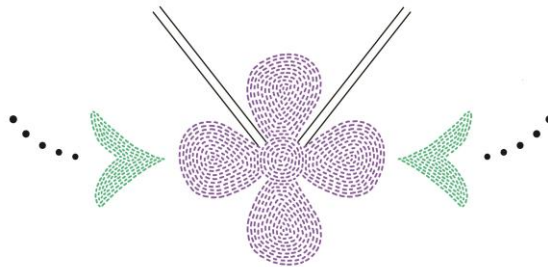


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Whitehorse, Yukon Territory**



PUBLIC

Thursday June 1, 2017

Statement - Volume 5

Helen Charlie, In relation to Ruth Charlie

**Statement gathered by
Lillian Lundrigan, Commission Counsel**

INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.

II

ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 7 of Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice, Chief Commissioner Marion Buller ordered that all names and locations be made anonymous in this transcript and any related documents. The order for anonymity was made May 23, 2019.

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June 1, 2017

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Commission Counsel: Lillian Lundrigan

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

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Helen Charlie
(Ruth Charlie)

June 1, 2017
Whitehorse, YT

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(PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED)

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: We're recording.
Okay. So before we start we have a gift of tobacco for you as our thank you for starting the truth-gathering process --
MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Okay.
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- with you.
MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah.
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: We appreciate very much --
MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Okay. Thank you.
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- the courage to share your story. And I have to get some --
MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah.
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- information from you just like I did with [J.] the other day. And I explained -- this is being recorded, and there's three different ways it can be put into the inquiry records: in camera, which means that it won't go into the public; public, which means it will be part of the public -- public records --
MS. HELEN CHARLIE: M'm-hm.
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- with your -- your name and your loved one's name being published; or if you want a public ban your story will be made public but the names will be made private, so any reference to your name will be -- and your loved one's name -- or if you want your loved one's name public, then your name will be made private. So you have a choice of in camera --
MS. HELEN CHARLIE: What was the first one?
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: In camera.
MS. HELEN CHARLIE: We'll just do that one. Public, yeah.
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Public?
MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah.
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. And this is regarding a family member or --
MS. HELEN CHARLIE: My sister Ruth.
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. And what's your mailing address?
MS. HELEN CHARLIE: [Address].
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Oh, sorry. [Address] --
MS. HELEN CHARLIE: [Address].

Statement - Public
Helen Charlie
(Ruth Charlie)

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1 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: I was automatically going to put a
2 box number. And postal code?
3 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: [Address].
4 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: [Address]?
5 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah.
6 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Do you have a phone, cell or land
7 line, and an email?
8 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Cell. [Phone number].
9 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Do you have an email?
10 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: No.
11 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: No? Okay. And you're First
12 Nations. What's your First Nation --
13 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Kwanlin Dun.
14 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Kwan --
15 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: K-w-a-n-l-i-n D-u-n.
16 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And your first language?
17 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: English.
18 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And that's your preferred
19 language?
20 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yep.
21 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: So can you give me the name of
22 your --
23 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: My sister? Ruth. Ruth Charlie.
24 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. Can you give me a brief
25 description of your family -- like are you
26 married? Do you have children?
27 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: [*Personal information*]
28 [*personal information*]
29 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: [*personal information*]
30 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: [*personal information*].
31 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. I can't believe it's June
32 1st already.
33 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: M'm-hm.
34 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Do you have any current support
35 workers, therapists or social workers,
36 traditional or not?
37 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: No.
38 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:: No?
39 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: But I can -- I can get some. And I --
40 I have [Friend 1].
41 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And do you -- we can provide a
42 check-in call from our health support people as
43 well. And as well they -- you can tell them you
44 want to take part in the next public hearing.
45 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Okay.
46 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Would you like a check-in --
47 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yes.

