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 Northwest Community College Smithers, British Columbia



Tuesday September 26, 2017

Statement - Volume 9

Mabel Jack, In relation to the Jack family

Statement gathered by Kerrie Reay & Caitlin Hendrickson

NOTE

Where not required by other statute, redactions to this public transcript have been made pursuant to Rule 55 of the Commission's Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice, which provides for "the discretion to redact private information of a sensitive nature where it is not material to the evidence to be given before distributing the information to the Parties. The National Inquiry will consider the public interest in releasing this type of information against the potential harmful impact on the individual whose personal information is at issue." III

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Statement gatherers: Kerrie Reay & Caitlin Hendrickson

Documents submitted with testimony:

1. One photograph of missing Jack family.

Smithers, British Columbia 1 --- Upon commencing on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 2 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. So this is Kerrie 3 Reay with the National Inquiry for Missing and Murdered 4 5 Indigenous Women and Girls, speaking on the record with Mabel ---6 7 MS. MABEL JACK: Mable Jack. 8 MS. KERRIE REAY: --- Mabel Jack. MS. MABEL JACK: Hereditary Chief, and my 9 name is Abiolet (Phonetic), my grandpa's name. 10 11 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Thank you, Mabel. 12 And you reside -- where are you living currently? MS. MABEL JACK: Southbank, B.C. 13 14 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And the location here today of the interview is at Smithers, B.C. and it is 15 September the 26^{th} . Are we the 27^{th} ? 16 17 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Twenty-seventeen (2017). 18 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh, 2017. So okay. All 19 right. 20 So as the statement giver, you are here 21 22 voluntarily to give you statement in the matter of your daughter-in-law and son, Doreen Jack and Ronnie Paul. 23 24 MS. MABEL JACK: Ronnie Paul Jack. 25 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Ronnie Paul Jack.

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And present with us in the room today is Gertie Pierre, a 1 2 health support worker; as well as Caitlin Hendrickson, a statement taker as well. As we discussed, your statement 3 will be audio recorded today, as well it's -- you have 4 5 allowed us to videotape, and that you are here voluntarily. MS. MABEL JACK: Yes. 6 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. So with that we 7 8 will get started. So Mabel, can you tell us about Ronnie and Doreen? 9 10 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah, Ronnie and Doreen, 11 they -- and the two boys, Ryan and Russell. Ryan was four years old and Russell was 10 and they moved to Prince 12 George. They were looking for job. And on September the 13 14 1st, Ronnie phoned me and he said he's going to work at Lucas Lake, between Lucas Lake and the Vanderhoof. He said 15 "Mum, if I don't come back come and look for me at the 16 17 house." So it looked like he knows -- look like he knows what's gonna happen the way he tell me that. It's --18 didn't make any plan said it would be it. 19 20 We leave home and we went to his house about a month later and he's been never come back so we moved in 21 22 there, in Price George and we wait for them. He never come 23 back so we moved back home and we started a small bingo so 24 we could raise money to look for him. And we put a bingo on and we sell some stuff that we make. We hired a family 25

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they move with us beside Prince George and we stay in the tent for about two months.

My brothers and my boys were all looking 3 where he tell us, Lucas Lake. We didn't find him. 4 We didn't find nothing and we moved back home again and we pay 5 (inaudible) down at Alberta Pow-wow. We go to Lake 6 Alberta. It's a long way. We hire somebody to drive for 7 8 us and went there and my granddaughter, she was about eight years old. She's a pow-wow dancer. She danced -- she 9 10 danced in middle and then keep looking after that pow-wow. 11 They all mention the name that they -- those that were missing, see if they can recognize. (inaudible) was 12 dancing (inaudible). We've been doing that too, went all 13 14 over the pow-wow and then she danced for the family and she's supposed to be here on Thursday. 15 MS. KERRIE REAY: And what's her name? 16 17 MS. MABEL JACK: Lana Cahoose. MS. KERRIE REAY: Lana? 18 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. 19 20 MS. KERRIE REAY: Cahoose?

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.
MS. KERRIE REAY: C-a-h-o-o--MS. MABEL JACK: C-a-h-o-o-s-e.
MS. KERRIE REAY: Now you say that's your

25 granddaughter?

