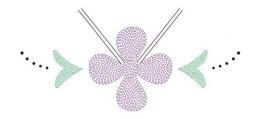
National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls



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

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Best Western Hotel
Duncan, British Columbia



PUBLIC

Sunday October 21, 2018

Statement - Volume 527

Monica Jones, Helen Joe, Bradley Joe & Sylvia Alphonse, In relation to Catherine Joe, Tyeshia Jones, Desmond Peter, Ian Henry & Everett Jones

Statement gathered by Courtney Norris Jones

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.	

1	Duncan, British Columbia
2	Upon commencing on Sunday, October 21, 2018 at 10:40
3	a.m.
4	COURTNEY NORRIS JONES: This is Courtney
5	Norris Jones, statement taker with the National Inquiry
6	into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in
7	Duncan, BC on October 21st, 2018 and the time is 10:40 A.M.
8	Today I am speaking with Monica Jones, Bradley Joe, Helen
9	Joe and Sylvia Alphonse of the Cowichan Tribes. They are
10	here to tell their truth for their sister, auntie and
11	mother, Catherine Joe, who was murdered. She was missing
12	for six months and was found June 19th, 1977. Also present
13	in the room is Jackie Brown (ph) health support.
14	Also, for the record, Monica Jones, Bradley
15	Joe, Helen Joe and Sylvia Alphonse, you are here
16	voluntarily to provide your truth and you agree to the
17	videotaping and audiotaping of your truth. You also
18	understand that at the end of your truth you'll be able to
19	determine whether you would like your truth to be public or
20	private at that time.
21	So, Helen, whenever you are ready
22	HELEN JOE: Okay.
23	COURTNEY NORRIS JONES: you can start.
24	HELEN JOE: I called my nephew Dwayne (ph)
25	this morning and told him we were doing this and and he

was crying. He remembers laying with his mom and she was crying and all he said, "They're watching over us. Mom, dad," and he remembers her getting beat up. He's still hurting every day. He cried and told him what this was going to do, it's opening wounds. And that's all he said. He couldn't say anything else. June 1977, Cathy went -- was only 27 and she found -- my sister six months missing turned our lives upside down, shattered, no clue. We received calls every

upside down, shattered, no clue. We received calls every day, January, February, March, April, May, June. My father, Benedict Peter, and uncle were in the States when Larry Joe came and asked my mom to go identify her.

I asked to go with my mom and he said, "No."

I asked to go with my mom and he said, "No.' And she went by herself and it shattered her life forever. And year after she passed away, '78. She was drinking and she choked on smoked fish. She had heart trouble. She wouldn't stop crying. We'd try to comfort her, nothing we said, you know, helped her.

Me and my [D.] we were drinking too and, you know, we turned to alcohol. And then she said, "We can't do this anymore. We have to do something, you know, keep our dad alive with us." So we started canoe pulling. And our daughters -- and my dad supported us, he travelled with us to all the canoe races. And we were coming first for a long time. We trained hard, we ran down the bay, heavy

coats on with rocks in our hand. They trained us hard. We were out there for three hours. We came first, we -- we were -- they couldn't catch us. My dad was really proud.

And she was a good canoe puller too. She'd go on a single and she didn't know how to turn and she'd make a wide turn but she still came first. That's how much power my sister had. And she'd clam dig and she'd pack the sacks up the hill, Juno Bay (ph). My parents taught us how to clam dig and live on the sea with my grandfather, William Joe. We'd go on two boats down Cowichan Bay. We'd camp down there because the water was rough. So it was a lot of fun then.

In '78 my dad -- my mom passed away and his life was shattered. That's why we had to pick him up to stay with us. And everyday I hated the phone ringing late at night. To this day, I'm still like that. The -- the investigators came to the house, no clues. It affected my parents this happened to our sister. She had a broken neck and back.

