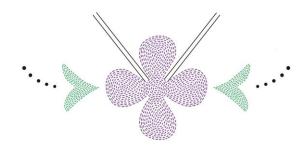
National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Radisson Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta



PUBLIC

Saturday November 17, 2018

Statement - Volume 585

Timothy Auger, In relation to Aielah Auger

Statement gathered by Marie-Audrey Girard

International Reporting Inc.

41 - 5450 Canotek Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K1J 9G2 E-mail: info@irri.net - Phone: 613-748-6043 - Fax: 613-748-8246

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1	Edmonton, Alberta
2	Upon commencing on Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 1:20
3	p.m.
4	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Okay. That's good.
5	So my name is Marie-Audrey; we are with the National
6	Inquiry in Edmonton, November 17. It is 1:20 in the
7	afternoon. And before we start, Timothy, I would like to
8	ask if you are agreeing that we're recording this session.
9	TIMOTHY AUGER: Yes, I do
10	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Yes.
11	TIMOTHY AUGER: agree.
12	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Okay. Excellent. So
13	can you present yourself? What's your name? Where are you
14	coming from, please?
15	TIMOTHY AUGER: My name is Timothy Auger and
16	I came from home.
17	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Okay. And you're from
18	Edmonton.
19	TIMOTHY AUGER: I guess you could say. I
20	grew up my whole life in this city.
21	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Okay. Okay.
22	Excellent. And, Timothy, what you would like to share with
23	us this afternoon?
24	TIMOTHY AUGER: I guess, basically, anything
25	that has to do with my younger sister.

1	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Yes.
2	TIMOTHY AUGER: And I guess how that
3	affected us how it affected us when what happened,
4	happened to her.
5	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Yeah.
6	TIMOTHY AUGER: And, you know, me,
7	personally, I guess, most of the time I feel really, really
8	depressed about that. And even this time of year, you
9	know, I mean, it once was a happy time but now it's just,
10	like, mostly anger.
11	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: I see.
12	TIMOTHY AUGER: And, you know, I mean,
13	there's the good days and there's the bad days. And, I
14	guess, I take it a step at a time, you know. It's been
15	over ten years now since she was murdered. And recently I
16	read an article in the newspaper, or not in the newspaper,
17	online about how Greyhound cancelled their well, not
18	cancelled their, but, like, basically shut down their
19	operations
20	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: M'hmm.
21	TIMOTHY AUGER: in BC. And then it went
22	on right away to talk about the Highway of Tears. And I
23	seen my sister in that documentary. And it brought up
24	about how even the Prime Minister of or, the at the
25	time, the Prime Minister of this country considered that to

be a -- a First Nations issue. When, really, it's not, specifically, you know, in the case of my sister, who was not, you know, a person who did, you know, those sort of prostitution-type things. I mean, she was just a young kid and she was taken out of, basically, her circle of friends who were supposed, you know, who were basically looking after her. And then, you know, she got split up and then never made it back home.

And that, you know, when people heard about that, you know, that really got under -- well, I think a lot of peoples' skin because it wasn't a, you know, a twenty-whatever, you know, an adult. It was a kid that was found on that highway. And I think that resonates with a lot of people because, you know, it could be -- it could be anybody, you know, that that could have happened to. And --

MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And, Timothy, can you share exactly what happened to your sister? I know you were starting to but do you have, like -- do -- do you have, like, the whole -- like, exactly what happened? And you said, "Ten years ago." Do you remember the dates?

TIMOTHY AUGER: Yeah. It was February -- or -- February 5th I think, or 3rd, somewhere between there that she was found. And I think it was two or three weeks before that is when she -- when -- when they, her and my

younger sister left and went to go and hang out with some friends. And one of my sisters came back home, asked us if she'd seen Aielah. We said we didn't know, we thought that she was with, you know, that they were together. But here, they had been split up.

Then we thought, oh, maybe Aielah went and go -- went and stayed with somebody else, you know, like a -- a boyfriend or something like that. Or, you know, she was at a -- a newfound friend's house or something like that because, you know, there was a lot -- lot of times when she was a kid that she would just kind of venture off. And we thought that, okay, well, maybe -- maybe -- just maybe, hopefully that that's the case. And, you know, sadly it wasn't.

And I remember, you know, thinking that, okay, she's going to come back. And I remember, like, when we went out -- because what happened was that Saturday -- I think it was a Saturday or Friday or something, or Wednesday -- we went out to the mall in Prince George and we were walking around, and they had money. And they had bought me something and then, you know, they met their friends there. And then, you know, they hung around for a little while and eventually I was going to go home and we made our way to the transit area of the mall where the transit station is or whatever.

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1	So they hung around there talking for about
2	maybe, I don't know, I'm guessing five minutes, ten minutes
3	maybe. And they were talking about a party, so, you know,
4	that was in their minds, they wanted to go to a party. My
5	sister Aielah wanted me to go along and I didn't want to go
6	along because I didn't want to, you know, hang around with
7	them that type of a crowd, you know, because I knew right
8	away, you know, bad idea, not really smart, drugs and
9	alcohol equals hostility specifically. Because I know when
10	a person has something to say to you, a lot of the times
11	they won't tell you when they're sober but if they get
12	drunk or high, you know, that courage comes in. And then
13	they start, you know and then you multiply that by three
14	people, you know, and then all of a sudden, you know, next
15	thing, if I would have went, I would probably have ended up
16	in a fight. And knowing how crooked people are, you know,
17	there's no such thing as a a fair fight. They probably
18	would've used weapons and that kind of stuff. And those
19	were the kind of things, at that time, that played out
20	through in my in the back of my mind. That's why I
21	just wouldn't do that.
22	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: How old were you when
23	
24	TIMOTHY AUGER: I was I think I was 16

1 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Okay.