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MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. 1 2 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. 3 MS. MABEL JACK: Why am I -- my son don't leave me anywhere. He don't stay away that long. Because 4 5 everywhere I go, like I go places and Doreen drive for me that time. That time I was healthy, but she still drive 6 7 for me. 8 MS. KERRIE REAY: Doreen did? MS. MABEL JACK: Yes. Doreen. And 9 sometimes people dance and they dance all night. They like 10 11 dancing. MS. KERRIE REAY: M'hm. 12 MS. MABEL JACK: Ronnie likes to dance. 13 14 Doreen likes driving, driving trucks. MS. KERRIE REAY: Can you tell us a little 15 bit more about Doreen and Ronnie. What was Doreen like as 16 17 a wife? MS. MABEL JACK: Ronnie's girlfriend, Doreen 18 his dad died when she was pretty young and she didn't want 19 to stay in the house where dad died there. So we let her 20 21 stay with us and she goes to school that Ronnie going to 22 school. And they get old enough and then they start dating and they had little [B] been staying with us until they 23 24 moved to Prince George. 25 MS. KERRIE REAY: So how old was Doreen when

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1 she came to stay with you? 2 MS. MABEL JACK: Doreen was pretty young. They both the same age. When they were missing -- they 3 both 26 years old when they missing. 4 5 MS. KERRIE REAY: So was Doreen in high 6 school when she came or was she younger? MS. MABEL JACK: She finished -- she 7 8 finished high school. 9 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. 10 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah, she very -- both 11 Ronnie didn't finish high school and he went in upgrading -- upgrading in our home. 12 MS. KERRIE REAY: I'm just trying to create 13 14 a bit of a timeline. MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. 15 MS. KERRIE REAY: So that we can understand. 16 So Doreen was -- you were kind of raising Doreen as a 17 mother? 18 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. 19 20 MS. KERRIE REAY: And then became a motherin-law? 21 22 MS. MABEL JACK: Yes. 23 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah. So we're just 24 trying to try to get a bit of a timeline about how old she was when she came to stay with you. 25

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1	MS. MABEL JACK: I think she was about I
2	think she was about 16 years old.
3	MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.
4	MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.
5	MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And so she lived in
6	this on the Reserve?
7	MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.
8	MS. KERRIE REAY: With okay. With her
9	mum?
10	MS. MABEL JACK: Her mum took off on them
11	for a long, long time and is dad raised them up. His dad -
12	- her dad he was name Charlie Charlie Edmond. He died
13	on cancer.
14	MS. KERRIE REAY: M'hm. So if I understand
15	then, Doreen didn't really have much contact with her mum.
16	MS. MABEL JACK: No.
17	MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.
18	MS. MABEL JACK: I don't think. I don't
19	think so because she took off when Doreen was pretty young.
20	MS. KERRIE REAY: Have you heard from
21	Doreen's mum at all from the when they disappeared?
22	MS. MABEL JACK: No. They none of them they
23	come to us, the sister over here she was she come over,
24	that's here sister.
25	MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

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1	MS. MABEL JACK: Marlene.
2	MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.
3	MS. MABEL JACK: And they never they
4	never help us when we were searching for the missing
5	family. I never seen none of them.
6	MS. KERRIE REAY: So Doreen and Ronnie have
7	the two boys and you said they really liked to dance?
8	MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.
9	MS. KERRIE REAY: So what took them to
10	Prince George then from
11	MS. MABEL JACK: They was looking for jobs.
12	MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.
13	MS. MABEL JACK: There was no job at that
14	place.
15	MS. KERRIE REAY: So how long were they
16	living in Prince George before they disappeared?
17	MS. MABEL JACK: Not very long. Maybe one
18	year.
19	MS. KERRIE REAY: So looking for employment
20	
21	MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.
22	MS. KERRIE REAY: took him, Doreen, and
23	the boys to Prince George.
24	MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.
25	MS. KERRIE REAY: Did Doreen work?

