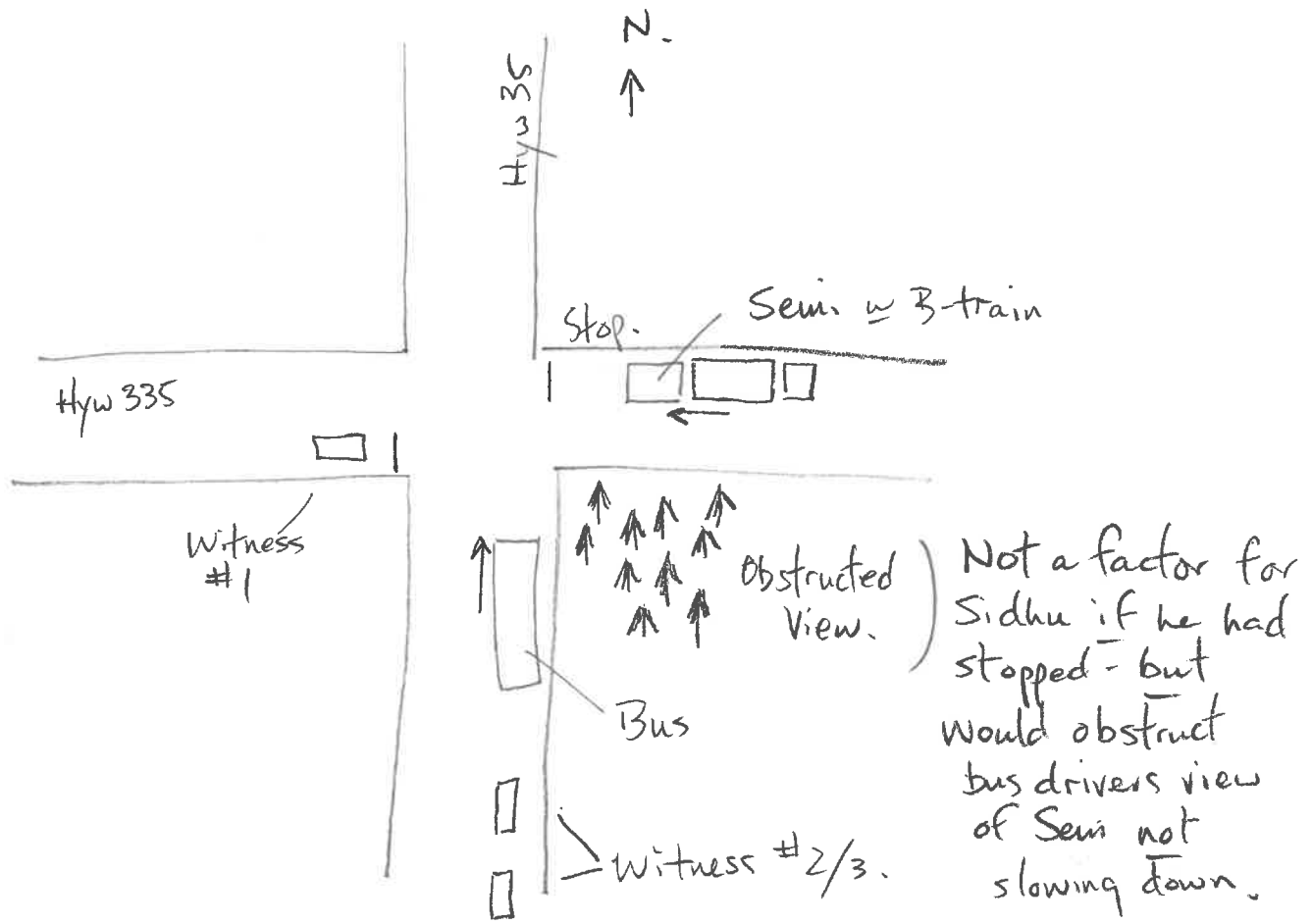


Humboldt Bus Crash

April 6th 2018 ~5pm.



Naskirat Singh Sidhu plead guilty to .

- 16 counts of Dang. Driv. causing death.
- 13 counts of D.D. causing bodily harm.

Judge: I.J. Cardinal - her job is to determine a just and appropriate sentence.

Factual Background

(agreed upon by both Crown & Defense)

- Semi. was hauling 900 Bales of Peat Moss
total weight of vehicle was 45,364 kgs.
- Max. speed limit is 100 km/h.
- Mt. Sidhu - between 86-96 (Forensic crash re-construction)
- A list of signs were present on Hwy 335 - east of interest.
 - 406 m - "Junction Hwy 35" sign.
 - 301 m - "Stop sign ahead"
 - 199 m - "Grondid ahead/Tisdale left/Nipawan right" sign.
 - 104 m - Hwy 35 South/Hwy 335 West/Hwy 35 North" junction sign.
 - 19 m east of centre of intersection -
 - Stop sign - oversized 4 ft. in diameter
 - affixed to light standard
 - A functional red "traffic" light flashed 1/sec. attached to light standard just above stop sign.
- Semi did not brake

- Bus travelling between 96-107 km/h. at point of impact
- Semi is in the intersection 3 is t-boned by bus.
- Road conditions - safe.
- Sun was not a factor.
- Alcohol/Drugs - not a factor
- Cell phone - not a factor.

- 14 died at the scene / remaining 2 deceased died in hospital.
- Sentence report includes details of each of the players that were injured - these are serious injuries.

- Ninety Victim impact statements were filed
*read summary on p. 11. - powerful.
(point of law - V.I.S. can describe physical, emotional harm, property damage, economic loss, but cannot include recommendation to the court regarding length of sentence.)

Circumstances of the Offender:

Vaskirat Singh Sidhu

- 30 yrs old, married, no children.
- Originally from India → Commerce degree
- 2013 Came to Canada → business diploma while working part-time.
 - most of his family is still in India.
- Summer of 2017 - short training course → Commercial truck driver licence
- March 2018 began driving for a small Calgary trucking co.
 - 1st 2 wks drove w another person.
 - 3rd wk - began on his own.

* After picking up the Peat Moss he was having trouble with his tarp - air getting under → it was flapping - he pulled over to fix it but was still spending "spans" of time looking in his side mirrors

* he saw the signs as he approached the intersection but was so concerned about the tarps & trailers that the signs/signals did not register.

* After getting out of the cab - he gradually realized he had caused the accident.

Position of Both Parties

Crown - 10 yrs for each count.
Served concurrently.

Defense - 14 mo - 4½ yrs.

* there was no precedent w similar circumstance.

Aggravating - ↑ level of moral blameworthiness
16 lives
13 serious injuries.

Mitigating - Young man 30 yrs old, no crim. record
clean driving record

- Early guilty plea - accepted full responsibility
- expressed profound remorse for the tragedy he caused - pain inflicted
- stood & addressed the families in court.

* Put a copy of Crim Code up on big screen?
p.15.

Max. sentences

1. Dangerous Driving causing death
14 yrs.

* Parliament ↑ Max. to life (Dec. 18/2018.)

2. Dang. Driving causing bodily injury
10 yrs.

* ↑ to 14 yrs * Dec. 2018

P. 22-23 - Principles of Sentencing

P. 24 - Good summary of what constitutes
Agg. & M7. Circumstances.