Me and my [D.] went down to the police station after a while because they weren't coming around and that lady at the desk said, "No," right away and she slammed that glass window in our face. And the cops were saying that they had him but I didn't think it was true because he was never arrested. And he killed himself and

we heard all kind of stories. 1 My sister knitted Cowichan sweaters too. 2 And socks and hats and real beautiful work with she had --3 she'd argue with Bruce, the buyer from Victoria, saying she 4 5 wanted more money but he never gave no more money. He paid low. 1970's, they pay -- he didn't -- they just gave --6 they didn't make any profit. But she kept knitting and 7 8 selling to him. And called him a Chinaman because she wouldn't raise the prices. She travelled to the States to 9 work too. She picked strawberries, cherries and apple. We 10 watched the kids while she was gone. 11 So it was a hard life going through this. 12 But I don't talk about it, you know, because I don't, you 13 know, put stuff on the children. And my sister [D.] has 14 some information too but she doesn't want to say it. I 15 just try to block it out, you know, I want to forget it but 16 17 I couldn't. They went to the police station a few times, 18 I didn't want to hear what they're going to 19 I didn't go. say. To this day, I think the cops are prejudiced to -- to 20 21 us yet. That's all I have to say right now. 22 (Short recess) 23 BRADLEY JOE: I'm Bradley Joe. I'm going to read about my late auntie. This is a story from my auntie 24 25 [D.]. She lives in the States. I'm just going to read

1 what -- what she gave me.

"Cathy was a young, strong, hard -- hard
working and full of life. She had provided for her two
children, two and four at the time, by harvesting clams,
knitting. Cathy had also dedicated her -- her time to
training and canoe pulling.

One day Cathy went out partying and never came back. Cathy had been missing for months. Her mother went to the news in Vancouver and Victoria and for missing person. Call -- Calls came in from everywhere saying that they spotted her in different places. June 1997 (sic) Benedict father Peter, Uncle Peter, Uncle Dojo (ph.)," -- or Grandpa Dojo, my grandpa -- "Followed a call down to the Neah Bay (ph). Some said she might been seen there on this day.

The Joe families have -- had been turned upside down. [Police Service 1] knocked on the door, they told Evelyn (ph)," -- my grandma, my auntie's mom, "That they needed to come to the police station. She went alone to identify her clothes. Cathy's body has been too far decomposed for evidence. Her family, her mother and children would never be the same again.

Cathy was raped and murdered. Her remains had been brought home. Her parents were left to raise girl Sylvia, boy Dwayne, and we had known it would been too much

1	for mom. Her daughter went missing for a month, she had to
2	identify her clothes. No one should have to bury their
3	child. That mom die this on December 25th 1978, Cathy's
4	mom had sadly been taken her own life. She couldn't take
5	it. She died of a broken heart. Benedict raised
6	grandbabies as his own. The detectives came over less and
7	less.
8	Cathy was cold case. The law didn't do
9	anything when Cathy was taken away from our family. She
10	became one of many who missing and murdered. It would have
11	helped her family to have closure if her if her murderer
12	was brought to justice. Maybe it'll never happen. People
13	didn't like to talk about these things that make them
14	uncomfortable. Cathy's skin was never wrinkled, her hair
15	never got to go grey. She didn't get to watch her children
16	grow. She's immortalized now by stories we will tell.
17	Cathy will never will not be forgotten.
18	Her story will be told in the hopes that it will never
19	happen again."
20	COURTNEY NORRIS JONES: We are stopping for
21	a break at 10:55.
22	(Short recess)
23	COURTNEY NORRIS JONES: We are restarting at
24	11:02 A.M. Okay. Sylvia, whenever you're ready.
25	SYLVIA ALPHONSE: Hi, my name is Sylvia

Alphonse. I'm Cathy's daughter. I don't know where to begin. Being raised without a mom was the hardest. There was questions that I had but I knew that I couldn't -- it was never talked about, what happened to my mom. Just hear stories about her. You know, she was a caring and loving, happy-go-woman all the time. Always had a smile on her face. She was always a fisherwoman, really good canoe puller. And that she really loved her family.

She had three children. Her oldest brother, Timothy, my brother Dwayne and myself. I never got to know my older brother as well. He drowned in the river. There was so much tragedy happened when I was young and it was never talked about with our family. And still, to this day, it's hard to ask questions because nobody wanted to do anything while my grandfather was alive because they knew it would be too hard on him.