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MS. MABEL JACK: Doreen was look after the 1 2 kids. MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. But she -- is she 3 finished high school you said? 4 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. 5 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. So she had a pretty 6 7 important role raising the boys. MS. MABEL JACK: Yes. 8 MS. KERRIE REAY: And you were saying that 9 Ronnie's phone call to you ---10 11 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. MS. KERRIE REAY: --- he sensed something 12 wasn't right, by what you were saying. 13 14 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. MS. KERRIE REAY: And so did he talk about 15 in that phone call, whether or not he was planning to take 16 Doreen and the boys ---17 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. 18 MS. KERRIE REAY: --- with him at that time 19 when he phoned you? 20 MS. MABEL JACK: He said he is taking his 21 22 family. 23 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And did he say that 24 made him nervous or anything like that? 25 MS. MABEL JACK: No, he didn't. It's very

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few words he say and that was it. 1 2 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. MS. MABEL JACK: Now the older. Sorry, go 3 ahead Caitlin. 4 5 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: I just wanted to know if you knew where he was calling you from? 6 7 MS. MABEL JACK: At his place. 8 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: From home? MS. MABEL JACK: They rent -- they rent a 9 place in Prince George. 10 11 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. 12 MS. MABEL JACK: Upland Street. MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. Did you 13 14 hear from him at all anywhere along the way? MS. MABEL JACK: No. 15 MS. KERRIE REAY: And you were saying that 16 the boys were going -- was Russell -- Russell was the 17 oldest, 10, you said? 18 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. 19 20 MS. KERRIE REAY: Was Russell in school? MS. MABEL JACK: I don't think there was 21 22 school there. I think they were, I don't know. 23 MS. KERRIE REAY: No, but when he was in 24 Prince George was he attending school? 25 MS. MABEL JACK: Yes.

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MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Do you know if --1 2 so he was attending school. 3 MS. MABEL JACK: A young boy, he have to go to school. 4 5 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes, yes. So when you went to Prince George to wait, at what point did you 6 7 consider calling the police? 8 MS. MABEL JACK: We call you cops right away, soon as we know he's not coming back. Because he ---9 MS. KERRIE REAY: So was that from Prince 10 11 George? 12 MS. MABEL JACK: Yes. And they know, they start searching right away. 13 14 MS. KERRIE REAY: They did? MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. 15 MS. KERRIE REAY: Did they come and meet 16 with you? 17 MS. MABEL JACK: They meet with us and they 18 took pictures and everything. 19 20 MS. KERRIE REAY: And it was a very trying time for the family? 21 22 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. 23 MS. KERRIE REAY: Were they helpful? Were the police helpful to you and your family? 24 25 MS. MABEL JACK: His name was Paul. He was

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1 nice to us.

2 MS. KERRIE REAY: Good. And with this inquiry, it is really focussed and it's not to take 3 anything away from your loss, because Doreen was also like 4 5 a daughter to you. One of the things that they are wanting as an inquiry is an understanding how you as a family were 6 7 treated by the police. And what kind of follow up was 8 there, or did you have to, you know, do the follow up as time went on. 9 10 MS. MABEL JACK: Actually, they were a lot a 11 first so we keep looking and until it snow -- until it start snow then we quit. He tell us where that -- where he 12 supposed to go, stay there for a long time. 13 14 MS. KERRIE REAY: But you said at one point you were in tents? 15 MS. MABEL JACK: Yes. We were all in tents. 16 17 MS. KERRIE REAY: Was there any support from anybody else, any other groups or organizations that helped 18 to look for your son, and Doreen, and your grandsons? 19 20 MS. MABEL JACK: No. Don't have a group. 21 We just family. 22 MS. KERRIE REAY: It was just ---23 MS. MABEL JACK: Our family. Just my family 24 who were looking. 25 MS. KERRIE REAY: Is there something you

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want the inquiry to know as you're here today to give your 1 2 statement? 3 MS. MABEL JACK: How I going to find my family if I do this statement? I want to find them. 4 5 Because people -- people die and they bury each other. I got a headstone for my family and it's still there, I have 6 7 no place to put it. 8 MS. KERRIE REAY: So you have no closure? MS. MABEL JACK: I don't like to do this and 9 because, especially if somebody pass away. I go to church 10 11 but I don't -- I don't go there to pray to find ---MS. KERRIE REAY: No. 12 MS. MABEL JACK: --- for a long time. There 13 14 no more -- who they are, I refuse to go to gravesite. Looks all around me and (inaudible). 15 16 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Can I just check in? How are you doing? 17 MS. MABEL JACK: Okay. 18 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: You let me know if 19 you want a couple minutes with Gertie. Are you okay 20 Kerrie? 21 22 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes, yes. 23 So part of what the inquiry is also doing is to try to understand the circumstances behind how the 24 25 disappearance occurred. Do you know much more about what

happened that led up to Ronnie, and Doreen, and they boys
 leaving?

