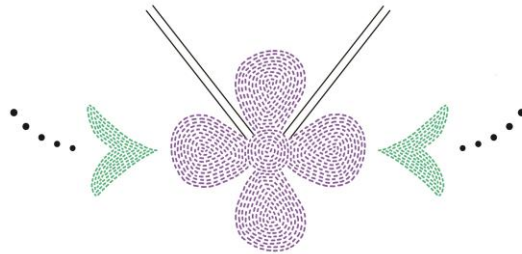


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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 Plus Norwester Hotel
Thunder Bay, Ontario**



PUBLIC

Wednesday December 6, 2017

Statement - Volume 167

**James Munroe & Ina Commanda,
In Relation to Marilyn Munroe & Viola Panacheese**

Statement gathered by Sheila Mazhari

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II

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."

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

Statement - Public 1
James Munroe & Ina Commanda
(Viola Panacheese & Marilyn Munroe)

Thunder Bay, Ontario

--- Upon commencing on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, at
10:04 a.m.

MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: So, hi. My name is
Sheila Mazhari, here statement gathering with the National
Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and
Girls. Today is December 6, 2017. We're at the Best
Western Hotel, Norwester, in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

I'm here with James Munroe. And also in the
room is Margaret --

MS. MARGARET ANGECONEB: Angeconeb.

MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: -- Angeconeb, Ina
Commanda and Terriea Harris, who's a health support, and I
will let James -- James introduce himself.

MR. JAMES MUNROE: Yeah, my name's James
Munroe. I'm from Sachigo First Nation. I'm here for that
Inquiry about -- about my daughter and I hope to get
through with this, what I have to say. And I don't -- I
don't have the full details of what the whole -- the whole
case on -- on her murder. And actually I'm quite a busy
person up north too in one of my remote areas, and I'd like
to find out what kind of resources I could get from
the -- from the Inquiry. And from there, I'd like to
start -- find out what happened to her two years ago. I
think wasn't it two years ago? And there's nothing -- not

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James Munroe & Ina Commanda
(Viola Panacheese & Marilyn Munroe)

1 much I -- I could give -- give up because I won't say my
2 feelings about -- about the whole situation, this -- this
3 whole case.

4 When I first heard about her -- her murder
5 two years ago, I didn't -- I didn't quite -- quite
6 understand why she had to go. And I tried -- tried to lead
7 her in a better -- better way of life regarding about her
8 situation up in the city life. I wanted her to sort of
9 come back to our community to live with us again. And I
10 didn't have a chance to talk to her so often, but she
11 always calls me every third -- every two weeks, biweekly,
12 to see how I'm doing and I asked her the same -- same
13 question. And we mostly talked about her way of life
14 in -- in the city. I tried to ask her to come home
15 once -- once -- a few times, but she -- she just laughs at
16 me and she said she -- she wants to stay here instead.

17 And I also mentioned about her involvement
18 with -- with drug -- drug abuse which she encountered
19 years -- while she was living in -- in the city and I tried
20 to encourage -- encourage her to stop -- stop to take drugs
21 and alcohol and she said she was -- she's trying, she said.
22 I guess she was trying her best to -- not to hurt my
23 feelings about her activities in town.

24 What I'd like to know is like what actually
25 happened her -- with her that -- that month two years

Statement - Public 3
James Munroe & Ina Commanda
(Viola Panacheese & Marilyn Munroe)

1 ago -- yeah, two years ago -- two years ago, but I never
2 got to find out the details about the whole incident.
3 Nobody wants to tell me anything. I tried to ask my other
4 family members to help me out. So I -- I only went to the
5 one in -- in Winnipeg there a year ago or two -- a year
6 ago. I think it was in Winnipeg and I didn't -- I think
7 I -- I think I was in kind of a shock when I heard about my
8 daughter's murder and I tried to cope with it, but I
9 couldn't, but -- although I got a strong mind to -- not
10 to -- not to break down. I know -- I know if she -- if she
11 was -- if she was still alive, she would tell -- she would
12 have told me to, "Be strong, Dad," and she -- she always
13 encouraged me to -- to be strong and to try to come
14 out -- come out to the city often, but I can't because I'm
15 involved too much with my work up north. I'm kind of
16 looking after the airport for the -- for the remote area in
17 Sachigo Lake.