TIMOTHY AUGER: --- or 17. I was 17. And so after I left the transit, you know, I was walking across the transit station and I could still see them and they said, "Why do want him to come along?" And she -- my sister Aielah says, "Because he cares." And so they all went on their way. I said, "I'll see you guys later." You know, "I love you and I'll see you at home." And gave my sister a hug, gave my sister [Sister 2] a hug. And then after that we just went our own ways.

I went home and I couldn't help but feel this feeling, like, gut feeling in my -- like, turn -- turn back, go back, go back, you know, go back, go back. The whole way home from the mall all the way to the -- way home. And it was weird because, you know, I think about it now, I couldn't shake that feeling all night, all day the next day, the next day after that. And I thought this is abnormal because this feeling has never stuck around like this before. I should have stayed. I kept thinking that, you know.

And then, basically, the days after that became a blur. They all just, you know, kind of lump up into one. And next thing you know, my mom and them are searching for my sister. You know, we're driving around to places that she -- they were known to hang out. And people

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were giving us all kinds of directions and, you know, hints 1 2 and leads, and places that she might be and stuff like that. And going to see people, and going to see friends 3 and stuff. And, you know, they're saying, "Oh, she might 4 5 be here, she might be there," you know, "We don't know where she is." And we were trying to find her for, you 6 know, weeks. Or, at least two or three weeks after she had 7 8 disappeared. Constantly, my mom tried to find -- you know, find or look for her. And she even got, you know, the police involved and she got my auntie and my uncle 10 11 involved, and a couple people in the community involved in trying to find her. And, ultimately, they were all 12 13 unsuccessful.

> And, you know, one -- one day -- and that was around -- I think it was on the 3rd or the 5th or whatever of February, you know, we got a phone call -- or someone got a phone call because by that time some distant family came from up north in Alberta here, all the way to BC to be with us. And I can't remember who it was that got the phone call but, yeah, I just remember that my mom had the phone in her hand and it was given to her by one of my aunties, or maybe my brother, or somebody other than my aunties because they didn't want her to, you know, they didn't want her to hear that, they wanted, you know, a family member to be able to tell them that -- then to hear

1 it from a police officer or some stranger.

And basically that was the phone call that changed our lives forever. We were told, you know, she was told, "We found a body and we need you to come identify it. We think it might be your daughter." And my mom screamed and she threw the phone on the ground, it smashed. But the phone was still working. Someone picked up the phone, and I just -- I'll never forget that. It was, like, you know, just thinking about it now, it's warm in here but I'm starting to shiver because of it.

MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: M'hmm.

TIMOTHY AUGER: And, yeah, I just -- right away, I kind of went into, like, defence mode because I didn't want to -- I didn't want to collapse like that either, you know, fall apart like that. And I can only imagine now how she -- the pain that she felt because, you know, my sister, now she has kids, [Sister 2].

MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: M'hmm.

really, just -- I -- I can see that. I -- even, like, at the time this all happened, my other sister -- my older sister [Sister 1], her kids were still small. And as a -- as an uncle, you know, you -- basically, you see your nieces and nephews as your own kids. And to think that if it was one of them that went missing, you know, it would --

1	well, it even even if it was one of them, or, you
2	know, still, with it being my sister, you know, because I -
3	- I always used to tell her as a kid, you know, "You're not
4	Superman. You're not invincible. You got to have some way
5	to defend yourself and one of the best ways to do that is
6	to not go out and drink and do drugs, and hang out with
7	people who just don't give a," you know, "Don't care about
8	you."
9	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Yeah.
10	TIMOTHY AUGER: You know. So and she, in a
11	way, you know, as a kid, she had always been kind of
12	stubborn and wanted to do things on her own. And in spite
13	of all that, she had a really goo outlook on the way this
14	world could be because she was just really kind and, you
15	know, a really kind-hearted person. And, sorry, I just
16	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Please, go ahead.
17	TIMOTHY AUGER: just got to see what
18	that was. So where was I?
19	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Talking about your
20	sister
21	TIMOTHY AUGER: She was
22	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Sounded like a
23	TIMOTHY AUGER: She was really
24	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: really nice
25	person.

1	TIMOTHY AUGER: She was a really kind-
2	hearted person. She loved animals, she had, like if she
3	could have a thousand cats, she probably would. Maybe not
4	a thousand cats but, you know, she'd have quite a bit of
5	animals. And, specifically, cats.
6	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And, Timothy, would
7	you feel comfortable to share the details how your sister
8	body was found and what happened?
9	TIMOTHY AUGER: Well, from my own view, and
10	from what I was told, and what I asked, she was found in
11	weather like this on the side of the highway. She had no
12	clothes on. She was body was wrapped in a tarp, a blue
13	tarp, like, you know, she was a like roadkill. She had
14	been there for about maybe five days. I think the animals
15	and the wildlife had, you know, disturbed the remains. She
16	so we couldn't see her, like you know, with an open
17	casket.
18	And it was a man in a a black vehicle
19	that I think I think I heard that it was an SUV-type
20	vehicle or a Jeep. And he stopped to to he thought
21	that, you know, somebody was poaching and that's why they
22	left that, right.
23	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: M'hmm.
24	TIMOTHY AUGER: Here, he went and lifted up
25	the tarp and he seen a leg, and that was it, you know. He

called the police right away and that's how the found her found her body there. We still don't know where, like,
how she ended up there. Like, last thing I remember
hearing was that she was last seen getting into a black
van, then she was never seen again. She was never seen
alive again.

I think that they were drugged, her and her friends were drugged. Alcohol and drugs, obviously, you know, can't be associated with kind people. You know, evil people do those things, you know, and when it comes to, you know, young girls drinking and doing drugs, there's going to be predators there that are opportunistic and sick people at heart.

