

## Outline/Script

### Intro (word for word)

- It is the year 2001. The police are called to a dead body found in a ditch in Surrey, British Columbia. When the police arrive, they were horrified.
- This is The Tears of Darkness, the podcast that explores and uncovers unresolved murders in British Columbia. I'm your co-host Adrian Tam.
- And I am your co-host Sophia Quiring, and today we're discussing the story of Angela Hazel Williams.

### Sponsor Message (word for word)

- Before we get started, here is a quick message from our sponsor Vancity. At Vancity, they are focused on improving the financial well-being of their members and building healthy communities including the Indigenous people of Canada.

### Segment 1

- Grew up near the Campbell River and Gilford Island, BC.
- Member of the Tlowitsis (to-lo-wit-sis) First Nation.
- The Tlowitsis First Nation (word for word): The Tlowitsis first nation is a group of indigenous people that is located just south of the Campbell River. They are traditionally located in parts of northern Vancouver Island, Johnson Strait. The current population of the nation is around 450 people. They used to have connections with the Kalagwees in the late 1960s, but as of spring of 2018, the Tlowitstis have owned a 635-acre property in the Strathcona Region District, just south of the Campbell River.
- Spent most of her childhood away from her siblings and mother.
- Mother felt that her relationship with her new husband wasn't healthy for Angela.
- Mother took her siblings.
- Angela still living with her father.
- At 11, she met her sister, Eliza.
- They spent summers together.
- A lot of her family, including both of her parents, were residential school survivors.
- Some alcohol abuse in her family.
- Angela also struggled with substance abuse, ranging from alcohol to cocaine.
- She was admitted into a rehabilitation program.
- Met her husband in rehab.
- Settled down in Comox with her husband.
- Common law marriage.
- Had three children, first at 18.
- She and her husband relapsed.
- Separated from each other.
- Angela came to her sister, Eliza Willier, in Vancouver for help.

- Developed a dependency on drugs or alcohol.
- Accumulated a drug debt.
- Hastings (word for word): Hasting's street is located in the downtown eastside of Vancouver. It is notorious in greater Vancouver for being the center of British Columbia's opioid crisis. In 1998, it was declared a public health emergency by the provincial government, which was within the years that Angela spent a substantial amount of time there.

## Segment 2

- Children were taken away by a relative, Margaret Green.
- In 2001, she started working in the sex trade because of drug debt.
- She told a worker at a Vancouver drop-in center that she thought something bad was going to happen to her.
- She said she would go to her aunt's place, but never showed up.
- Her family started worrying.
- She didn't come to her ex's birthday lunch.
- She missed her daughter's birthday.
- She didn't say goodbye to her daughter who was leaving to her dad's place for the holidays, which was unusual for her.
- Her family reported her as a missing person.
- Started searching for her themselves.
- A stranger told them that there had been reports of an unidentified dead body found in a ditch on Colebrook Road in Surrey.
- They called the Surrey RCMP.
- The police identified the body as Angela's by using dental and medical records.

## Segment 3

- In 2007, the police revisited the scene where Angela was left, and they determined that the cause of her death was likely strangulation.
- Her family was not satisfied with the police investigation.
- Her sister, Eliza Willier said that "I just didn't feel like it was a priority to them to find her because it was just another Native girl missing from the Downtown Eastside."
- It is still unclear why she told the worker that she was worried something bad would happen.
- The case remains unsolved and no one has been charged for her murder.
- Her children still don't know what happened.
- Her oldest daughter, Ashley Smith, said, "I want to know why no one cared enough to take this case properly from the beginning. Was it because she was native? Was it because she used drugs?"
- "It's been almost 10 years and I don't know how my mother died."

### **Outro (word for word):**

- Many indigenous individuals throughout Canada have struggled for years due to injustices, prejudices, and general discrimination, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has created a list of calls to action to help improve the treatment of indigenous people in Canada. Here are a few calls to action that pertain to Angela's story.
- We call upon the federal government to develop a national plan to collect and publish data on the criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization.
- It didn't appear like there was much done for Angela's case by the police, and this call to action may influence how future cases like hers are handled.
- We call upon the federal government to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Aboriginal healing centers to address the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harms caused by residential schools, and to ensure that the funding of healing centers in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories is a priority.
- The majority of Angela's older relatives went to residential school, which may have had an impact on how her story played out. This call to action explains how Canada can help residential school survivors so them and their families don't struggle.
- We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and to publish annual progress reports and assess long-term trends. Such efforts would focus on indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.
- Angela may not have received the support she needed, and this call to action was created to help support people like her.
- Please consider these calls to action and reflect on how Canada, as a country, and as individual citizens can decrease the discrimination and the effects of discrimination against indigenous people.
- Thanks for listening. This podcast is brought to you by Vancity. With their generous support we can continue to shed light on the untold stories of missing and murdered women in Canada.
- This podcast co-hosted with me Adrian Tam.
- And me Sophia Quiring.
- This podcast is edited by me Adrian Tam.
- Music credits can be found on our blog.