the purposes of this analysis, we just looked at the most extreme case of direct violence or assault.

Q And you also said it could include equipment being confiscated?

A Yes. So, in the qualitative research, discussions of police harassment included examples that women spoke of several times. It included detainment without arrest, being driven out and dropped off to other areas, as well as confiscation of either clean syringes and/or condoms without arrest.

Q And the other factor that you mentioned included in police harassment is being followed?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q So, that covers off what you are talking about when you say "police harassment"?

A Yes.
Q And now why would police harassment cause these women to be exposed to more violence?

A From our qualitative work, women talked about how direct police violence include -- it created a fear of violence as well as a fear of arrest, and that may mean that women have to rush transactions. So, if they're in an area and they're concerned about police, based on past adverse relationships with police, in this case, direct violence, they may rush the transaction with a client. So, that means jumping into a car quickly without --

Q So, let's just stop for a second.
A Yes.
Q Okay. So, we're talking about why prior police harassment would cause an increased risk of violence?

A Yes.
Q And you have said that, if women have been
harassed by the police in the past, that they might then rush a transaction.

A So, yes. One way that that may play out is they may rush a transaction with a client. Another way would be --

Q Okay.
A Yes.
Q So, what does that look like?
A So, rushing a transaction with a client, uhm, may mean that they jump in the car. So, without -for example, if they have looked at the bad date sheets, they may not have time to look --

Q So, Dr. Shannon, I am going to ask you to slow down --

A Sure.
Q -- because I'm trying to now write everything down that you say.

A Okay. So, in terms of rushing a transaction -THE COMMISSIONER: There is no way you could write it down at the speed you're going.

THE WITNESS: So, in terms of rushing a transaction, what that could mean is that women may be standing at -- a sex trade worker may be standing at a car, and without having the ability to negotiate the terms of that transaction. So, that's a fee for the
service. They may just jump in the car quickly. They may not be able to look for indications of potential violence. So, if they have looked at the bad date sheet previously, they may not be able to look for whether there is any characteristics of that person that make them concerned, make sure there is no one else in the car. So, those are a number of strategies, safety strategies that women discussed using. And this -- those may be, if they rush a transaction, they are not able to take those into account.

MS . BROOKS:
Q Okay. So, what I understand from you are, from what you are saying then, --

A $\mathrm{Hm}-\mathrm{hmm}$ ?
Q -- is that before engaging in a particular transaction, the woman will approach the car and she will be looking for certain things that you call sort of "safety techniques" that she has to assess the client?

A Correct.
Q And that if she's had prior police harassment, she's unable to use those to the fullest?

A Yes.
Q So, I am still not clear on why being harassed by
the police before would cause her to rush the transaction.

A So, immediate prior police harassment, in our qualitative research, women talked about how that created a fear of both violence as well as arrest by police. So, that may play out in either rushing a transaction or moving to isolated spaces to avoid police.

Q So, does it, does it create a level of impatience then? Is that what's happening?

A Well, if you are standing on a corner and you are concerned about being arrested, you are likely to jump in the car quickly and not be able to negotiate that transaction and look for safety precautions before you get in the car.

Q And you would be, you would be concerned about being arrested because you had a past experience with that; is that the case?

A So, you may be concerned about further police harassment or about being arrested.

Q So, let's move now to the next strongest predictor of an increased risk of violence. What did your study show?

A So, the next strongest predictor was displacement away from main streets. So, that was either
police telling people to move on or actually moving sex workers to more isolated spaces away from the main core of Downtown Eastside.

Q And is this what you mean when you talk about "enforced displacement"?

A Yes. Well, as you can see from our qualitative work, there are several quotes where women talk about police pushing them to darker and darker areas, so those more industrial areas below Hastings where many sex work strolls were moved. So, that's the displacement that women are referring to.

Q And what study would those quotes be found in?
A Uh, the study, "Social Science and Medicine" paper would be --

Q Can you direct the commissioner to what tab that is at?