And I hope, to this day, and every other day, that these people are found, that they'll pay for -- whether in this life or the next. Because when it comes to these sorts of things, it's inescapable. You seal your fate when you -- you're the type of person who wants to cause damage to people's lives and hearts, and minds, and bodies, you know. Like, if -- before this -- before anything like this ever happened in my family -- because it's not just my sister that, you know, has been murdered. There are other family members of mine that have also been murdered and, you know, who haven't really been done any justice for any of that because, you know, these people

just manage to get away.

And do I feel like, you know -- I guess I could say, you know, Aielah's case has gone as cold as the day she was found. It's sad to say that but if there was a way -- even the most impossible way that she could tell us what happened, I would totally accept that. I would be right there. I would lend my ears as if they were a phone or something like that.

MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And you were talking a little bit about justice. Do you -- can you provide, to the best of your knowledge, details about the police investigation? The institutions, like, how did the institution handle the case, the police? If you have any information about that.

right after everything kind of broke out and, you know, we were in a hotel, we weren't in our house no more. We were on our way back to Alberta to go up north and bury my sister. And before we left BC we were taken into the downtown police station. And, you know, they asked us, you know, basically your standard police -- I wouldn't say interrogation but -- what do you call it -- basic -- I can't find the proper word -- basic ---

MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Like, an interview, or

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1	TIMOTHY AUGER: Interview-type thing, yeah.
2	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Yeah.
3	TIMOTHY AUGER: For lack of a better word.
4	And they asked us questions, like, you know, specifically
5	if I knew anybody, you know, of interest who, you know,
6	might be able to lead them closer to the people who did
7	this, or the people responsible. I know that Aielah had a
8	boyfriend, his name was what the heck was his name?
9	[Boyfriend]. And he was a really I didn't like him. He
10	was a very unlikeable person in my eyes. And after what
11	happened to Aielah, you know, he said to Aielah's friends,
12	"Oh, yeah, she deserved it." So I think that he you
13	know, just because of that, could be associated with those
14	people. Especially, you know, to be as heartless as that
15	and say something like that. Yeah.
16	And I think that him and, at the time, his
17	friends, wherever the heck it was that they went with my
18	sisters was a drug house. Because, you know, they they
19	were basically living in the inner part of Prince George,
20	which is not really a nice place.
21	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And just for
22	clarification, how was Aielah how old how old was
23	she?
24	TIMOTHY AUGER: She was 14 years old. And,
25	yeah, when the news of her disappearance and then,

eventually being found -- because, you know, before her body was found, she was already on the news across the country and people were really getting riled up about that, you know. "I hope she's found. I hope she's found." And I -- I kept, you know, we were even hearing people on the TV, you know, sending out their -- their prayers and that sort of thing. And really hoping that she could be found, you know, would be found alive and well and whatnot.

And then when she was found and it was the opposite, that really shocked everybody because, you know, I -- she's the youngest person to have ever been -- to have ever been found on that highway. And we knew nothing about the Highway of Tears before my sister. Nothing at all.

And in my sister's case, this raises, I
think, a lot of awareness with a lot of people because this
is not a grown woman who's hitchhiking. She had no
business even, you know, being on that highway. Whatever,
she wasn't hitchhiking, or running away from home, or
anything like that. She was left there by someone. And,
you know, there are rumours that I've been told, you know,
and, oh, the people responsible for my sister's death have
already died or something like that, or -- but I don't
believe that. I don't believe that at all. I think that
more than one person had -- had a part in what happened.
And, you know, I really do -- I really do hope that -- that

they're found. And, you know, honestly, you know, I don't
think that they will be found to be honest, you know.

But it's still nice to have that thought there because I have my good days and I have my bad days. And, you know, I really miss how happy I used to be before any of this ever happened. And with how my life has been now after all of that, I guess you could say, you know, the past ten plus years have been quite the journey so to speak I guess. And ---

MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: I know we're pressed a little bit by time and you have to leave soon but what we like to do here at the National Inquiry is to have a -- have a picture or an idea of the person you're talking about, in this case Aielah. Like, in -- not necessarily a picture -- if you have one it's even better but some nice memories you have of her that you would like to share with us for us to try to know her, who she was exactly. Because every -- everybody -- your sister's important to you and we don't want only to know her as -- we would like to know her as who she was. And you have been, like, describing her a little bit as a really nice person and kind person, happy person. But do you have memories that you will share?

TIMOTHY AUGER: Yes. In fact, one of the things that, to this day, always reminds me of my sister

and really makes me laugh -- puts a smile on my face is 1 2 when I find myself doing something that you normally wouldn't do but you still -- you're, like -- and then you 3 look at -- you catch yourself in those moments and you're, 4 5 like, what the heck am I doing? And, like, for example, when I wake up in the morning, say when it comes to, like, 6 making coffee, you know, okay. So you put the coffee in 7 the filter and then you put the filter in the thing, and 8 9 then you put the -- the filter in the coffee brewer, and 10 then you put the water in the back and it comes out, right. 11 Well, my sister would be, like, you know, put coffee, she'd take the filter out if there's no filter in there, you 12 know, put the coffee in there, you know, and then kind of 13 14 just go backwards in a way. And I've done that before, things like that. And my mom used to call them blond 15 moments or whatever. And it's just basically, you know, a 16 17 way of identifying those things that, like, for example, funny little things like -- let me think -- when it came to 18 -- oh, once there was a -- it was Christmas time, she was 19 20 hungry, she wanted a bowl of -- she wanted a bowl of Cheerios and there was milk and there was eggnog, right. 21 She didn't pay attention, grabs the eggnog and puts it in 22 23 the Cheerios, eats it and then she's, like, "Oh, this 24 tastes gross. What is -- what's wrong with the cereal? I think the milk is old." I said, "No, the milk's not old 25