And my grandfather is the one that raised myself and my brother. You know, he lived a long life to raise us. I can't imagine the pain that my grandfather had to go through, my aunties, my uncles. You know, being a mother myself, I wouldn't know what to do if I lost one of my children and have them missing for that amount of time before they're even found.

And to find out how my mother died was hard because nobody told me when I was young. I always called

my grandfather dad so I believed, when I was younger, that
he was really my dad. The closest thing I had to a mother
was my aunties and my uncles. You know, they did the best
that they could to raise my brother and I.

I don't even remember how old I was when I first found out what really happened to my mom being brutally murdered. I know it took a long time just to even talk about her, you know. Most of my life -- younger life, I just cried and cried and cried. Wondered what it would be like to have a mom. And then I became a mother so I had to quit crying.

But I had a really good talk with my Uncle
Peter. He -- it's still hard for him today, to talk about
it because he did a lot -- a lot of searching for her -for my mom when she was missing. You know, those six
months he drove everywhere. He drove up and down the
Island. Somebody would say that she was seen down Victoria
so he'd jump on his truck and go riding down there trying
to find her and still didn't find her. You know, it was
really emotional for him.

You know, they don't have the technology today that, you know, I believe they would have found something more if they did have the technology that they do today. I know this is the very first time that I ever, ever really talk about my mom to anybody. It's -- it was a

hard life without her. You know, just hearing stories and there was always a missing piece to my life because I always wondered what it would be like to have a mom. I just don't want this to happen to anybody else.

It's unimaginable pain that my family has gone through. My grandfather lived a long life broken-hearted, losing his wife one year after his daughter. You know, he's a really strong man to do that. I know there's a lot of other things that my grandfather went through and, you know, he was a great role model to our family for everything that he has done.

Finding out how my mom died brutally, neck broken, back broken, that's not a way for somebody to die. Can't imagine how much pain that she felt going through all of that. And I'd never wish this upon anyone. But I know that she's in a better place now. And I just hope one day that my family can have their hearts healed a little anyway to carry on in life.

There's a lot of questions that I had for my mom when I was becoming a mom myself. My aunties and my uncles were always there to help me and my brother. I really thank them for that. But just to let my mom know that she's not forgotten and she's still really loved by everybody. I know I talked about her to some of her friends and they still say the same thing, that she was a

1	really good fisherwoman, really good canoe puller, always
2	came first in the singles. Always smiling, always happy.
3	Never, ever sad, always had a smile for everybody.
4	(Short recess)
5	COURTNEY NORRIS JONES: Recording stop time,
6	11:15 A.M. Recording start time 11:16 A.M.
7	MONICA JONES: My name is Monica Patsy
8	Jones. My maiden name is Joe. I'm the youngest daughter
9	of Benedict and Evelyn Joe. I'm here to talk about my
10	oldest sister Cathy Joe.
11	I used to babysit for Cathy for many years,
12	for Dwayne and Sylvia, weekends, everywhere she went, she
13	took me with her. In June 1977 she was found brutally
14	murdered. Prior to that, for a long time our family was
15	searching for her. I recall everybody, just all the aunts
16	and uncles, and all the cousins being in the home, being
17	supportive to my parents and my siblings. I just know I
18	had to keep Sylvia and Dwayne in a room all the time. We
19	were kind of told to stay out of the way while they were
20	looking for my sister.
21	She resided at [Location 1] a little
22	apartment complex. In her walk of life I do remember being
23	with her when I used to babysit for her, we used to walk
24	home lots from town, from the store. I recall a few times