A At H. This is in tab H.
Q So, this study will have quotes in it where women talk about the effect of being displaced from the main streets; is that correct?

A Correct.
Q So, why does displacement from main streets cause an increased risk of violence?

A Well, women talk, again in that study, women talk
about being in industrial areas where there is no one they can call for help, there's no protections available to them. So, they're at increased risk of violence. So, there is no witnesses around. There is no protections.

Q And the next predictor of an increased risk of violence is servicing clients in cars or public spaces. What do you mean by that?

A Yes. Well, when we compared women who had serviced clients primarily in outdoor spaces, so in cars or other public spaces -- so that might be alleys, streets -- compared to servicing clients in indoor spaces, there is an increased risk of violence associated with working in outdoor public spaces.

Q And what would cause that increase? What would explain that?

A Uhm, again, drawing on sort of the qualitative work that echoes many of these results, women talk about, once they're in a car, their power or control are gone with a client. So, their ability to negotiate safety is really limited. In an indoor space, where there is other people around, they can call for help. They know there is other protections available.

Q
And what do you mean by "negotiate safety"? What does that refer to?

A Well, women take many precautions to try and keep themselves safe. So, uhm, that may mean anything from trying to make sure they have negotiated the terms of the transaction upfront, so that they don't have to have that discussion once they're in the car. They may make sure -- making sure for them, safety may also include negotiating condom use. So, asking the client to wear a condom. Uhm, there's many protections that women would take, uhm, but some of their ability to insist on those protections are often very limited when they're in a car, in an isolated alley. But when they're in their own -- in an indoor space, where they know there's other people around, they may be more likely to have some sense of security or protections available.
Q And you have listed a couple of other predictors of increased risk of violence, homelessness being one; is that correct?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q And in what way is homeless -- in what way does homelessness increase the risk of violence?

A Well, I mean, homelessness can both be a predictor
of extreme poverty. So, women who were in complete poverty and may need to, to earn a certain amount of income that night. Uhm, it can also be from a qualitative work. What we've seen is homeless -- the lack of place to take a date. So, if someone is -- extreme homelessness, is on the street, they have even less safety mechanisms available to them than if they had a room in a hotel where they could at least take a date.

Q So, Dr. Shannon, I know it's hard to sort of unlearn a way, of manner of speaking, but if you are able to slow it down a bit, that would be great.

A Sure.
Q So, the other predictor that, that you cited is the poor availability to drug treatment. Now, why would the poor availability to drug treatment mean that women are more exposed to violence?

A Well, in this case, poor availability of drug treatment referred to a failed attempt to access drug treatment in the last six months. So, women had tried and been unsuccessful in accessing drug treatment. Uhm, so that can be, uhm, for women who have hit rock bottom and have tried to access drug treatment, but are unable to, they may be in
less ability to negotiate safety. So, for example, if you are in drug withdrawal and you're dope sick, you may not be able to then negotiate safety.

Q And what does drug -- what does dope sickness refer to?

A So, if someone is using heroin, for example, an opiate, and they are in extreme withdrawal, they will be actually sick and need that drug.

Q What kind of symptoms do they have?
A It can be a huge range, but dope sickness generally is extreme physical as well as psychological withdrawal from the drug.

Q And your evidence then is that if women are in that state, that they're less able to negotiate for their safety?

A Yes.
Q You have stated in your report at page 7, in doing this statistical analysis, that you controlled for individual and interpersonal risks. What does that mean?

A Well, given that we know some of the other factors that may be associated or drive violence, such as drug use, use of drugs by the client or use of drugs by the sex worker, we wanted to make sure
that we controlled for those factors. And so our analysis allowed us to look at factors that were independently associated with violence when we controlled for those factors.

Q What are some of those factors?
A Uhm, so in particular, drug use factors is by the sex worker, as well as using drugs with a client. Both have been shown to increase risk. So, irrespective of those factors, these are, analysis shows these specific factors associated with violence.