Statement - Public
Helen Charlie
(Ruth Charlie)

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1 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. Do you prefer weekly or
2 biweekly?
3 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Biweekly is good.
4 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. That doesn't apply here.
5 Do you have any physical concerns that you
6 want to share with us? Health or medical? Are
7 you on any medicine --
8 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: *[personal information]*.
9 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: *[personal information]*
10 *[personal information]*?
11 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: *[personal information]*
12 *[personal information]*--
13 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: I don't think --
14 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: *[personal information]*.
15 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:: Okay.
16 MS. CHARLIE: *[personal information]*
17 *[personal information]*
18 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: *[personal information]*?
19 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: *[personal information]*
20 *[personal information]*
21 *[personal information]*
22 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: *[personal information]*
23 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: *[personal information]*
24 *[personal information]*
25 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. Dietary considerations?
26 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: No.
27 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Diabetic?
28 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: No.
29 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: No? Okay.
30 This applies to which -- if you want to
31 share with us traditional spiritual practices or
32 religious spiritual practices, do you prefer --
33 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Either one. Doesn't matter.
34 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Doesn't matter? Okay. We'll just
35 put that.
36 So now we can start to -- talking about your
37 sister. She was murdered?
38 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: My sister Ruth was murdered in 1985.
39 It's been 32 years. And this is the first time
40 I'm sharing with somebody or others -- I shared
41 once with [Friend 1].
42 My family is -- my family were all in
43 residential school -- most of us were in
44 residential school. I have nine bothers and
45 seven sisters. We were basically raised in
46 Chooutla residential school.
47 My mom didn't drink. My dad drank, but he

Statement - Public
Helen Charlie
(Ruth Charlie)

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1 was a weekend drinker. And he worked -- he
2 worked for the City of Whitehorse all his life.

3 And then in 1977 my mom died suddenly from a
4 brain tumour and then seven months later my dad
5 passed away from stomach cancer. So we were all
6 basically left on our own.

7 And then in 1979 my brother walked out of
8 the hospital and he drowned in the river.

9 And then six years later my sister Ruth was
10 murdered. She was -- she was stabbed by --
11 killed by or taken from us by [A.C.]
12 [phonetic].

13 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: [A.] ...?

14 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: [A.C.].

15 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.

16 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: He had stabbed her right from her
17 right -- right shoulder up here right down to her
18 left side of her stomach.

19 And I guess she was trying to get away from
20 him, and she did make it out the door, but she
21 didn't make it far from where they lived. And
22 some people were walking up by the clay cliffs.
23 And they used to live at the end of Main -- Main
24 Street here in Whitehorse in the apartments. And
25 right across from Main Street, their building,
26 and right across this way -- she walked that way.
27 Somebody found her during the night, I guess.

28 And the next day they -- they told me. They
29 told us what happened, and I went -- I got into a
30 depression state for a while.

31 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'm-hm.

32 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Ruth was -- she was a year older than
33 me. She looked after me and she taught me things
34 and she was always -- she was always with me and
35 protecting me.

36 She had a rough life. Prior to being with
37 -[A.C.] - [A.C.] was a very, very violent man
38 with her. Ruth had lived with a guy named [L.J.]
39 just before she met [A.C.]. She had left
40 [L.J.] and ended up with [A.C.].

41 And we tried to -- our best to get her away
42 from him because she was always phoning to my
43 sister Arlene -- all my family had passed on.
44 There's only four of us left. She would always
45 phoning to Arlene and tell Arlene that [A.C.] was
46 being mean with her and fighting her and hitting
47 her. We were always trying to -- Arlene and

Statement - Public
Helen Charlie
(Ruth Charlie)

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1 Dorothy, my older sisters, were always trying to
2 get her away, but she wouldn't leave.

3 I didn't think -- I didn't think in my life,
4 back then, that she'd be taken so violently. It
5 was the hardest thing that we had to go through
6 as a family.

7 And Ruth left a son, Howard. I think Howard
8 was six years old. Five or six. And back then
9 they didn't -- the welfare would just take your
10 kids and not say nothing. It's changed now.
11 They can go to the family and ask the family if
12 they can look after that child.

13 But they just took Howard. And Howard died
14 in a fire with his foster parents, but -- he was
15 the only one that couldn't make it out. He
16 passed away. And then they asked us if we wanted
17 him back. Then we talked about it and we said
18 no. Because at that time back then we
19 couldn't -- they wouldn't give him the presents
20 we sent him, the birthday cards or anything of
21 that stuff. They wouldn't give it to him. We
22 were told not to send anything to him.