18 Can I have a break here for a while?

19 --- Upon recessing

20 --- Upon reconvening

21 **MR. JAMES MUNROE:** Yeah, we'll start again.

22 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** Okay.

23 **MR. JAMES MUNROE:** Okay. What -- what I
24 want to -- what I'm going to say right now is that I want
25 to -- I want to say something about murder and what -- what

Statement - Public **4**
James Munroe & Ina Commanda
(Viola Panacheese & Marilyn Munroe)

1 she did in her past life. And she -- oh, yeah, and then
2 there's when she was -- when she was young -- younger and
3 during the time when she -- when she grew up with -- back
4 in Sachigo Lake First Nation, she -- she's kind of -- as a
5 teenager, you wanted to explore -- explore things like
6 drugs, alcohol and relationships, and things like that.
7 But the most important I taught her while she was alive was
8 just I taught her to -- to be kind to everybody when -- who
9 she ever met during -- during her life. I always told her
10 to help -- help them as best as you can. That's what my
11 parents used to taught me is to help people no matter what
12 you -- what you have. Whether you have a little, you have
13 yourself, to help out. Don't ignore the person that needs
14 your help. Maybe one of these days they'll come back to
15 you and -- and they'll help you too is what I always told
16 her too. And when I heard from her other -- other people
17 around her, I always hear things that she -- she helps
18 people when she was living in Winnipeg. She tried to help
19 everybody no matter -- no matter how the person's done
20 or -- or couldn't help themselves, so she kind of support
21 them. That's the way I like my -- my late -- late
22 daughter -- daughter's legacy, to help people. And I try
23 to do my best to -- to help people the way -- the
24 way -- what my parents taught me how to treat people.

25 As the years go by, I can't -- I'm getting

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James Munroe & Ina Commanda
(Viola Panacheese & Marilyn Munroe)

1 to the age that I can't -- I got a few more -- a few more
2 years to work where I'm working right now and then I'll
3 have to retire and my goal is to try to find out about
4 my -- about my daughter's murder and then -- then my late
5 sister's disappearance years back. Maybe I'll start
6 working on it while I still have time in this world. And I
7 know it'll take a lot of frustration to seek the -- the
8 answer, what I'm trying to seek. And if I can't do it,
9 then I'll get my son or my two grandsons to -- to look, try
10 to find out what happened to her and to my sister.

11 But this -- this is a picture of my -- my
12 daughter. Her name is Marilyn Rose Munroe. The reason I
13 called Marilyn Munroe, when she was born I copied
14 the -- the movie actor, so I called her Marilyn. And every
15 time she was in Toronto airport and then -- then they
16 announced on the PA to, "Is there a Marilyn Munroe in -- in
17 the terminal?" they said everybody looked around. "Marilyn
18 Munroe, I thought she was passed already." That's a good
19 thing about Marilyn. She -- she used to like her -- her
20 name, Marilyn.

21 I only got two -- two kids out of my
22 marriage by my -- my ex-wife passed away about four or five
23 years ago. And I got my other son that lives in -- with me
24 in -- back in Sachigo and he -- he's another -- another
25 famous people's name I took down in history. That's

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James Munroe & Ina Commanda
(Viola Panacheese & Marilyn Munroe)

1 [James' Son], but [James' Son]'s name was -- the character
2 was a black man from down in the States, so I called him
3 [James' Son], but his last name is [last name], not Munroe.
4 And if I had another son, I would have called him John
5 Paul. That's another pirate -- buccaneer.