Q And at page 8, you give an opinion on how these risks to violence against sex workers can be reduced, and what is your opinion on that?

A Well, $I$ think there is -- it's, and in terms of -there is a broad range of things that need to happen in terms of reducing violence, but certainly removing some of the legal restrictions that are currently limiting sex workers' ability to work in safer indoor spaces is an important one, and that includes the communicating code which, as we, as I have spoken of, results in displacement of sex workers to isolated spaces.

In addition to those factors, moving sex workers or allowing sex workers to work indoors
would also increase access to other programs, such as drug treatment. And I think the final thing that I do talk about is violence prevention, other violence prevention mechanisms.

Q And what -- and you talk about -- exactly. You said that the need to scale up violence prevention efforts including police/sex worker partnerships. What you are talking about there?

A Well, certainly I mean there have been examples, and there are examples of where there have -police and sex workers have worked in partnership. So, for example, there is a sex work liaison. Uhm, there is a -- was a, a committee that was struck that was for dialogue between police and sex workers. Uhm, but there needs to be more of that and there needs to be increased sensitivity training, again, of police.

Q So, sorry, so, sensitivity training, and what were the other examples you gave?

A So, sensitivity training, which has been done in the past. So, Sue Davis and Raven Bowen have both done sensitivity training with the police. But increasing scaling that up, so making sure that reaches as many police as possible. But other examples of partnerships include --
one example that's come forward as a potential would be a police control car. So, a community patrol car that includes a peer sex worker on the car. So, that was put forward as one example by the sex work community of increased police/sex worker partnership.

Q So, in the patrol car, to have another woman that's involved in the sex trade patrolling with the police?

A Correct.
Q So, turning now, Dr. Shannon, to question 4, and this is at page 8 and 9 of your report. This question deals with the locations where women engage in the sex trade that triggered safety concerns; is that correct?

A Correct.
Q And I understand that this research draws on a social mapping exercise that the participants completed as part of the Maka Project?

A Yes, in addition to the qualitative and quantitative research.

Q And also, I understand that the social mapping exercise is a particularly novel component of the project. So, could you tell the commissioner what that involved?

A Sure. So, the mapping involved everyone. So, all the sex workers who would have come in to complete the questionnaire. So, the 255 sex workers would also have been asked to map, so given a map and asked to draw on the map where they work, where they live, areas they have avoided due to recent policing, areas avoided due to fear of violence or recent violence, uhm, areas they access services. So, health services that were available. And that was -- we were then able to use that data, together with their questionnaire data.

Q So, as I understand it, the women were shown a map of the Downtown Eastside; is that correct?

A Correct.
Q And then they were asked to mark specific sites on the map?

A Yes.
Q And those sites included the strolls where they work?

A Correct.
Q It included working conditions, such as lighting and phones?

A That's correct.
Q It included marking the high and low-risk areas for violence and bad dates?

A Correct.
Q It included the areas that were impacted by police presence and harassment?

A Correct.
Q And it included areas of health and syringe availability and disposal?

A That's correct.
Q And I understand that some of these results are depicted in maps that are published in two of your papers, and the first one is found at tab I at page 144; is that correct?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q Are you there?
A Yes.
Q Now, behind you, that map has been reproduced on a poster board.

A Correct.
Q So, Mr. Commissioner, do you have that in the brief of materials? It's Exhibit I at page 144.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MS. BROOKS:
Q So, I would like you to explain for the commissioner what this map reveals, but let me ask you a couple of questions about it first.

A Sure.

Q Is it a map of the Downtown Eastside?
A It's a map of both Downtown Eastside and surrounding communities. So, not just the Downtown Eastside.

Q Uhm, can you point to some major street, streets that we might recognize or know?

A Sure. So, that would be Main Street there and crossing would be Hastings here. So, where the circles are, which I will explain in more detail, that's sort of the core Downtown Eastside area.