we were walking home and the [Police Officer] pulled us

over. I recall my sister being all upset and she was 1 crying. She kept saying, "No. No, I have my children. 2 No." And that guy was -- [Police Officer] kept telling her 3 that she had to go with him. And he kept saying, "Oh, let 4 5 me bring my kids home first." 6 He -- she brought us home and she was all upset and crying, and she said, "I'll be back later." And 7 8 she kissed me on the forehead. Said, "Lock the house up." I phoned my mom and I told my mom, "The cops took Cathy but 9 I don't know why." Cathy always came home. And she was a 10 mess. Her hair and her clothes, and she was crying and 11 she'd just go into the tub and cry. But when my mom and 12 them went to the cops, they said that she wasn't there. 13 And years after I brought this up to a 14 detective that I remember -- after I was being interviewed, 15 after they found my sister, he said there was bad cops. 16 17 And he said these bad cops used to bring them up to this clubhouse that was up in [Area 1]. And through the stories 18 of talking about this with my uncles, my uncles also told 19 me that the [Police Service 1] abused our women where they 20 21 would take them and they would abuse them for hours before they let them go. 22 23 And one lady that's passed away, I was sitting in a (inaudible response) with her drinking. 24

cops walked in and she kind of got nervous. And I said,

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"What's the matter?" And she said, "Don't let them take

me." And I said, "They can't take you. We won't let them.

There's enough of us around to stop them. If they take

you, they're going to take all of us." That's how we were

talking.

And she said that they used to take our women, bring them to this clubhouse and abuse them, or they would hurt them and drop them off way up in the mountain and let them find their own way out. And most of the time the loggers would drive them out when they found them early in the morning. I just recall this happening a few times with the [Police Service 1] and my sister.

When she went missing, our family searched continuously. I do remember the calls that came in and my older brother Peter and my late uncle Joe-Joe (ph) used to go look for her at these places they were told that she was going to be at. And she was never there. And it went on everyday. A lot of calls came in. Real lot of calls. Every lead that they got called in, there was nothing.

After she was found deceased, she was found up in the [Area 2] in June 1977 by a hiker. There was this farmer up there and he recalled that the [Police Service 1] vehicle was in that area, and he found it very odd because it was very, very late at night. And they had flashlights but he doesn't know what they were doing. And he was too

scared to report it because he knew the police back then
were not good to our people, or good to anybody.

When I was interviewed as a child, they asked me all kinds of questions about my late sister. And just her walk of life, who was her friends? Who was she living with? Did she have a boyfriend? You know, all those kinds of questions. And I remember this one detective, and I remembered what they all looked like but I couldn't remember their names because I was young. And I was scared because I remembered them taking my sister away. And we're in a small room being interviewed so I was quite scared.

When I became an adult I had my own place, and in December they had honoured the [Police Service 1] in the newspaper, and I was looking through it and I found that detective. His name was [Detective]. And I called the [Police Service 1] and I told them I would like to speak to him. And they said, "What -- in what regards?" And I said, "To my late sister's death, Cathy Joe." And almost an hour after, I got a phone call from Vancouver and it was him. And he was kind of laughing, he says, "How did you find me?" So I told him about the newspaper. And he was retired at the time. And he says, "You were real young and I was talking to you. I'm surprised you remembered me."

And when we spoke, I asked him a lot of questions. One of the things he said to me was that they had private -- undercover cops in [Area 3], and there were -- had this white guy under surveillance. He lived in a isolated area and he had a long driveway, and he had all kinds of traps around his house so the only way you could get in was by going in through that long driveway. And he had cameras. He said that they stalked him for many, many years. And as they were closing in on him, they said he eventually killed himself.

And another story that was said to me that there's this white guy who was a logger that was under surveillance. He was quite tall and they called him [Nickname]. He was a suspect for many years because he stalked our Aboriginal women. And that came from one of the main bosses of the logging company. Because my husband knows the logger. And he was surprised when he found, you know, he was asking questions of who I was so I told him. And that's what he said.

And whenever I questioned the police about these two incidents, they always kept saying that she was — that it would probably remain cold case unsolved. I approached the police many times and asked them questions about Cathy. They were all quite rude to us. The one that stuck to me the most was I wanted answers and then that

lady said, "Do you see this filing cabinet right here?" It
was a lady cop. Said, "That's full of your sister's
information. You can sit there and go through with it and
see what you come up with. But I don't have anyone here to
supervise you so today's not a good day." And then she
closed that glass on me and walked away.