23 [redacted - other criminal matter]
24 [redacted - other criminal matter]
25 [redacted - other criminal matter]
26 [redacted - other criminal matter]
27 [redacted - other criminal matter]
28 [redacted - other criminal matter]
29 [redacted - other criminal matter]
30 [redacted - other criminal matter]
31 [redacted - other criminal matter]
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35 [redacted - other criminal matter]
36 [redacted - other criminal matter]
37 [redacted - other criminal matter]
38 [redacted - other criminal matter]
39 [redacted - other criminal matter]
40 [redacted - other criminal matter]
41 [redacted - other criminal matter]
42 [redacted - other criminal matter]
43 [redacted - other criminal matter]
44 [redacted - other criminal matter]
45 [redacted - other criminal matter]

46 With my sister Ruth we went to court and he got
47 three years in jail and that was it. I don't know

Statement - Public
Helen Charlie
(Ruth Charlie)

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1 where [A.C.] is and I don't -- I want to find
2 out more about him, but I don't know if I should or
3 not.

4 I think in the future too -- I think
5 somehow, some way we should have some kind
6 of tribute for our -- our loved ones that are
7 gone. I see in the news they have pictures of
8 people -- they've got pictures of the lost women
9 in Vancouver on a wall, and it's really
10 beautiful. We should have something like that up
11 here, have a picture of our loved ones with their
12 name and where they're from. Even if we could
13 put one in each community.

14 I couldn't believe how many people I know
15 that are down here. I didn't even know the --
16 how many of them that I know that are my friends
17 that have lost their loved ones through this
18 murdered -- being murdered or killed.

19 I don't -- we don't even have a headstone
20 for my sister. And sometimes I think it's
21 shameful because it just shows we don't have
22 money to do anything like that. All my brothers
23 and sisters, my mom and dad, we have nothing for
24 them.

25 And I pray for all of those families that
26 are down here. It's so hard and so difficult.
27 You walk anywhere and you hear them talking about
28 their family.

29 I don't know why this -- I don't know why
30 it took so long to have something like this,
31 32 years. I hope through this program I get
32 closure.

33 But I wanted my brother and my sister to be
34 here. There's so much I want to say, but I don't
35 know if I should say it.

36 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Oh, sorry. Hold on.

37 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: That's my phone.

38 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Oh, it's your phone. Sorry.

39 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: That's okay.

40 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Just take your time. We can take
41 as long as you need, Helen.

42 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: There's something that I'm -- when I
43 was walking around here thinking about all the people
44 and all the families that are -- that are lost
45 and that are -- like don't know where to go and
46 how to do things, like myself, and I think one of
47 the things that we should do before this is over

Statement - Public
Helen Charlie
(Ruth Charlie)

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1 is put ribbons or something on -- somewhere --
2 somewhere for them.
3 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
4 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Just like my -- so that my sister isn't
5 so lost.
6 She was a good mom. She worked all her life
7 until [A.C.] just came by and took her.
8 I don't know what else to say. I have so
9 much, but I don't know where to start or how to
10 do it.
11 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Can I ask a couple of questions?
12 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah.
13 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And maybe that can -- it's up to
14 you if you want to discuss further about it, but
15 I just want to ask about your nephew Howard. How
16 old was he when his mom died?
17 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: When he passed on?
18 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: When his mother was -- how old was
19 he when he went to the foster parents?
20 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: I think he was six -- five or six years
21 old.
22 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. And how old was he when he
23 passed away?
24 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: 20 -- he was -- I think it was either
25 23 or 24. They had a fire. He was living with
26 his foster parents in BC and they had a fire and
27 he couldn't get out.
28 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
29 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: I was so angry -- so angry at that too.
30 Like why didn't they save him? There's so much
31 death in our family it's like sometimes I can't
32 even think how we keep coping and keep getting
33 along.
34 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And you mentioned you weren't
35 allowed to send him gifts.
36 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: No, they told us -- the welfare told us
37 that we cannot send him presents or birthday
38 cards or Christmas cards or Christmas presents,
39 and that devastated our family and was like --
40 why?
41 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'm-hm.
42 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: You know? Why? Why can't we -- why
43 can't we do that? They took us away to a
44 residential school. We couldn't see our parents
45 all -- for ten months.
46 So the residential closed and then the
47 welfare happened, and still the same thing. You