Q Now, there's a legend at the bottom. What do the, what do the circles show?

A So, the circles represent where either health services are available, and/or syringe exchange programs are available.

Q And what does the size of the circle mean?
A So, that's increased concentration of services. So, the larger circles represent more services available in that core area.

Q And what about the colours on the streets? What do they represent?

A So, the colours represent areas women reported avoiding due to recent policing and violence. In this context, green. So, the larger areas that you see outside. Green represents low levels of
avoidance, the orange represents moderate levels of avoidance and red represents high levels of avoidance.

Q So, in, in looking at the, the circles and the coloured streets, what does this show us?

A So, essentially what this just shows us is that there is a strong geographic correlation, so between high areas that women avoid due to policing and violence, and where the services are available.

Q What does this tell you about how to service these women's health needs?

A Well, as we can see by the green, women are working in much more dispersed areas than just that core area. But where the most services are available, is right where women most report avoiding due to policing and violence. So, really showing us the unintended consequences of displacement in pushing women or sex workers away from health and support services.

Q And so what does that tell you about how they should be -- how their needs can be serviced?

A Well, ultimately, there is certainly evidence from elsewhere in terms of removing some of the restrictions or some of the barriers to
displacement. So, from legal barriers, to, uhm, ensuring more safe spaces for sex workers in the core areas. But certainly, given this displacement, there have been examples of services, particularly the MAP band, so, the Mobile Access Project that drives around reaching sex workers in more isolated areas, and that's operated by WISH and PACE.

Q Now, the second map is located at tab J, at page 662, and an enlarged reproduction of that map is being revealed right now. Dr. Shannon, can you confirm that the map behind you is a reproduction of the map at tab J, page 662?

A Yes, that's correct.
Q So, is this a map of the Downtown Eastside?
A It's, it's similar to the last map. It's a map of both Downtown Eastside and surrounding communities.

Q And to orient us, can you show us a main cross road?

A Sure. Again, so that would be the Main and Hastings section here.

Q And, and what do the circles mean on this map?
A So, in this context, we are mapping where there is geographic clustering or hot spots of cores of
unprotected sex. So, sex workers reporting being pressured into not using a condom by clients. And so the circles represent hot spots with the larger circles. So, of significance is the pink and purple circles, and what we see is the larger coloured circles are, in fact, much of the more isolated areas, aside from this section here, which is the downtown south area.

Q Okay. So, just so I have it. So, the larger the circle, the more pressure?

A So, the more hot spots, so the more clustering of where sex workers were being pressured into unprotected sex. So, correct. And just, that confirms our, sort of the analysis that we did as part of that in which displacement was associated. So, sex workers who reported being displaced by police, either being asked to move on or forced to move on, were three times more likely to report being pressured into unprotected sex by clients.
Q So, the mapping results confirm that conclusion?
A Yes, yes.
Q And turning now then, Dr. Shannon, to the last question, and, and this -- your answer starts at page 10 of your report, and this deals with the, broadly, with the relationship between the police
and survival sex workers. And to answer this question, you have relied on the qualitative interviews from the 46 sex workers from the Maka Project, and you have also cited two papers written by you that deal with links between criminalization of sex work and violence; is that correct?

A That's correct, as well as the first reference, which was a paper discussed earlier, the quantitative paper.

Q Right. Now, at page 11, you identify three distinct experiences that women reported having with the police, and I would like to take you through those. So, first, you said that some women spoke about direct harms and power imbalances in their relations with the police. What did you mean by "direct harms and power imbalances"?

A So, the direct harms that women spoke of -- and I think it's important to say these are, these show the range of experiences that women did report by police and don't -- by no means, were all of them reporting the direct harms, but we saw a range from direct to indirect harms, to more positive experiences.

In terms of the direct harms, women talk about a range of experiences from detainment without arrest, being followed, being taken by police and dropped off in other areas, so, being driven out basically from where they're working; as well as more direct violence and assault.