6 And -- and my name -- and my first name is
7 James -- my last name is James Munroe. That was the fifth
8 President of the United States, so I must be reincarnated.
9 Okay.

10 I'm trying to -- maybe I could try to find
11 some help from -- from the -- from this Inquiry about -- to
12 see what -- some resources I could get from -- from some
13 supporting hand, maybe try to get involved with this.
14 Anyways, like all my heart, I -- I should try to find out
15 what happened to her and -- and my late sister.

16 I haven't seen my sister -- I was the last
17 one to see my late sister, Viola, when she -- the way when
18 she was -- disappeared. I always -- all my family -- all
19 my family that went away already, I seem to be the only
20 one, the first and last person, to -- to see them and I
21 always think it's -- I think it's part of my fault, if I
22 did my best to look after them while they're still alive.
23 I think that's three times already -- three times already
24 that I blame myself on that. I always think I should have
25 helped them, tried to encourage them to stop what they're

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James Munroe & Ina Commanda
(Viola Panacheese & Marilyn Munroe)

1 doing, but I guess I'm kind of -- I was too late on that.

2 There's nothing, I guess -- nothing else I
3 could say about her except I -- except I'd like to find out
4 what happened to her. I know she will try -- she
5 will -- and maybe -- maybe in her space, she'll probably
6 tell me what that said. She -- she would have said
7 something to me about -- about her -- her incident, but I
8 don't know if that would help on my part. It's pretty hard
9 to say now.

10 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** Do you want to talk
11 about when you went to Winnipeg for your sister and then
12 how you were expecting to see Marilyn?

13 **MR. JAMES MUNROE:** I wasn't really -- I knew
14 she -- she must have heard I was coming to town, but I
15 don't know that she -- maybe she was doing something else,
16 but she knew -- she knew I was kind of a busy person all
17 the time, but like I mean I've been busy all my life.

18 Ever since I was 12 years old, I always
19 had -- my first job was at 12 years old. I started making
20 money at 12 years old, my own. I like to go to work. I
21 like to go to school. I like to take sports, be in sports,
22 every -- every sport I could -- could enter. And I really
23 did enjoy my life the way -- the way my -- my life was, to
24 be -- to do everything. And I landed in a good job too,
25 which I'm still employed with same -- same company. And I

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James Munroe & Ina Commanda
(Viola Panacheese & Marilyn Munroe)

1 travelled a lot in the whole part of western
2 Ontario -- western Canada. I travel down the west coast,
3 the Yukon, and all those places. I met a lot of people,
4 good people. All -- all lots of life.

5 And my -- my parents took -- took two of my
6 kids over to BC one time there too when I was working,
7 which I was glad my parents took them over there to see me.
8 And then once -- the funny thing is -- is my daughter used
9 to call me every two weeks, ask me for money. She knew
10 when my pay date landed all the time. See, like -- like
11 she needed help, so I'd give her a helping hand sometimes.

12 Like I helped people. I don't -- I'm not
13 selfish with anything what I got. What was given -- what
14 was given to me and what I earned, I -- I give back. Like
15 there's no way I could say no to anybody. I even help
16 street people, everybody that I see that needs help, but
17 usually -- usually I don't give them cash. I give them
18 something to eat, at least, to make a day go through. And
19 Marilyn would have needed -- Marilyn was always like that
20 though. She was --

21 **MS. INA COMMANDA:** She was.

22 **MR. JAMES MUNROE:** She was a kind -- a kind
23 lady to everybody. And my son's -- my son is beginning to
24 see like the way I like -- I see too.

25 And, well, I'd like to get some help, that's

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James Munroe & Ina Commanda
(Viola Panacheese & Marilyn Munroe)

1 all, and recoup (ph) -- recoup what is the situation that's
2 the tragedy I had in my past life and maybe I could open my
3 mind and be a little bit stronger too, a stronger person,
4 or maybe I'd like -- I'd like help. I'd like some advice.
5 I'd like -- I'd like to talk to the Elders. I'm an Elder
6 too, but I don't have the wisdom, what they have.