Statement - Public
Helen Charlie
(Ruth Charlie)

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1 can't even -- couldn't even send him a birthday
2 card. They just told us not to send him
3 anything.
4 But I met him.
5 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. What --
6 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: I met him. I met him. He came up in --
7 I -- I can't even calculate right now, but I
8 think he was -- I met him. He was like 21 -- no,
9 sorry. He was probably 19.
10 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
11 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: He was tall, handsome, looked like his
12 dad. His dad's really [indiscernible]. He looks
13 like his dad and he's very handsome.
14 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: You said he came up here?
15 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah, he came up here to Whitehorse.
16 He went to see -- I tried to find a picture of my
17 sister, and just now as we're talking about this
18 I know who has pictures of her. I'm going to go
19 get one before the next hearing. Is -- Howard,
20 Ruth's son, went to see Sadie George, but Sadie
21 had passed on. And her daughter has everything,
22 so Sadie has pictures of Ruth. So Howard went to
23 meet her and Howard took some pictures of his mom
24 and dad -- copies of those pictures.
25 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. So he had -- he took
26 pictures with him?
27 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yes. Yeah.
28 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. When he came up he was 19,
29 so he was old enough to make that decision for
30 himself?
31 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah.
32 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And he made a choice to come up
33 here and meet family.
34 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah, I'm happy. I'm happy he did.
35 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: When they took him to -- when they
36 took him away from your family after your sister
37 died there was no permission asked --
38 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: They -- no.
39 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: No?
40 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: They just -- they took -- they just
41 like took him.
42 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. And is he buried in BC?
43 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah.
44 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
45 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: It's sad when it's like that too
46 because we didn't have the money to fly him up --
47 or we didn't have the money to have a service and

Statement - Public
Helen Charlie
(Ruth Charlie)

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1 stuff. And I was angry because they took all our
2 rights away from him when he was alive and then
3 he passed on and they wanted us to overtake -- or
4 take over whatever we had to do to do the
5 potlatch and all that kind of stuff. I was
6 angry. I was really angry.
7 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. Just to go back to another
8 comment you made about tribute for loved ones
9 that are gone, you mentioned what they are doing
10 in Vancouver and what you would like to see, like
11 pictures of loved ones and names and where
12 they're from and in communities affected. Is
13 that a recommendation you'd like to make to the
14 inquiry?
15 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah. It would -- it would be -- I
16 think it would be a wonderful thing that even
17 every -- everybody can see them. Because you
18 know -- I said -- I said earlier I was walking
19 around here and not realizing how many friends I
20 have that I didn't know that they'd lost a loved
21 one through murder -- or even if they're missing.
22 And another recommendation I want to put
23 forward -- oh, let's go back to this one for a
24 second.
25 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.
26 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Is to have the picture of the loved one
27 with their name and where they're from.
28 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'm-hm.
29 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Like on a -- some -- like on a big
30 plaque. Even if they have one like in Watson
31 Lake, in Ross River, in Dawson, Carmacks, in
32 Pelly and Carcross where -- somewhere where
33 they're set up there, where they're -- that
34 person's from, or let's have a big one somewhere
35 around here --
36 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
37 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: -- with everybody that people can come
38 there and pray for them and pray for their family
39 and recognize that this family has lost somebody
40 to murder.
41 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'm-hm.
42 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Because I didn't know my friend -- one
43 of my best friends was in -- right in the next
44 tent over there talking about her family member.
45 And I didn't even -- honestly, I didn't even
46 know.
47 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'm-hm. Okay. You didn't know,

Statement - Public
Helen Charlie
(Ruth Charlie)