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3 MS. MABEL JACK: Some white guy took them from the house and took them where they took -- where they 4 5 going. He said they're going to work where they all coming -- where they going they all coming, and left. 6 They had some stuff there that they supposed to take and they didn't 7 8 take enough clothes or stuff they use if they live in a house. 9 MS. KERRIE REAY: So it didn't look like 10 11 they were going to be gone for a long time? MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. 12 MS. KERRIE REAY: Was there anybody in --13 14 when you were searching and looking for help, was there anybody who lived close by that saw them leave, or anybody 15 that we should talk to, to get more information? 16 17 MS. MABEL JACK: There was one guy who was in that lawyer knows the name of him, his name was 18 [Witness]. 19 20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** [Witness]? MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah, because he was with 21 22 them. 23 MS. KERRIE REAY: And do you know where --24 do you know where [Witness] lives? 25 MS. MABEL JACK: He lives in the south side

1 though. 2 MS. KERRIE REAY: He lives on the south side. 3 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Can I just 4 clarify, what time of year was it that they were leaving? 5 MS. MABEL JACK: What's that? 6 7 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: When -- do you 8 know the date of when they left? MS. MABEL JACK: September 1st. 9 10 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. So it was 11 in the fall. MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. 12 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. 13 14 MS. KERRIE REAY: So you're -- from what you've said, you're hoping to not let their disappearance 15 go unsolved. You're looking for closure. 16 17 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. MS. KERRIE REAY: You're here to let the 18 inquiry know that you've lost your son, your daughter-in-19 law, and your two grandchildren and that you don't want 20 them to be forgotten. Is that what I've heard? 21 22 MS. MABEL JACK: No. That's -- my son, the one that's still alive, here to tell the way that -- they 23 didn't -- nobody do anything about it and he wants -- he 24 wants to speak up too and then he's working so he didn't 25

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come. He's out in the town. 1 2 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And your son ---MS. MABEL JACK: My son. 3 MS. KERRIE REAY: And what's his name? 4 5 MS. MABEL JACK: Is Stanley Jack. The oldest one is Richard, Richard -- other one is Ted Jack, 6 7 he's around -- he's away someplace. 8 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Are they all interested in sharing -- sharing a statement with us? 9 Because they don't have to be at the hearing to do that. 10 11 They can call. 12 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: There's a 1-800 13 14 number. MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. 15 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And we can give 16 you that information before you leave today, because they 17 can -- they can do the intake information over the phone 18 and then they can prepare to give statements at later 19 20 dates. 21 MS. MABEL JACK: If he wants to be here, 22 he's here someplace in town here. They're going to be 23 having meeting. 24 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: That's Stanley? 25 MS. MABEL JACK: No, Ted.

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MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Ted. Okay. I 1 would let Ted know that he should come down as soon as he 2 can because we might not be able to get to taking all of 3 the statements that we can, because there is an intake 4 5 process that we have to go through, which you've done. So make sure that he's aware that there is some time 6 7 sensitivity around that. 8 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: But that doesn't 9 mean he can't give his statement. Again, we can always 10 11 come back ---12 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: --- at a later 13 14 date. MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. 15 MS. KERRIE REAY: Mabel, you've come a ways. 16 It's about two hours that you've driven? 17 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. 18 19 MS. KERRIE REAY: Is there anything else that you would like to let the inquiry know? 20 21 MS. MABEL JACK: I want -- I want my family 22 to do the statement because I don't know if Ted, and Stanley, and Richard, and some of my grandkids, they want 23 24 to come but they just couldn't. They're working too. 25 MS. KERRIE REAY: One of the things that the