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and that's not milk you put in your Cheerios." You know, 1 2 things like that. Once she puts an egg -- once when she was a kid she put -- puts an egg in the microwave, you 3 know, it was a raw egg, put it in there and turned the 4 5 thing all the way up high and left it. Figured that she'd come back and the egg would look like a fried egg. Next thing she hears a big bang and sees a light. She opens the 7 thing and there's egg shells and egg all over the 8 microwave. I'm, like, "You got to clean that now." You know, things like that. 10

> And she would also try to dress up her cats in clothes and, you know, cats don't like that so they just lay around and get lazy. And she was just really, like, basically a free spirited type of person, you know, wanted to do her own thing and was always happy and basically she followed her own path. And that was the scary thing because even as a kid she would just, you know, wander off and sometimes we wouldn't know where to find her and we'd freak out and call the police and the police would search for her, and then they'd find her, and then bring her home. And then, you know, my mom had to deal with Child Welfare and Child Services a lot because of that. They would think my mom doesn't know how to take care of her kids so then they'd try and take us away. And we'd get angry at my sister because then, you know, that would basically screw

up everything with our current situation, with our house
and, you know, our lives and, you know, school and
everything. And, yeah.

And, yeah, I think the worst thing, you know, to ever happen to my family is drugs and alcohol. And that factor is something that's always -- always been there, which is tough to say. But, you know, we grew up around that and we -- like, seeing people battle with substance abuse and, you know, it -- it plays out, like, it -- it stems from problems in their childhood, you know. And my mom never grew up with biological family, you know. And from what I had heard, you know, she didn't have a very great childhood at all. She was abused. My uncles were abused. They all grew up with different families. So as a result of that, they battled with drug abuse and alcoholism. And my mom did a good job, you know, stopping that and quitting that.

And, you know, fast forward, you know, we're in Prince George now and even at that time she was still battling with drugs and alcohol. She had a job but it just started to look like that same situation all over, you know. And that was basically the reason we left this city here was because of a similar situation that happened where some creep tried to bother my sister and, you know, we found out about that and left the city. And then we ended

1 up in BC.

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2 And -- and now come to think about it a lot of times in my life I had good intuition about things. And 3 kind of just never said anything because it -- you know, I 4 5 did tell my mom, "It's not a good idea. I don't think we should go there. What is that place like?" You know, I 6 seen it and I was, like, "No. No way." Because we were 7 8 originally supposed to go to [inaudible response] but, you know, there's no point in -- in, you know, saying, "We 9 should've done this and we should've done that," or, 10 11 "Could've done this, could've done that," you know, because now, like, you know, time has passed and it already 12 happened. All we can do now is try to get some semblance 13 14 of justice out of it.

MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Do you have any recommendations for us -- for the National Inquiry, for the Commissioner in how we can change this situation? For things that happened to your sister never happen again.

you know, because, I mean, it's, like, how -- what else would I be able to say, you know? Tell all the kids to stop doing drugs and drinking, you know. Tell everybody who's got things to deal with, you know, to take counselling and, you know, it's not that easy. You know, it's easier said than done and that's definitely how

everything usually is in the world today. 1 2 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Sir, do you see, for instance, you're mentioning support -- do you see, like, 3 for instance, at any point, if your family needed support, 4 5 like, was it provided to you and your family? TIMOTHY AUGER: Yeah. Yeah, and you know 6 what? I, myself, I -- I never did take any counselling, I 7 just sat and stared at the big, blue sky. And, you know, 8 9 let the big guy out there deal with it. Because in the end, you know, they say he's the only way. And those was 10 11 people who did what they did won't get away. Definitely won't. Because if there's anything that you can do, you 12 13 know, it's believing that the right thing will happen. It 14 may not happen at the time that you want it to but it will happen. And I've seen that a lot already in my life. 15 know, I -- I went through tough times and I kept my mind in 16 17 a positive place. And I kept on believing that. And with my own hard work and effort, the right things started to 18 happen. You got to keep yourself in that positive state of 19 mind even when things go downhill. And it's not always 20 easy. And -- but, you know, you don't have to be superman. 21 You just take a deep breath and, you know, you're still 22 23 here after that breath then, well, there you go. Still -you're still doing it, you're still making it, you know. 24 And basically it's things like little 25

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thoughts like that that keep me -- keep my mind in a 1 2 positive place. Because I think today about -- you know, I wonder about, you know, what I'd be doing if my sister was 3 still around, you know, what she'd be up to. And, you 4 5 know, I'll never be able to, you know, completely cut off that feeling of anger and rage that comes with, you know, 6 even the most happiest of thoughts and memories. But it 7 just so happens, I guess, you know, for some people that's 8 how life turns out to be, you know. Take the good with the 9 bad. Mostly the good. You know, it's, like, that 10 11 question, you know, how full is the cup of water? Is it half empty or is it half full? And I say my cup is more 12 13 full.

And another thing is that, you know, you can never really tell, in great detail, how your life is going to be. But if you take some time to think about it, or, you know, just look in the mirror -- this mirror, you get a clear enough idea. And however dark a person's life, you know, can turn out to be at times, you know, even the littlest -- littlest bit of light could help them find their way. You can always find the light when it's dark.

And, you know, after my sister, you know, my mom's way of healing was -- well, she really took that really hard when she -- when what happened happened. And, you know, instead of us, you know, clinging together, we

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kind of just, split up. And, naturally, for me, you know, 1 2 I just wanted to be alone because I didn't want to be around the drugs and the alcohol because I seen it right 3 away as, you know, there's no point in indulging in the 4 5 substances that played a factor in this whole mess for the sole purpose of grief. And it was just frustrating too, 6 you know. At the time, I can say it was mostly just pure 7 anger and hatred for -- just for, like, whoever it was or 8 whoever it is that did what they did, you know. And it's, 9 like, if there's anybody that -- if there's anybody I hate, 10 11 it's those people. Strongly. Hate's a strong word and I'll use it strongly when it comes to those specific people 12 because they basically destroyed our lives and for what 13 14 reason, right? For nothing.