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1 but with this coming up has it helped to start
2 realizing who's -- like you said, you didn't know
3 about your best friend --
4 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah, I didn't know. I didn't like --
5 it's an eye-opener. It's a good -- it's good and
6 it's sad.
7 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.
8 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: You can feel all the sadness walking
9 around.
10 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.
11 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Even -- you can see it in people's
12 faces.
13 But it's also good because you don't -- I
14 hardly see [Friend 1] and she's up, and my family
15 from Watson Lake are up here too.
16 Yeah -- yeah, I want to recommend that. And
17 the other one is for ...
18 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: The headstone for your sister? Is
19 that another recommendation that you will --
20 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: It could be. I don't know if I -- like
21 I don't know if I'm the only one that doesn't
22 have a headstone. Do you know what I mean?
23 It's -- it's very hurtful I don't have one for
24 her. We're not rich to like -- I lost all my
25 family. My mom and my dad and seven brothers I
26 lost, and I lost four sisters -- five -- four --
27 four sisters.
28 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. How did you lose your
29 siblings?
30 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: All mostly through alcohol.
31 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
32 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: All alcohol except for Ruth. Ruth was
33 murdered and Marvin was in a car accident.
34 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
35 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Dorothy and Arlene were an aneurysm.
36 They're called aneurysm.
37 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
38 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: You just pass away in your sleep.
39 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.
40 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Three of them -- no, Dorothy, Ruth --
41 no Arlene, Ruth and -- no, Arlene, Dorothy and
42 Marie. Three girls with -- passed away in their
43 sleep.
44 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: All alcohol related?
45 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah -- actually, I don't know about
46 Dorothy, though. I know Dorothy was sober.
47 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And she's the aneurysm?

Statement - Public
Helen Charlie
(Ruth Charlie)

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1 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: She passed away with aneurysm, yeah.
2 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. You mentioned residential
3 school.
4 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah, five sisters. Yeah, five sisters
5 passed away.
6 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. Five sisters. One, two,
7 three, four -- who's the fifth sister?
8 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Norma.
9 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
10 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: And then seven brothers passed away. I
11 lost five brothers in five years.
12 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Oh, my god.
13 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: One brother a year, and then I lost Sam
14 and Dorothy three months apart one year.
15 And with all my family I have no headstone
16 for any one of them. None of them. Not even my
17 mom. Not even my dad.
18 I think that was a recommendation I put
19 forward to the residential school --
20 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Residential -- okay.
21 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: -- was --
22 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Headstones?
23 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Headstones, yeah.
24 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
25 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: I never heard nothing back.
26 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
27 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: I think I put that forward in -- when
28 did I talk to that lawyer?
29 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: To the -- to the ...
30 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: I think I talked to --
31 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: To the truth and reconciliation --
32 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah. Yeah.
33 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. And no response?
34 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Nothing. So I'm hoping this thing here
35 that's happening now doesn't just get put away
36 somewhere else, folded up, locked up, taped up
37 and chucked away somewhere, locked in the closet.
38 I hope it doesn't. Because you know what?
39 LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:: M'm-hm.
40 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: This has opened -- it has opened doors
41 for me to help bring closure to me. And I wish
42 my brothers and my sister was here. It could
43 help them. It would. It would help them.
44 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'm-hm.
45 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: So I'm going to ask them if they can
46 come to the next one with me.
47 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. So you and your siblings

Statement - Public
Helen Charlie
(Ruth Charlie)

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1].

1 all went to residential school?
2 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Most of them, yeah. There was Michael,
3 [Brother 2], me, Ruth, [Brother 3], Dorothy, [Brother
4 Seven of us went.
5 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Is it fair to say that a lot of
6 your siblings have died because of the effects of
7 residential school?
8 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yes.
9 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
10 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: And the younger ones have died probably
11 because of the same thing, the ripple -- the
12 effect of the next generation there.
13 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, intergenerational.
14 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah. Yeah.
15 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Intergenerational trauma.
16 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah.
17 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
18 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: I often wonder why my family all drank.
19 My mom never drank. My grandma never drank. I
20 don't know.
21 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: It's -- but it's coming out now.
22 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: And I'm glad. I'm happy I'm sitting
23 here talking about this. I just want to go run
24 and hug everybody. I do. Because you know
25 you ... Like I said, you don't know who's
26 hurting and -- I guess everybody's hurting with
27 you not knowing -- because I didn't even know my
28 best friend was in that room -- tent over there.
29 Another recommendation that I was thinking
30 about too is I think -- would be really important
31 is -- not only for me -- is -- the reason why I'm
32 saying this is because I know of a girl that was
33 murdered up here. They haven't found anybody for
34 her -- who did that to her.
35 [Personal information - redacted]
36 Two girls were just murdered, Sarah MacIntosh
37 and Wendy Carlick.
38 [Personal information - redacted]
39 I don't even know if they found anybody
40 yet and -- is that I think the RCMP should -- I
41 -- I respect them and I like that they help, but
42 I think with this missing and murdered women,
43 that there should be more done.
44 I don't know what more can be done, but I
45 think -- because the girl that they -- that was
46 found murdered, they have nothing yet, and that's
47 been -- what? Four years now? Three or four