And there's another time that we went into the police station and asked -- got brought into an office with this [Police Service 1 officer]. And I told him I was there to ask questions about my late sister. And as we were talking, he stated this guy's name to me. I -- I can't remember it right now. And then he says that justice was already served but they couldn't prove it because he committed suicide. And he says, "You can keep searching or you could have closure."

Over the years, I went to the police station to ask them a lot of questions, and they've always been rude to us. They've never given us any answers. They always just said the evidence deteriorated. And they would never resolve anything. That they always told us that we could take our file and go look at it and see what we can find.

Over the years, it's always bothered me where I'd become an overprotective person over my -- not just my family but my community because the crime in

The year 2015 I spoke to the major crime unit. I'm not sure of the year but I did speak to the major crime unit. That's when we lost our niece, Tyeshia Jones, who was brutally murdered. And I told them, "Look at my sister's file and come up and give me information because they wanted to speak to me -- ask questions about everything because we were preparing her funeral and they wanted to have detectives all over the place in the prayer meeting -- funeral.

And they came up, that lady said, "Oh, I briefly looked at the file and there's still no clues, no evidence. We don't have anything to go on because all the evidence that they kept deteriorated. It'll remain open but it'll always be slated as a cold case file."

This has been devastating to our family for many years. We all lived with broken hearts and were kept silent. We never talked about it. Our mother died of a broken heart at Christmas. For many years I hated Christmas because I lost my mother. For many years in June I never celebrated my birthday because that's when they found my sister.

For my mother, when she was here, she cried each day for my sister and it was hard to see. Throughout

all this, this has made me live in fear for our family 1 because we don't know who done this to our family. We all 2 walk with broken hearts and we are all really 3 overprotective. You know my sisters and I -- they say a 4 5 lot of stuff about us but we live this life of losing our oldest sister who was a strong lady. She was really tough. 6 When she canoe paddled she was pregnant with 7 8 Sylvia and she still became champ. Really big belly and she still beat everybody on a single canoe race. I 9 remember that because we were laughing when she come to 10 shore. And she was hugging -- my dad was laughing because 11 he goes, "Look at you," because she had the canoe on the 12 shore and those others were still going to the finish line. 13 And dad was packing the canoe up and she says, "I got it, 14 dad." And he says, "You're pregnant." And she just picked 15 it up and brought it to shore. I really remember that so 16 17 clearly. Our wounds will never heal. You know, 18 through this, for our family, because we still have three 19 missing nephews here in Cowichan. And we have no clues or 20 21 no leads. But this we created a Missing and Murdered Walk for Men, Women and Children here in Cowichan. We did that 22 23 last year, our first walk, February 10th. And it's just to keep the memory alive of our missing loved one but also for 24 my late sister because for many years we went down to 25

Victoria and did the walk in February with them. And they 1 always let my niece and my sisters walk in front with our 2 sister's pictures. And when I created this walk last year, 3 I had a hard time with the police for a bit. And I said, 4 5 "I'm not asking you, I'm telling you what we're doing." For our first missing relative, he went 6 missing, his name is Desmond Peter. He went missing March 7 8 12th, 2007. His mother is Liz Louie and his grandmother is Donna Louie. And throughout all this, the police have 9 never done anything to search for him. For maybe six weeks 10 and they've never had any tribal support or any support 11 from anywhere until they put it online. And then the 12 Missing Children's Society got involved. But throughout 13 all this, his file is just being passed around from one 14 police officer to another. And they haven't done anything 15 else. Even the leads that are sent to them, the people who 16 17 are accused of this, they say they're innocent, they got a clean record. But they've never really, thoroughly 18 investigated his file. And that's for Desmond Peter. 19 And then our nephew Ian Henry, he went 20 missing the third week of August 2015. He was last seen 21 right near our home on Joe Road (ph) just down the road, 22 23 like, a block away. And he just disappeared. Three months the police helped us search. Then after that, they lost 24 interest and they got the main major crime unit involved. 25

1 But there's still nothing that they're doing on it.

And with Everett Jones, he went missing February 10th, 2016. They had the search and rescue, they had the major crime unit, they had everybody here for six months. And with these, all the files are being just pushed aside. All of it. Like, it just, they keep telling us this police officer's looking at it, then the file's going here, the file's going to Ottawa. One's going to Victoria, one's going to Vancouver.