7 What I got to support -- I got supporting
8 hands from -- from my family and my sisters. Yeah, that's
9 all I got is my sister. My other brothers are -- are gone.
10 The most person I got to help me is my -- my second oldest
11 sister. Her name's Ina. She -- she's a much strong woman
12 and I always try to see her as much as I can when I'm up
13 north, but not too often I come to town because I kind of
14 sort of -- I love my job, yeah.

15 Maybe this Inquiry will give me some -- a
16 new -- yeah, a new look -- a new look towards life. And
17 maybe if I have time, maybe I could kind of help people,
18 give them information the way -- the way I did, all those
19 60-ish years of my life, or maybe I could give some
20 information about the younger people, how they -- how to
21 live their life. Can I cut it for --

22 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** You want to cut it
23 again? Okay.

24 --- Upon recessing

25 --- Upon reconvening

1 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Okay. So I'll start
2 it. Just tell me when to start.

3 MS. INA COMMANDA: Okay. I will start off
4 with my niece, Marilyn. Her dates read December 23, 1974,
5 when she was born and it says here February 22, 2016.
6 That's the date she was found in Winnipeg. And how that
7 came to be was -- I can't even remember who phoned me that
8 time saying that she was missing, but this guy she was
9 living with in Winnipeg, he posted on Facebook that her
10 family was concerned about her and for people -- if anybody
11 had information where she was to get a hold of him through
12 his Facebook. And that happened on a certain day. I can't
13 remember when though.

14 And then -- and I can't remember if it was
15 the -- the same day or the day after that thing came up on
16 Facebook, they're wheeling her out of that building in a
17 stretcher. Anyway, I wonder how many days we waited before
18 we could have that service.

19 MR. JAMES MUNROE: Two days.

20 MS. INA COMMANDA: We waited two days for
21 her body to be released?

22 MR. JAMES MUNROE: Yeah, because I had to
23 fly -- fly out to here to (indiscernible). Two days that
24 stayed there.

25 MS. INA COMMANDA: Oh, yeah. Anyway, we had

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(Viola Panacheese & Marilyn Munroe)

1 to wait a few days to get the release of her body so we
2 could have a wake for her in Winnipeg.

3 And anyway, before that -- before that, my
4 brother and I, we had entered -- not entered -- we -- we
5 went to a National Inquiry thing in Winnipeg on Portage and
6 Main at this hotel called -- called Lombard Place and we
7 were there on -- on behalf of my sister, Viola. So
8 in -- and we kept wondering why Marilyn wasn't contacting
9 us. At different times, he's say -- he'd say, "She -- she
10 never called me yet," and I would ask again. You know, I
11 said, "Did she call you?"

12 So after this Inquiry was over, over there,
13 he went home and I went home. And it was only -- I don't
14 even know if it was a week later when -- when this thing
15 came out.

16 **MR. JAMES MUNROE:** Yeah.

17 **MS. INA COMMANDA:** I can't remember the
18 dates. And that's when we were told that she was missing
19 and, anyway, it's so weird about how that happened.

20 Like her boyfriend, like I said, had posted
21 it up that she was missing. And then just in a little
22 short while, she's being wheeled out of their apartment in
23 Winnipeg and they -- my brother's never been told nothing.
24 It was a closed casket. They haven't told him how she died
25 or -- you know, and stuff like that, nothing.

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1 And my niece, she lives in (indiscernible)
2 Lake. She was a spokesperson for the whole family, like,
3 but they never contacted her. And one time Jodi called me
4 up and she says, "I'm so upset," she says, about what that
5 detective said, so we went to Winnipeg. We went to
6 Winnipeg because we were having a memorial walk for her.
7 That was last year. In February, we went there.

8 **MR. JAMES MUNROE:** I didn't go.

9 **MS. INA COMMANDA:** Oh, yeah, you couldn't
10 make it. You were weathered out again.