And, you know, it's basically the same thing plays, you know, goes around and around in my head every time, you know, I think about it. I remember how she was, how happy she was. I remember how -- how free-spirited she was at heart. I remember her love that she had for her cats and, you know, then I think about how she was taken, basically, away from us. And with that, you know, I think a lot of things about that, you know, because we don't know what happened. We don't know what happened. And if we did, well, then whoever, you know, took her life would obviously be in jail right now. And, you know, there's

another thing, you know, they could be in jail but just not
for this though.

So, yeah, then I think, you know, she -even though she was a happy person, there were things that
she dealt with that made her very sad inside. You know,
she was a -- she was bothered by a family member and that
was when she was 11 years old, 10 or 11. She was crying,
she told us all. And at the time, that person was only 16
years old, he was taken away and I don't know what happened
with him, if he was sent to jail. I think he was.

And after that, you know, I became very protective towards my sister. And as a result of that, you know, with her stubbornness, it resulted in angers -- or not -- arguments. It resulted in arguments. And, you know, I'd always tell her -- ask her, "Why do you have to be so stubborn?" And, you know, "Can't you just stay home for once?" And, you know, she never really wanted to stay home. And that's because, you know, by -- at that time, we -- you know, we were just getting to that age that, you know, I could pretty much say that we were done, you know, we were teenagers, you know, I was 17 years old. So if we were here in Edmonton, you know, a year after that, I would have moved out of my mom's house and I wouldn't have cared where I went to go stay. Even if it was on the streets. I would have -- I would've went out there to go and find my

own place to live so that I could get away from everybody
and their problems. And just deal with my life and what I
have, you know, on my hands.

And I think, you know, because that, like -or at the time, we had a lot of tensions in our house.

And, you know, Aielah didn't want to be around, you know,
the hostility I guess, because even though, like, things -things -- when I think about how, you know, everything that
had kind of, sort of played up to what happened, you know,
I never drank at that time, never did drugs. And at the
time everybody was always telling me that I was the strong
one, you know, that I was the one -- the only link in that
house keeping everybody's heads afloat because I was the
only one who actually had the wise words to say - [One line
redacted pursuant to Rule 55].

[Two lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55].

So I seen myself as setting the example for those kids.

And I'm like, "You know what? Everybody else here is doing these things but it doesn't mean that I have to, you know?

And that's what you guys should see is that just because people are, you know, drinking and doing drugs, and this and that, doesn't mean that you have to do that, you know.

It's what you call being your own person" type of thing.

And also, I understood that, you know, at the same time, the reason why my [family members] you know, do those

things is because they all had their own issues to deal with. And, you know, I was never abused sexually in any way, shape or form. You know, I was called names and called ugly but, you know, what kid doesn't experience that, I mean, in today's world? You know, so I was -- I would always think and ask myself, "Why do people have to be the way they are?" And then, you know, I'd think, well, there's a reason for everything. And it was that alone that kind of helped me put things into perspective. You know, because what happened to my sister when she was, you know, 11 years old, that was why, you know. [Four lines redacted - personal information]. I think it was just that [Sister 2] wanted to be Aielah's support and, you know, not make her feel so alienated. And that was why she was kind of her little sister's keeper.

And then there was me, you know. I would just sit back and wonder, and observe, and, you know, try and understand, and, you know, I would -- I wouldn't always fight with my younger sisters. Sometimes I just, "You know I love you, I care about you and sorry that we argue. We shouldn't argue because life's too short for that." And, yeah, I ended up drinking on my birthday when I turned 17. And I drank with Aielah and she thought I was funny because I got too drunk. And everybody was laughing at me. And the next day, I woke up just feeling really depressed and

1	really gross and hook because of that. Specifically,
2	because of the drinking because, you know, I just, like,
3	you know what? I just don't understand how people can
4	become addicted to this stuff. Like, why, right?
5	And, you know, when I was 23 I overdosed on
6	almost every drug you could think of and that was because
7	of depression because of what happened to my sister. And I
8	didn't want to leave, you know, another heartache on
9	everybody's shoulders. And I'm glad I actually came out of
10	the hospital alive. And I seen light in a different way
11	life in a different way. And I guess in a way, you know,
12	it helped me deal with a lot of the pain that I already had
13	from enduring the whole traumatic experience of, you know,
14	losing my sister. And then eventually my mom. And, you
15	know, I as a kid, I always used to sit and think, and
16	become stressed out about, you know, what's going to
17	happen, you know, when I'm, you know, close to 30 years
18	old? People are eventually going to leave this place and
19	how are they going to leave this place, right? Of course,
20	drugs and alcohol are the reason why. And, yeah, I try not
21	to get, I guess, tangled up in those things.
22	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: You look like a really
23	strong person.
24	TIMOTHY AUGER: Oh, thanks. Yeah, as a kid,
25	I guess, you know, I got used to being alone. And I

overcame the urge and the need to cry as a kid from being alone, or feeling scared, you know. And keeping my mind distracted, you know, like, watching movies but then, you know, I'd get these -- I always paid attention to my emotions were the number one thing. If I felt even slightly off I had to, you know, stop what I was doing and sit and think. You know, I'd look out -- look out the window, I'd look at the sky, I'd look at the cars going by. I'd feel the wind or something like that, you know. Little things like that. Put my hands like -- like this or like this, or like -- what is it? And then I'd start thinking, I'd close my

eyes and I'd think about, you know, just current things at any time that might, you know, be causing that. And usually I was right, you know, if it was, like, say, at any given time when we were kids, you know, I'd come home and I would, you know, when you walk into the room, you could feel the energy in that room. And I would be able to think and feel, or I -- you know, I'd play around with the idea in my mind, "Okay, this is what's going to happen. Watch. We'll see if it's going to happen and we'll see if we're right or not," you know.