Statement - Public
Helen Charlie
(Ruth Charlie)

13

1 years. Nothing -- we -- there could be still a
2 murderer running around up here.
3 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'm-hm.
4 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: There has to be something. There's
5 just -- I ...
6 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: When they're open, active
7 investigations there's no recommendations or
8 anything that the inquiry can do. We can't
9 touch -- and I'm --
10 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: No, I don't think we can do that. I
11 think what's more -- see what we can do is, you
12 know, where is it? How far is it? Do we have
13 anybody? Like is there any suspects? Can you
14 let the community know?
15 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Like reports.
16 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Like reports and updates and whatnot.
17 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.
18 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Because I'm sitting back here at home
19 up in [Neighbourhood], I have don't even know if they
20 found a murderer for those two girls.
21 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'm-hm.
22 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: And this other one passed away -- what?
23 Three, four years ago. Nothing's done. Nobody's
24 found nothing. We hear no report, nothing on it.
25 Like give us a report.
26 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
27 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Do they have somebody? Is there
28 somebody they suspect? You know? We're this far
29 into it or -- you know? Like how many families
30 are still waiting?
31 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And down south --
32 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yes.
33 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- it's all over the news when
34 it's a non-Indigenous person.
35 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: I was just going to say that.
36 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Or non-Indigenous woman.
37 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah. Yeah.
38 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: It's all over the news.
39 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: All over, yeah. All over right away.
40 Oh, yeah. We caught them.
41 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.
42 Just to ask you quickly about [A.C.] --
43 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: [A.C.], yeah.
44 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- the murderer. What was
45 he charged with when he was --
46 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: I think he was charged with
47 manslaughter.

Statement - Public
Helen Charlie
(Ruth Charlie)

14

1 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Man -- yeah, because he only got
2 three years.
3 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah, he got -- I think he was charged
4 with manslaughter.
5 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Did you follow his court case?
6 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: No.
7 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: No?
8 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: I didn't even go.
9 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Was it here in --
10 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: It was here in Whitehorse, yeah.
11 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. It's just like three years
12 for a brutal murder --
13 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: So maybe -- I didn't go there, but I
14 was thinking maybe he had all white -- what do you
15 call them? Jurors?
16 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'm-hm.
17 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: He had all white jurors, maybe.
18 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: All white --
19 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Maybe. I don't know.
20 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
21 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: I've never been there. Maybe he did.
22 I don't know.
23 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And this was in 1985?
24 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah, so the court would have been '86,
25 maybe.
26 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Or even later. They go --
27 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Or even later, yeah. I don't know.
28 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah. Okay.
29 I mean that just shows the systemic issues;
30 right? If it's a white person that's been
31 charged with a crime against an Indigenous woman,
32 how it's treated --
33 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: M'm-hm.
34 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- through the system.
35 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: I don't know how it could be
36 manslaughter either.
37 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'm-hm.
38 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Honestly. Take somebody's life and
39 it's like all the evidence is there and still
40 manslaughter. He got only three years.
41 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And because he was only convicted
42 for that one --
43 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: M'm-hm.
44 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- who knows how many else.
45 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: And that's something that we're going
46 to try to --
47 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.

Statement - Public
Helen Charlie
(Ruth Charlie)