Q And Dr. Shannon, you have reproduced a couple of quotes in your report. Can you read something to us from one of those quotes that speak to these direct harms and power imbalances?

A Sure. Well, there's this one quote that women talk about, which is more -- which is the confiscation of both clean syringes --

Q And where are you reading from?
A So, this is the bottom of page 11.
Q Okay.
A And it says:
The police never do anything. They don't really give a shit. They're not out to get us but they're not -- they don't really have any compassion or concern about us. A lot of us girls started carrying pepper spray or bear spray, but you have to be careful, because as soon as the cops search you, jack you up, they take away what you have to
protect yourself, even rigs.
Q And what does "jack you up" mean?
A That's essentially stopping you without necessarily arresting you, but in this case, taking drug use paraphernalia from you.

Q Are there any other quotes that you would like to, to read that speak to the direct harm and power imbalances that you have told us about?

A Sure. The quote above is women say, or the quote says:

And down here, believe me the cops are assholes too, man. They will pick you up and then they will make you do something for them just so you can stay there to work. And that's more or less their turf. If girls complain to the cops, they will pick you up and take you somewhere else and fucking leave you there. And certain women will have a line with the police that they worked on over the years. Yeah. It's never mentioned in the paper, never mentioned in the bad date sheets or nothing, you know, it's just all through mouth. And a lot of these girls are just scared to speak up. So, it's, like. The cops got a lot of power. Early mornings,
that's when they really get out there.
Q And in terms of the other experiences, you spoke of indirect harms through displacement, of working areas and a dispassion or apathy for sex trade workers' experiences. Can you tell us what was meant by those remarks?

A Sure. Well, as can be seen from the first quote I read as an example, but women spoke about, about the dispassion and apathy that they felt among the police in terms of the violence that was experienced by sex workers, both through the missing women and the delayed action around that, as well as the fact of ongoing violence and their interactions with police. So as, "The police never do anything. They don't really give a shit. They're not out to get us but they're not really -- don't have any compassion or concern," was one quote from someone.

Q And thirdly, you spoke of attempts by the police to help through a safety initiative as another distinct experience women reported. Can you tell us about the safety initiative that was being referred to here?

A Sure. Well, this is the safety initiative that followed in 1999, following the Missing Women's

Task Force, and they were talking about the phones that were being handed out to sex workers in the community with a, a speed dial to 911. And I think, importantly, the quote illustrated, as I mentioned, that there were certainly a range of experiences that women reported. And women did talk about how certain police, they had good relations with the sex worker liaison, for example, but that there were also these other negative experiences that women continued to experience.

Q And is there a quote in your report that, that you can read that reflects this?

A Sure. On the top of page 12, it says:
Like, the cops were handing out those phones, but they only had one number, and it was 911. Just one button. And it had a homing device or something like that, but it didn't really work that good. Once buddy's got you in his car, you're fucked.

MS. BROOKS: Mr. Commissioner, that concludes my questions for Dr. Shannon.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right.
MS. BROOKS: I note that it's almost the end of the day
although Mr. Ward has indicated that he, he thinks
he'll only be a couple minutes. I'm not sure if it's his preference to go now or tomorrow.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right. Are you going to be a couple of minutes or are you going to be a couple of minutes?

MR. WARD: A couple of minutes. So, I think I prefer to go tomorrow.

THE COMMISSIONER: That's what I thought.
THE REGISTRAR: Ms. Brooks, before you sit down, did you want those boards marked?

MS. BROOKS: No, because they're already contained in -THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. We will adjourn until the morning.

THE REGISTRAR: This hearing is now adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.
(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 3:55 P.M.)
I hereby certify the foregoing
to be a true and accurate
transcription of the proceedings
herein to the best of my skill and ability.

Gabriele Heise, RPR
Official Reporter, BCSRA No. 399
Realtime Certified Reporter


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