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inquiry is looking -- that we will be interested to hear 1 2 from you, is a little bit about Doreen and how she came to live with you. And you've given us some of that already. 3 But what was Doreen like as a daughter in your home? 4 5 MS. MABEL JACK: She's a real nice. She's helping, big help. She cook and everything, and go after 6 7 the kids. She was nice to us. She was no trouble, 8 nothing. MS. KERRIE REAY: Did she ever talk about 9 her family life with you? Did she ever share what it was 10 11 like with her dad and her mum gone? MS. MABEL JACK: She -- one time she tell me 12 that she dreamed about her dad and she asked me what's that 13 mean? I didn't know what to say, so I tell her she -- your 14 dad makes a prayer, wants you to pray for him. 15 MS. KERRIE REAY: Do you have any knowledge 16 that you could share about what Doreen's life was like at 17 home? 18 MS. MABEL JACK: She's good little wife, I 19 know. Little -- nice girl (inaudible). 20 21 MS. KERRIE REAY: Did they have any 22 difficulties? 23 MS. MABEL JACK: No. 24 MS. KERRIE REAY: And what about -- were you aware of any difficulties that Doreen had at home with her 25

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father? 1 2 MS. MABEL JACK: No. She was pretty young, she didn't -- but she start dreaming about him and that's 3 when she tell me. 4 5 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah. She didn't talk about her mum? 6 7 MS. MABEL JACK: No. 8 MS. KERRIE REAY: How are you feeling? MS. MABEL JACK: I'm okay. 9 10 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. So what we can do 11 is if -- Ted lives in Smithers? MS. MABEL JACK: He don't live in Smithers. 12 They have a meeting here someplace. 13 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Is there anyway to 14 get a hold of him to let him know that he can come here 15 like ---16 17 MS. MABEL JACK: Yes, he said ---**MS. KERRIE REAY:** --- maybe tomorrow? 18 MS. MABEL JACK: He said he's going to drop 19 in after having a break or something. 20 21 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. 22 MS. MABEL JACK: He said he's going to drop 23 in to see me. 24 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. 25 MS. MABEL JACK: And he can make statement

if he wants to, he said. 1 2 MS. KERRIE REAY: How are you feeling about your statement today? 3 MS. MABEL JACK: Oh, I am feeling -- had a 4 long trip and then there was nothing ready for me and they 5 thought I'm not coming, but they tell me I supposed to be 6 7 here, so I'm here. 8 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. MS. MABEL JACK: Nothing ready for me. 9 10 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you think that 11 there's anything that could have been done that wasn't done in terms of, you know, finding them? 12 MS. MABEL JACK: It's been a long time. 13 14 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: M'hm. MS. MABEL JACK: I love my kids. I love 15 him with my heart. I kept Ronnie for years of come and see 16 Another one is family, is welcome you have to come. 17 me. The people that -- people forget about my family missing, 18 he said. Those are not -- they miss their brother. 19 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Is there anything 20 21 we can do that in your mind would honour Doreen and Ronnie? 22 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. One of my grandkids, he knows how to play guitar. He's supposed to sing for us 23 24 here and then he make his own song for them. And he wants to be here but he's got truck payment to do, he can't leave 25

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-- he can't leave work even one day. He wants to sing for 1 2 us. MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. So part of 3 one of our teams is leading what they're calling artistic 4 5 expression. I can talk to them and see how we can, you know, maybe capture that on video and make it a part of 6 7 this part of the inquiry, right? It'll be a piece of your 8 statement, and your family's statement, about Doreen and Ronnie, and the boys. 9 10 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. 11 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Would that be 12 qood? MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. 13 14 MS. KERRIE REAY: Do you think he could do that in the evening? 15 MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah. 16 17 MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: If he's here I mean we definitely have the resources to do available. 18 MS. KERRIE REAY: We can do that. Is that 19 something you would like to talk to ---20 MS. MABEL JACK: Yes. The lawyer told me 21 22 that my grandchildren should be here to sing for us and I 23 would like that. 24 --- Upon adjourning 25

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LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE 2 I, Janice Gingras, Legal Transcriptionist, hereby certify 3 that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and 4 accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this 5 6 matter.

Karen Degansh 8

Janice Gingras 9

October 16, 2017 10

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