11 **MR. JAMES MUNROE:** Weathered out again.

12 **MS. INA COMMANDA:** Yeah, he's always being
13 weathered out.

14 Anyway, we did -- me and my niece put on
15 this walk for her, so right from her place to where
16 we -- it was quite a -- quite a walk, but there's a -- have
17 you heard of the Bear Clan in Winnipeg?

18 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** M'hm.

19 **MS. INA COMMANDA:** They helped us. They
20 were so -- so good to us.

21 Anyway, that's -- that was last year we had
22 her walk. So my niece was telling me how upset she was, so
23 she got in touch with the detective and I talked to -- to
24 that detective and I was upset too because he said that he
25 had told her that it was her lifestyle and I said, "What

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1 does that mean?" I says, "I don't understand what you mean
2 by that. Does that mean you're not going to try hard to
3 find out anything?" and he -- he did apologize. He said,
4 "I'm sorry that there was a miscommunication here," he
5 said. And he said, "I'm the voice for these people who can
6 no longer talk for themselves." And he says, "I try hard."
7 I believed him. You know, like I believe what he's saying,
8 but -- but still they never -- they never said anything,
9 who they interviewed or -- or -- you know, he hasn't even
10 gotten the coroner's report, nothing. I mean it doesn't
11 change the fact, but still we would like to know. I would
12 like to know.

13 You know, like I talked to the funeral
14 director that time when we were there and he said it was
15 going to be closed, a closed casket. Anyway, we
16 took -- took her home to be buried by her mom in Osnaburgh.
17 They call it Mishkeegogamang now.

18 And you should have seen her daughter.
19 She's got two little kids yet. [Marilyn's Child 1] is
20 15 --

21 **MR. JAMES MUNROE:** Yeah.

22 **MS. INA COMMANDA:** -- and [Marilyn's Child
23 2] must be around 11?

24 **MR. JAMES MUNROE:** I don't know, but two
25 years apart, I think.

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(Viola Panacheese & Marilyn Munroe)

1 MS. INA COMMANDA: Oh, yeah.

2 MR. JAMES MUNROE: Two years apart.

3 MS. INA COMMANDA: So, okay, she must be
4 around 13. She stayed right -- right at the gravesite
5 until that last bit of sand was thrown on the grave, yeah.
6 Yeah, [Marilyn's Child 2].

7 And -- and my sister, Margot (ph), raised
8 her first son. His name is [Marilyn's Child 3], just
9 [Marilyn's Child 3]. My dad -- my dad started that thing
10 off. My dad's name was [Father], so --

11 MR. JAMES MUNROE: The late -- the late
12 [Occupation], [Father].

13 MS. INA COMMANDA: So anyway, us,
14 we -- we -- like my -- my son's name is [Ina's Son] and so
15 on, you know, after my dad. And I think he was getting
16 tired of naming a friend of his [Father] -- or a name after
17 [Father], anyway. We were wondering about Marilyn's son,
18 what the name should -- what other name should be there,
19 and he says, "No, just [Marilyn's Child 3]," he says, so
20 that's what we called him. Even my -- my granddaughter,
21 she named -- she named her son [Ina's Great-grandson] after
22 my -- my dad. Anyway, getting -- that's getting off the
23 subject.

24 But -- so my sister raised her son, her
25 oldest boy. I don't know how old he is now, about

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(Viola Panacheese & Marilyn Munroe)

1 19 -- 19, 20, somewhere around there. And then she had
2 another daughter and she's here now. You're going to phone
3 her after.

4 MR. JAMES MUNROE: Who?

5 MS. INA COMMANDA: [Marilyn's Child 4].

6 MR. JAMES MUNROE: Oh, yeah.

7 MS. INA COMMANDA: Yeah. So Marilyn left
8 four children behind, but, you know, the -- the
9 youngest -- the youngest girl, that will always stick in my
10 mind, how -- how -- and Marilyn used to go see them all the
11 time in Winnipeg. Her and her partner were not together,
12 the children's father. They were not together, but
13 she -- you know, they were on good -- good term. Like
14 [Partner] always said, "Come over and see the kids." You
15 know, he never said, "You can't see the kids," never. But
16 they were close. She was close to her children, yeah.