So to this day, right from 1977 to now, there isn't any real police help in our area for searching for our loved ones. This has been really hard on my family because we can't get any closure because of our missing relatives here. And people don't just disappear. All our hearts are broken. And the police are no help. And they - I've called them weekly to ask them for reports and we get no answers.

And through this Missing and Murdered walk, people are coming from all over and that really helps my family in our -- our own way, it helps us heal. And we want to keep that memory alive to let the community know that we're still searching for answers for our late sister Cathy and for our three missing nephews. And that we want justice. And that one day we will have justice.

I've been told many times that this opens

20 Statement - Public Jones, Joe, Joe & Alphonse (Joe, Jones, Peter, Henry & Jones)

1	wounds for people. But I believe that we've been quiet for
2	too long. There are many murders here in Cowichan that
3	people don't even talk about, or don't even pursue the
4	police for answers.
5	COURTNEY NORRIS JONES: Just keep going.
6	MONICA JONES: I've been really protective
7	over my family because of all the great loss we have of our
8	sister Cathy. Put in many requests to Cowichan Tribes and

sister Cathy. Put in many requests to Cowichan Tribes and to [Police Service 1] to protect our people but nothing has been done by the [Police Service 1] and they haven't contacted us at all.

COURTNEY NORRIS JONES: Sorry. Can we just 12 stop because of the -13

(Short recess) 14

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COURTNEY NORRIS JONES: Stop recording time 15 11:35 A.M. Continue recording 11:40 A.M. 16

MONICA JONES: For many years, my sisters and I, and my brothers always wanted answers on who done this to our sister. My sister Helen and I went to the pictorial to look in -- to find out what they had written about our late sister. They had a tiny little scripture in there with her little picture. Stated that she was missing and just a small little part, we almost missed it. And it's, like, in the middle of the newspaper. Then we asked if there was anything run after that and they said, "No."

Then we went to -- like, it was brought out
on a -- one of the TV shows. They did a re-enactment of my
later sister's final days. And my father was still here
when that happened. Hoping that someone would come
forward. It was a Crime Stoppers where they did a reenactment of her life until her death. And nothing became
of that.

And it's like [Police Service 1] have never really cared. They've never really taken the time to look at our sister's file. And I've reached out to the Minister at the parliament buildings a couple times and there's no real answer that they can give me also. They said they can look into it and get back to me, and another cop will come talk to me. And they pretty well same, said that she's a cold case unsolved.

And with these other ones that are missing, it's just the same pattern. You know, she's -- they're seen here, they're seen there. Like, Victoria, Vancouver, up north Island. It's the same pattern as my late sister's. And they've never been found at all. So something that's -- I believe has been going on for a long time with our people. And I don't know why [Police Service 1] won't help us. They're always just rude and mistreat us, and don't call us back for many months.

Because no one has contacted us in many

Jones, Joe, Joe & Alphonse
(Joe, Jones, Peter, Henry & Jones)

years in regard to our late sister's case. And that's the 1 hardest part. They say that they look at her file every 2 month but no one has reported anything to us. I just pray 3 one day that our family will have justice. We don't give 4 5 up hope. And we rely on our prayer to make it through. And it has opened a lot of wounds because 6 it's been a roller coaster of a week for myself just 7 8 remembering everything, remembering my sister's life while she was here, and remembering my mother cry when they found 9 out that she was gone. Because it was the last day of 10 school when I come home, walking up the hill and mom's 11 standing there on the porch crying. She told me. And it 12 wasn't what I wanted to hear at the time. 13 I just really wish the [Police Service 1], 14 the major crime unit now will step up and really do 15 something to help us in our community. I keep going because 16 17 of all my grandchildren that I have and my family. That's everything. 18 COURTNEY NORRIS JONES: Thank you. 19 recording 11:45 A.M. 20

--- Upon adjourning at 11:45 a.m.

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LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jackie Chernoff, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that
I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and
accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this
matter.

Julia Cherry

Jackie Chernoff

November 20, 2018