15

1 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: -- find out somehow.
2 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. So is that an --
3 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: [Friend 1] and I, yeah.
4 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
5 MS. [FRIEND 1]: Yeah, I would like to make that a
6 recommendation. I want to find that.
7 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: That's a good idea. We should have one
8 of those in the recommendations too. Like ...
9 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Support and help in finding --
10 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yes.
11 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- information on murdered loved
12 ones?
13 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah. I was so scared that one year I
14 heard [A.C.] was back in town. I freaked out. I
15 didn't know what to do. I was so scared to even
16 leave my house. Even though he -- I don't know.
17 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Is he back in town --
18 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: I remember how -- no. No, I heard
19 back -- way back then. Like because three years
20 has come and gone, and then probably about the
21 fifth year he was away. Then I heard he was back
22 in town. I was so scared I didn't want to go
23 anywhere. I didn't want to see him. I didn't
24 want to go out of my house.
25 But that -- the meaner side of me wanted to
26 just go out and just to shoot him or to stab him
27 or whatever, but I -- that's not right either.
28 It's -- it's a really mixed -- mixed feelings on
29 everything.
30 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. Is there anything else you
31 can think of that you wanted to add?
32 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah, I think we should try to do some
33 of those ribbon things or -- before everything's
34 closed down here.
35 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. That's something we can
36 bring up to the staff there. If -- and by all
37 means if you're talking to a health support
38 person --
39 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: M'm-hm.
40 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- which you have access to --
41 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yes.
42 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- while we're here. And then of
43 course they'll be following up with you and
44 checking in.
45 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: M'm-hm.
46 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Bring it up with them too.
47 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Okay.

Statement - Public
Helen Charlie
(Ruth Charlie)

16

1 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Because that's a really, really
2 good idea.
3 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: M'm-hm. Yeah, maybe I'll just go
4 talk to them when I'm done here.
5 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. She was how old when she
6 was murdered?
7 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: 28.
8 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. Sorry, my notes are so
9 messy.
10 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: I laid up half the night thinking of
11 all I want to say, and I just can't think of it
12 right now.
13 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Do you think your brother and
14 sister that you've mentioned you would like to
15 take part in this, be --
16 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: I think so.
17 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- interested when --
18 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah. My sister lives in Dawson.
19 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
20 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Dawson City.
21 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.
22 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: And my two brothers lives [sic] up
23 here -- up here.
24 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: In Whitehorse?
25 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah.
26 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. Are they older than you?
27 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: M'm-hm. [Brother 2]'s a year younger.
28 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. What's your sister --
29 what's your sister's name?
30 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: [Sister].
31 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: [Sister]?
32 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah.
33 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And your brother?
34 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: And my brother is [Brother 2].
35 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And they're in Whitehorse?
36 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah, they're in Whitehorse.
37 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: [Brother 2]?
38 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: And [Brother 1].
39 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And [Brother 1]? Okay.
40 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah.
41 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. I just ...
42 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: That's good. Yes, it's good. I'm glad
43 you guys were up here. Open the door and have
44 closure on it somehow.
45 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: It's not an easy road to take.
46 It's not.
47 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: It's not.

Statement - Public
Helen Charlie
(Ruth Charlie)

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1 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: But when you -- it's important for
2 your sister --
3 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yes.
4 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- and for your family.
5 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: M'm-hm.
6 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And as hard as it is to listen to
7 these stories, you know, we're very, very
8 grateful for the courage that you -- this -- you
9 have shown everybody that's come to the inquiry,
10 this community, the strength it takes to do that.
11 And we're really grateful for that.
12 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Thank you. I'm glad you guys were here.
13 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Thank you.
14 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: M'm-hm.
15 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: So if you don't have any more you
16 want to add or any questions for me -- I don't
17 have any more questions for you at this point.
18 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Okay. No, I think I'm okay now.
19 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: So we will follow up for sure --
20 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: M'm-hm.
21 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: A health person will follow up for
22 sure, and feel free to talk to -- they have the
23 yellow --
24 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Oh, the yellow. Okay.
25 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: That's how --
26 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah.
27 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- they made us to be
28 distinguishable.
29 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Okay. You have anything? Any more
30 recommendations?
31 MS. [FRIEND 1]: No.
32 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: That's a good one you brought.
33 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: I'd like to give you a packet
34 of seeds as a gift from the inquiry, which
35 represents growth, because from here you have to
36 plant the seeds of healing and regrow.
37 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yeah.
38 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Regrowth and strength for our
39 people.
40 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Nice.
41 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: So thank you very much, Helen.
42 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Thank you.
43 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And I'll see you again.
44 MS. HELEN CHARLIE: Yes. Yes. Thank you.
45
46 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED)
47

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Reporter's Certification:

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Lisa Ciurysek
Official Reporter