And I would sit and draw a picture and I would listen to what's going on around me with my sisters and the TV, and, you know, my mom cooking and, you know,

the phone ringing, and everybody, you know, just living their lives. And, you know, sometimes I'd be right, you know, and my mom and my sister would argue, or my sisters would maybe argue with each other or my brother would start, you know, getting bored and then look for people to tease or something like that. And eventually I developed strategies to kind of just disappear without being noticed. And I would hide around the corner, or, you know, be within earshot of, you know, everybody else so that they -- they'd start to wonder, "Where -- where is Tim?" You know, my mom would wonder where I'd go, or where I was and sometimes I'd be in my room, or downstairs.

Then, as I got older, then, you know, it was, like, you know, I'd go to a park, or I'd go for a walk, or I'd hang around outside, you know. And all those times that I was alone I would always be thinking about life and what's going to happen, you know, in the future, five years from now, or ten years from now, twenty years from now, you know. And I would just -- I'd think, geez, you know -- you know, thinking about that would bring up things, you know, that were relevant at any time like my sisters and basically my whole family and their whole, you know, doing drugs and drinking, you know, sort of thing.

And, you know, I would just wish that, you know, at times that they could just see that that's not

good for them. And I always told my self, "Well, you're not in control of anybody. You can't, you know, force anybody to do anything they don't want to do." And a lot of times, when I was a teenager and a kid, you know, I would tell my [family members] you know, "This stuff's never going to lead you guys down a good road, a road of happiness. And it's never going to bring you the better things in life. And I'm just saying this now because I'm not going to regret not telling you guys that when I'm 30 years old. Because you guys are smart, you guys can listen."

But, you know what? It's not that I'm relieving myself of responsibility or anything like that but what else can you do when people won't listen to you? You know, and when you care about these people too. And it's just like in one ear and out the other type of thing. And, basically, I do see the reasons, you know, why and how alcohol and drugs played a pretty big factor into everything that happened leading up to my sister's death because she wasn't surrounded by people who, you know, wanted to make things better. They'd say that they would but then, you know, their actions were very different, you know, here.

[Six lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55].

You know, things like that. Everything makes an effect on

an 11-year-old kid. You know, especially a girl, you know,
 because Aielah was very impressionable, very.

Like, at 11 years old she -- she was already, you know, kind of like becoming deviant in a way. Stealing clothes from shopping stores and stuff like that. And wandering off, and friends from school and stuff like that. [Two lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55]. And that was stressing her out. So, yeah, I mean, like, drugs and alcohol are what my family had, you know, battles with a long time before Aielah ever went missing, and disappeared, and was eventually murdered.

And because -- because of her, you know, seeing that a lot of the time, because she experienced it in her childhood, it was, you know, playing out in her teenage years or whatever. And I was always against them, you know, going out to hang out with their friends and eventually drink and do drugs because I knew that's what they were going to do.

And I guess I do, in a way, I blame myself for not being there. And I don't know -- I guess you could say I don't know what I would have done. And I think about that. That's one of the things I think about the most, you know. Say I was there, say I did go out there with her and them, and drank and -- I don't think that would have been very great because then I would be impairing my judgement

1 and alertness.

2 And I guess I had a lot of doubt that, you know, they would even listen to me. You know, I -- say I 3 did go out there and said, "Hey, we got to leave, we can't 4 5 stay here, " you know, if they would, you know -- usually how it turned out would be, "Oh, don't worry," you know. 6 "Lighten up," or, "Stop being so paranoid," type of thing, 7 8 you know. They'd always make the argument to do the opposite, you know. Because there were a lot of times 9 where we were -- me and my brother and my sisters were 10 11 hanging out and my brother, or my younger sister would get the idea to, you know, steal something. I'd say, "No. 12 13 ain't going to do that. I'm stop hanging around with you 14 quys right now. Don't follow me." You know, I would leave and disappear. They would follow me around, my brother 15 would still try and steal things while following us. And 16 then if he got caught, he would say that we were, you know, 17 his accomplices or whatever, you know. We're his 18 accessories. We were there, you know, and trying to get 19 20 him to do that for us. He would lie and, you know. that was another reason why I never hung around with him 21 too. Like, there were a lot of times I ended up in the 22 23 back of a police car because of stupid things like that. 24 So there's a bunch of different things I 25 quess, if you think about when it comes to, you know, the

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thought of me actually being there for my sister instead of 1 2 leaving that up to her friends who know nothing about her -- who knew nothing about her even though they said that 3 they were her friends. But, you know, they never grew up 4 5 with her like I did. And she was very stubborn. And I think, you know, the place that she ended up in, or, I 6 don't know, whatever it led -- whatever led to that -- her 7 hopping in that black van, I think she said that -- or I 8 9 think somebody told me or my sister that -- somebody told [Sister 2] that Aielah was going to go and get some -- she 10 11 wanted some weed, right, some marijuana. And these people in that black van were going to take her to go and get 12 that. We'd always told her, you know, that's -- that's 13 14 that typical scenario where a stranger lures a kid with 15 candy.

MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: M'hmm.

was that marijuana. And I told her, "You never follow anybody who offers you the -- the promise of drugs or alcohol," you know. And that was the sort of thing that -- that was the sort of thing that we'd always tell her to, you know, beware of that. Don't ever go trying to get that stuff by yourself. And, yeah, I think that -- that was part of they went to the girls were drugged because I remember speaking to her close friend who said that when

they were at that party, they were being given cans of beer 1 2 but the beer was opened. And that was a thing I knew at that time, that you never should ever accept an open drink 3 from a person. If it's in a glass, pour it out or leave 4 5 If it's a can, make sure it's closed. If it's a bottle, make sure the cap is still tight on it. If the cap 6 is loose, put the drink down. And I think that's how they 7 got split up because it wasn't just girls that went out 8 9 into that party because they -- the way -- the situation was that it was my two sisters and then their two friends, 10 11 and their two friends had their two brothers with them. And those -- Aielah was going out with one of those boys 12 13 and [Sister 2] was. And they all -- the six of them went 14 to that party -- the four girls and the two boys went to that party. And I think they ended up in a -- a house with 15 shady people who do drugs. And those people, you know, 16 17 mastered up a plan and split them all up to separate them, 18 you know. I honestly hope that, you know, even if these people are never found, I guess one way to make sure that 19 20 this never happens to anybody else is basically to be more vigilant when it comes to things like drugs and alcohol 21 because if this were a party that they were going to where 22 23 these was none -- none of that, I think, you know, this would have been a lot more different, you know. And I 24 think it would be -- well, I can't say that it wouldn't be, 25

I mean, you know, there are a lot of crazy people out 1 2 there. But basically be more vigilant and more watchful. And also -- I don't know, there's a whole bunch of things 3 that I -- I'm actually thinking about right now that could, 4 5 you know, help this thing -- to make sure that this never happens to anybody else. And one of them being is if 6 you're going -- if -- if a kid is going to hang out with 7 their friends, you know, I guess it's that parents should 8 talk more about -- more about -- more with their children 9 about how to use the eyes behind their head because my mom 10 11 always used to tell us that, "Use the eyes behind your head," you know. "Somebody offers you something, don't go 12 13 for it. Or if they do, make sure that somebody's with 14 you, " you know, that type of thing. You know, and when it came to the four of us always hanging out together, we were 15 always together, that's why nobody ever tried anything. 16 There were a few times -- lots of times, as a kid, when I 17 would go and use a washroom in a gas station and my sisters 18 would be standing out front and some car would stop and 19 20 look at them and say, "Hey, what are you guys doing?" And then they'd say, "Leave us alone." And I'd come out and 21 then that car would drive away. And they'd say, "Hey, Tim, 22 23 see that car? They stopped and asked us what we were 24 doing." I said, "Those guys are pigs," you know. And they're, like, "Yeah, no kidding. Lucky that you're here." 25

Like, "Yeah, no kidding." Sick people are everywhere. 1 2 there's lots of things that people can do to make sure that this never happens. And, yeah, I guess, you know, for the 3 most part, the biggest one being is, you know, it's the 4 5 whole drug and alcohol thing. That's the biggest one, and, you know, I just can't shake that because your friends can 6 be the best friends in the world but they won't be able to 7 help you and protect you if they're all drugged up and 8 high, and, you know, they've been, you know, even drugged 9 against their own will. How are you going to defend 10 yourself against a -- a slithery, sneaky predator, you 11 know, when people are, you know, that sort of situation. 12 13 Like, I don't think that they knew that and they obviously 14 didn't have that in their minds. So, yeah, you know, identifying the reasons and how to avoid them too, also I 15 start to blame myself because I was 100 percent against 16 17 drugs and alcohol at that age so I would have told them, "Don't drink." And, "Don't smoke anything they give you. 18 And if you do smoke it, better smoke it at home. And if 19 20 you do smoke it, smoke a little bit, " you know, because that way you'll have better safeguards, you know, and you 21 won't be in -- necessarily in harm's way because when my --22 23 when we were teenagers [two lines redacted pursuant to Rule 24 55]. My mom would tell them not to but they still would. But then, you know, how's -- how -- how do you -- [two 25

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1	ines redacted pursuant to Rule 55]. It's not going to
2	ork. See, you you know? And these tiny examples are
3	actors in an among

4 MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: M'hmm.

TIMOTHY AUGER: --- themselves that played into this whole thing. So, you know, my sister going out to hang out with her friends, and drink and do drugs, you know, it was naive of me to think that she would be able to come back. And with that reason alone, I guess I blame myself for that. And it's not just me. I think my brothers and my sisters do too. And my mom did probably, most likely a lot because she had a really tough time after that. A really tough time. And I just tried to be there for her the best that I could. And I try not to blame myself too much for these things because, you know, I don't know exactly how evil these people were. You know, I don't know if they had guns around that they would use -could've used to threaten them, scare them, you know, force them to do things they didn't want to do. You know, to force the situation to happen the way they wanted it to happen. And I think there are people out there who know what happened, who were there, even if they didn't play a direct part in it. They might have been nearby. And them too, that makes them directly a part of the problem.

And that's what leads me to say that there's

more than one person involved because there's the person, there's the person who does the dirty work, and then there's the -- you know, the other people who keep their mouths shut and turn their eyes, and shut their ears, you know. And I don't know, I hope one of them slips up. I really hope so. I hope one of them caves in. I hope one of them can't stand the guilt. I hope one of them somehow just snaps and lets it all out, you know. And then we'll really be able to ---

MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Maybe get some

11 closure.

actually considering going to a psychic leader because of all this. You know, I told my girlfriend about it and she said, "It's unnatural." You know, everybody has their opinions and their views, and I never considered doing something like that, ever in my life, for any specific reason but, you know, now, yeah, definitely. Definitely, I would. You know, and, yeah, I don't know, like, now, you know, ten years after, ten-plus years after the -- everything had happened, I -- I try -- I try not to -- I guess I try not to blame myself too much.

MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Well, thank you for sharing this with us today. I think -- well, to know what happened -- and I think you put it right, you know, all the

factors that add up leading to what happened to your sister, I think it's really important to understand these contexts and [inaudible response] and for you to share that with us today, I think, is really powerful, really, really powerful, and really prudent for us because that's -- we want to understand what's happening, right. What -- what leads to those kinds of situation. And I think you really brilliantly explained what lead up to this situation, right. How it was possible for this situation to happen, right. And I think you're right when you say you shouldn't blame yourself for that because -- because you have nothing to do with it.

my mom was a really good mother. She tried hard, really hard, worked really hard and did a good job with each and every one of us. She was never -- she was not perfect and she would even say herself, you know, "I wouldn't -- I wouldn't call myself motherly," or -- but she did her part and she told us, you know, the things that we needed to hear, that ever child and, you know, every parent should tell their kids. And it's those important things in life. And, you know, me as a kid, you know, I -- I wasn't just told, "Stay away from drugs and alcohol," but I seen the reasons why I should stay away from drugs and alcohol.

And me -- now, in my sister's case, she just

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-- you know, and I think it's with a lot of people, she 1 2 didn't like being alone. Me, on the other hand, it was different. I was able to, you know, I was like a cup of 3 water, you know, I didn't like to be -- I can find my point 4 5 of stillness when I'm left alone. Otherwise when there's, you know, other people around and it gets to be too much, 6 the waters get too shaky. So I'd have to, you know, take a 7 8 break and, you know, clear my mind and let everything become still again. You know, see, "Okay, this is where I 9 am, this is what's happening, this is where things are." 10 11 You can't do that when you're on drugs and you're drinking. It clouds your mind, it clouds your judgement, it messes 12 with your emotions. You know, it messes with your thoughts 13 14 and then you find yourself in stupid situations and, you know, the situations, otherwise, that you never would have 15 been in. 16

And, you know, with my sister's situation, she just wanted friends. You know, everywhere she'd go, everywhere she went, she, you know, wanted to be with friends. She -- she didn't like, like, being -- being alone. But at the same time, like, she didn't want -- like, she didn't like being alone but I guess in her own way she benefited from that. And, specifically, you know, when it comes to the night that she went out and, you know, eventually never came back, their gathering was all

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revolving around drugs and alcohol and going to a house

party no less, you know. If, say, that they went to, you

know, their friend's house and they stayed there and they

drank, and, you know, smoked their marijuana then, you

know, nothing bad would have happened.

And that's another thing too, you know, because these -- like, my sister identified herself, you know, with these, you know, group of kids because, you know, the group pretty much, you know, can identify, like, grew up pretty much the same. We weren't made of money, we didn't come from middle class families, we were kind of poor, you know, and so, you know, these kids, you know, talking about how life was like at their house, basically, was like life at our house, you know. My mom did drugs, and my mom didn't want us to do drugs but she battled with it because of, you know, problems in her life that she went through. And, you know, my older sister too, and my older brother, and then, you know, my younger sister and me, you know. I would think why am I different? Why am I not doing these things? Well, it's because, you know, I'd see -- I'd -- I'd see the effect and I'd know -- I'd know right away, you know, this is what's going to happen, this is -do I want to be like that? No. Do I want any of these problems that that could bring? No. And my sister, she -well, she was free-spirited and stubborn, and wanted just

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to have fun. And in her -- in her eyes and her mind, that
was a way of having fun was doing that.

Now, it's not recommended that parents let their kids smoke marijuana and drink all the time but in this situation, you know, at that time, you know, their friends and, you know, their parents, they would let them do that because they'd be at home, you know, safe and not out there doing that, you know, where they don't know where they are, they don't know what's happening.

And my mom would, you know, she thought of that and she was, like, "Okay, that makes -- that actually kind of does make sense because at least they're here, at least I know where they are. At least I can tell them to, you know, say they do something and, you know, they smoke some marijuana and it's laced with something, they can phone the police, they could phone, you know, the hospital, they can have them sent there and then they could ask them where they got that stuff. And then, you know, see where that goes." That's the way of, you know, kind of combatting that whole problem of drugs and alcohol and, you know, teenagers doing that stuff, and then, you know, eventually that whole scenario, sort of, preventing that, you know, what happened to my sister basically because my mom -- my -- my mom didn't want them drinking, you know, in the house. And my sisters' friends weren't welcome there

1	to drink and do drugs there so they would often go to their
2	house and take my sisters with them, and that's where they
3	would drink and do their drugs and whatnot, and hang out,
4	and that sort of thing.
5	You know, another thing too that would've
6	made this you know, would've prevented this is cell
7	phones. They never had smartphones in 2005. But if they
8	did, guarantee, I'm sure my sister would've answered her
9	phone. "Where are you?" "I'm here, I'm there," you know.
10	And it would've turned out, I guess, a lot better.
11	So, yeah, you know, I had always I'd
12	always thought that that we would leave that city and,
13	you know, things would be okay. And it didn't turn out
14	that way. And I guess all we can do is hope now that, you
15	know, the right thing will happen and that we won't be left
16	wondering what's going to happen, or where they are sort of
17	thing.
18	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Absolutely. Well, for
19	me, I think I have the information, like, I wanted to ask.
20	Is there anything else you would like to add before we
21	finish?
22	TIMOTHY AUGER: I think I pretty much got
23	everything.
24	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Well, again, thank you
25	for sharing this. I think it's really important. And for

1	trusting us enough to share those really sensitive thing
2	and how you're feeling about it. I know it's it's hard,
3	it's difficult to share those kinds of things so thank you
4	for trusting me, myself, today, to share with me and the
5	Inquiry. And I think it will be it is really important
6	for us to receive those kinds of your truth and your
7	story. So thank you very much for sharing.
8	TIMOTHY AUGER: You're welcome.
9	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Okay. So if it's okay
10	with you, I will turn off the camera right now an the
11	TIMOTHY AUGER: Yeah.
12	MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: recorder. I'll
13	just check what time it is. So it's 2:44 and I'm turning
14	off the recorder. I'm sorry, I went a little bit over.
15	Upon adjourning at 2:44 p.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

February 19, 2019