17 So anyway we -- we're hoping that somehow it
18 can open doors to -- to people who are wanting answers and
19 it's just like banging your head against a wall. You know,
20 they say, "I can't tell you anything." It's almost like
21 saying, "I'm not going to tell you anything." That's how
22 it feels even though they don't use those kind of words.
23 That's how I find it anyway. So I -- I really hope they
24 can help my brother with -- with everything that he needs
25 to know. It's the knowing that can give you some kind of

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1 peace in your mind and heart. It's the uncertainty -- you
2 know, sometimes it's so hard to believe that it happened,
3 it actually happened.

4 But like I said yesterday, you know, like I
5 love talking about my grandmother. My grandmother and I
6 lived in the bush until I was about five and -- and then my
7 dad moved us to -- to where he worked. And I said that's
8 when evil touched us, being in town, learning about booze,
9 what it can do to a person. Like, you know, it's -- it's
10 no good. And kids nowadays, they -- actually, I'm looking
11 after three of my great-grandchildren and I'm trying to
12 tell the girls to be careful and it's scary because people
13 can just do anything to your children. Some of it is not
14 good. Yeah, especially, you know, people like this poor,
15 poor woman. And you never know when it's going to hit
16 close to your own life.

17 You know, she was so -- she was funny and
18 kind, and I was telling this woman before. I says, you
19 know, "She didn't want much. You know, she didn't want
20 lots of things. She didn't want beautiful things." You
21 know, like I was telling this woman. I said, "If she had a
22 mattress, it didn't matter if she didn't have a box spring
23 for it." That's how she was, you know. She always put
24 somebody else's comfort ahead of herself. That's how she
25 was. And if you travelled with her, every stop you -- you

1 made, she'd buy something for you. She was always doing
2 that.

3 **MR. JAMES MUNROE:** That's how we -- that's
4 how we -- in our family, that's how we -- we treat people,
5 even my mom too.

6 I was kind of surprised what Ina said one
7 time too while in Thunder Bay. I think she was coming from
8 Winnipeg because she was on the Greyhound and she met this
9 lady and she didn't have anything to eat,
10 nothing -- anything like that, and she gave what she had in
11 her pocket. She just gave it to her and -- and, you know,
12 that's the kind of persons we are. We like to help people
13 no matter how little we got, we just give it away. That's
14 how people -- how we treat people. I hope people treat
15 other people the way we treat people.

16 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** M'hm.

17 **MR. JAMES MUNROE:** Yeah.

18 **MS. INA COMMANDA:** Yeah, she was -- she was
19 travelling to Toronto. She didn't even have coffee money
20 and here when we stopped -- well, I was getting off here in
21 Thunder Bay and I bought her coffee right from Winnipeg and
22 so I just gave her what I had left over. And you know
23 what? She gave me -- she dug in her little bag and she
24 gave me one of those dish cloths that are knitted. I felt
25 so humble when she did that. She just pressed it in my

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1 hand and I said, "Oh, thank you very much." I said, "I'm
2 going to treasure this," yeah. And I haven't seen her. I
3 hope she made it. She was visiting her daughter.

4 But those are -- you know, it just happens
5 that way.

6 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** And what about Viola?
7 How did -- how did she go missing?

8 **MS. INA COMMANDA:** My sister, Viola?

9 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** M'hm.

10 **MS. INA COMMANDA:** She disappeared from
11 Sachigo -- from Sachigo -- from Sioux Lookout.

12 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** In what year?

13 **MS. INA COMMANDA:** 1991, m'hm.

14 **MR. JAMES MUNROE:** Yeah, I was the last one
15 to talk to her too. I told her to stay in the room and,
16 "I'll come back for you later," but being me, it carried
17 over that and I haven't seen her since after that. And
18 when I heard she was missing, I went, "Oh, oh." And that's
19 another person that I'd like to find out what happened to
20 her. And I think she's around -- some place around the
21 whole -- the whole area of Sioux Lookout, but where would
22 she be buried?

23 We took a -- we took a Google of the -- the
24 whole Sioux Lookout area where we could -- the whole, maybe
25 about -- about a ten-mile radius, I think we did. We did

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(Viola Panacheese & Marilyn Munroe)

1 the Google on the whole Sioux Lookout area and we tried to
2 find any -- any spots where -- where she could be buried.
3 There's a lot of places where we looked at it on the -- on
4 the Google -- Earth Google. That's what you call it, Earth
5 Google?

6 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Google Earth?

7 MR. JAMES MUNROE: Yeah.

8 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: M'hm.

9 MR. JAMES MUNROE: Yeah. And that's -- then
10 the next -- the next step I could do is start -- get a
11 report first, what happened, from -- from the day I left
12 her in Sioux and that -- that afternoon, in the afternoon,
13 not in the end, in the afternoon, and then where -- where
14 she went.

15 I heard she went uptown after we left her.
16 And from there, who she talked to, who she met, start from
17 there and work your way up. And then after that, then look
18 at the location where -- where she could -- maybe she could
19 be buried or -- or maybe she could be buried past the
20 ten -- ten-mile radius of the Sioux Lookout area, and we'll
21 find out from there.

22 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Was there ever a police
23 case opened for her?

24 MR. JAMES MUNROE: That's another thing.
25 They never gave me information or anything like that, but

1 it would be good if I had that information.

2 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Right.

3 MR. JAMES MUNROE: It would be good if that
4 information was given to me. I could start working on it,
5 do my own -- my own investigation, but it wouldn't be
6 involved with anything except me, find out what happened to
7 her. I know we -- we had -- I did -- I came from -- from
8 Mishkeegogamang.

9 I used to work for Mishkeegogamang Band
10 there that year that I came -- came for a break from my job
11 there, so I went to Sioux and I seen her there. I was kind
12 of surprised seeing her, happy to see her, but in the
13 afternoon like we had -- we had a party in the -- in the
14 room. Then after the party, everyone decided to go to the
15 bar that afternoon and I told her she -- she was drunk
16 already. I told her to stay in the room, "I'll come and
17 check on you later on." And the next day, I couldn't find
18 her, so I went home. Then, like I said, I feel like kind
19 of what happened to her. I know I don't have very much
20 years left. Well, I hope to live a hundred -- at least a
21 hundred.

22 MS. INA COMMANDA: No, you don't. No, you
23 won't be able to walk.

24 MR. JAMES MUNROE: Yeah, then I would just
25 start, try to find -- seek my -- try to find out what

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1 happened to them. That's my goal right now. After this,
2 then I'll collect my thoughts once I get home. Try to get
3 more involved with that. And if I could solve my -- my
4 daughter's -- daughter's murder and my sister's -- my
5 sister's disappearance, maybe I could give more information
6 to other people, what -- what I -- what procedures I did if
7 I found it. If I found the answer and see what happened,
8 well, I could give the information to other people. I
9 think that would -- that would be my goal.

10 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** Thank you.

11 **MR. JAMES MUNROE:** Yeah.

12 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** Would you like to end
13 it here?

14 **MS. INA COMMANDA:** (Speaking in Native
15 language.)

16 **MR. JAMES MUNROE:** Huh?

17 **MS. INA COMMANDA:** (Speaking in Native
18 language.)

19 **MR. JAMES MUNROE:** Yeah. That's all I could
20 say. That's all.

21 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** Ina, do you want to add
22 anything?

23 **MR. JAMES MUNROE:** The only thing I'd like
24 to -- the only thing I'd like to know, I'd like more
25 information like you guys, the way you guys are doing it,

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1 yeah. But there's no information for us, so I need -- I
2 need something to go by.

3 When I walk out of the room, that's -- my
4 goal is -- as soon as I walk out of this -- out of this
5 room, my goal is to find out later, start from there. And
6 if I can't find it, maybe my -- my son or my family
7 will -- my family members will start -- seek
8 where -- seek -- try to find the answer on that
9 whole -- the whole tragedy we -- we have reached in -- in
10 our family. Yeah, that's -- well.

11 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Ina?

12 **MS. INA COMMANDA:** You know, for -- for my
13 sister, like I tried to use our own people. And like I
14 used to dream about her in the beginning and I was telling
15 this woman I had the same dream three times about my
16 sister. And I was talking to a woman here from somewhere
17 around here. That was quite a few years ago, so I can't
18 remember her name. And she told me to -- to try and
19 recognize where she's leading me, but, you know,
20 I -- everything is so fussy when I dream anyway.

21 So my mother, she told me that she was taken
22 by rapture, and I don't know if -- if you know about
23 rapture. Do you know about rapture? It's in the Bible.
24 Like if you're -- if you suffer too much or -- like you can
25 suffer in your body, in your soul, you know, like that.

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1 God will -- God has compassion on you and He'll come and
2 take you home, and that's what my mother died believing,
3 that she was taken by rapture.

4 But, you know, like when I -- her and I were
5 close, really close. Lots of times she used to come to me
6 in Winnipeg and, "Rub my back, Ina. Let me sleep with you,
7 Ina," like stuff like that, so I'd rub her back, take her
8 to clinic. Like she drank a lot and I'd take her to the
9 clinic and stuff and made sure she had a lot of juice and
10 stuff like that.

11 But even when she was like younger, her and
12 I had this -- something going between us. I would know
13 when she needed me. I knew when she was hurt and
14 she -- she had a lot of hurts in her life. [Two lines
15 removed pursuant to Rule 55] And I -- I knew each time
16 when -- when this thing was going to happen, but we're so
17 far apart, you know. I spent some of my life in Red
18 Lake -- in Red Lake and she'd be here in Pickle Lake, you
19 know, like -- like that. That's lots of miles apart.

20 And after when I first heard that she was
21 gone, I know -- I knew she was really gone, but you still
22 have that hope. You know, people can be wrong, you know,
23 but I felt it already that I'd never see her again. I knew
24 it. And I -- I even took my parents. Two -- two weeks we
25 were gone searching in Sioux Lookout and you -- you have

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1 that hope, at least find her so we can take her home to
2 have a burial, you know, and it's been 26 years. So, you
3 know, my mind is kind of leaning towards rapture too, you
4 know. I'd like to believe that. I'd really, really like
5 to believe that, you know, so at least, you know, she's
6 safe and nobody will ever hurt her again. That's what I'd
7 like to believe.

8 My mom passed away in 1994, almost when my
9 daughter was having a birthday. She died May the -- the
10 end of May and my daughter's birthday was on [birthdate].
11 I think my mom died of a broken heart because my two
12 brothers were gone and then Viola, and then not even a year
13 after Viola disappeared, her husband died accidentally,
14 yeah, but my mother too, she -- she prayed a lot. That
15 used to -- she could -- my mother could barely move --

16 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** M'hm.

17 **MS. INA COMMANDA:** -- just -- oh, she could
18 barely move. I'd take her to church all the time, go sit
19 with her in church and as soon as she got going, she's up
20 there dancing, dancing away, yeah.

21 Well, I'd like to thank you people
22 for -- maybe you're opening doors for us.

23 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** Thank you both for
24 sharing.

25 **MS. INA COMMANDA:** M'hm.


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(Viola Panacheese & Marilyn Munroe)

- 1 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** Do you want to stop it
- 2 here? Okay.
- 3 --- Upon adjourning at 11:03 a.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jane Baniulis, 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.



Jane Baniulis

March 10, 2018