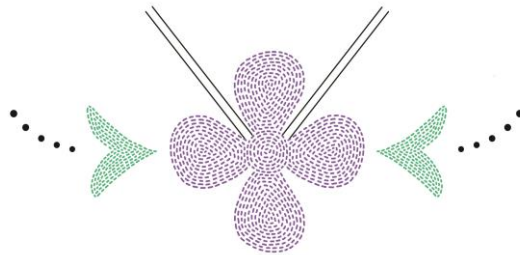


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Nuu-Chah-Nulth MMIWG Gathering
Tseshah First Nation [Ts'ishaa7ath] - Maht Maws
Port Alberni, British Columbia**



PUBLIC

Thursday September 14, 2017

**Statement - Volume 179
Arnold Frank, In relation to Iris Frank**

**Statement gathered by Breen Ouellette,
Commission Counsel**

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II

NOTE

The testimony here represents the public portion of the testimony of several witnesses in relation to the death of Iris Frank, which is the testimony of Arnold Frank. The remainder is subject to an in camera order and a ban of publication.

III

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

1 Tseshah First Nation / Port Alberni, British Columbia

2 --- Upon commencing on Thursday, September 14, 2017

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** We are recording.

4 Okay, could you start by telling me your
5 full legal name?

6 [*Registrar's note: confidential testimony*
7 *omitted*].

8 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And can you tell me
9 your full legal name?

10 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** Arnold Frank.

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** No middle name?

12 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** Arnold Joseph Frank.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And can you tell me
14 your date of birth?

15 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** [Birthdate], '58.

16 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And can you tell me
17 where you presently reside?

18 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** On Opitsaht.

19 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And can you tell me
20 your occupation?

21 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** I'm disabled. I do a lot
22 of carving.

23 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Carving?

24 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** Yeah, carvingwi.

25 [*Registrar's note: confidential testimony*

1 omitted].

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Is there anything else
3 that I haven't asked about yet that you recall that may
4 have come to mind as we're talking about this now, any
5 other details, either what happened at the dam or what
6 happened afterwards?

7 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** I'm thinking that after
8 my sister was found there was an article about a found
9 missing young lady and the way the cops put it, it was
10 probable suicide. And you know, she was beautiful and had
11 the world in her hand. She had everything going for her.
12 She would not take her life. And our parents taught us
13 suicide is the biggest sin you could ever commit.

14 And you are -- and a lot of people, they
15 commit suicide and the priests say they havent gone to
16 (inaudible). They don't (inaudible) those souls til the
17 Creator who takes them.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm.

19 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** When my sister went
20 missing March 1980 I wasn't travelling with my mom and my
21 dad. We have a younger brother. His name was Herbert
22 Frank and we had a younger sister named Theresa Frank. And
23 I kind of stayed home with them. And my mom and them went
24 on every lead.

25 And I was at home and I can't recall the

1 date the phone rang and I answered the phone. They said,
2 "We found her."

3 And the joy to happiness went way up and end
4 in anger. And I said, "Holy."

5 They said, "We found her and she's gone."

6 I knocked the wall phone right off the wall.
7 Just flopped on the floor and cried.

8 My mom hung onto it because she loved all of
9 us equally and all of us the same. She wanted justice for
10 her daughter, for her princess. That's what she wanted.
11 That's what we all want.

12 And I told my mom, "One day, Mom, I'm going
13 to find out who done it and I'm going to kill him." And I
14 promised my mom if the cops find out who done it and put
15 him in jail, I'll go to jail. I'll find him and kill him
16 there.

17 I've been starting in 1980 and I carry it,
18 the hurt and anger til 2009, 29 years.

19 My mom always told me, "Don't carry the
20 grief too long. It turns to anger." And I guess I didn't
21 realize with my mom because I held onto it for 29 years.

22 And one of my -- my youngest sister,
23 Theresa, she's gone now -- she had a daughter who's very
24 beautiful. She named her Iris.

25 We have a cousin from my father's older

1 sister Cortillda (phonetic). She had a daughter named
2 Leona and her daughter, Leona named one of her daughters
3 Iris.

4 And before coming to this conference I
5 picked up a newspaper and it happens on the page I find the
6 RCMP are looking for some missing lady and it bubbles a
7 whole ball of anger. All they had was missing lady's
8 location.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Yeah.

10 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** And just like, they all
11 trigger flashbacks. Why didn't they do this for my sister?
12 Why? They're sitting there. This is (inaudible) and I'm
13 not going to let it go. I'm not going to lose her. Or I
14 could take it to her somewhere so make a wish, and if the
15 wish would come true maybe I'll find out who done this to
16 our princess.

17 It's so -- we -- a lot of our -- I'm
18 listening to them and I kind of agree with some of that,
19 what's going on in there and I kind of disagree. Their
20 missing people, they're saying they hope they're found so
21 that they could have closure.

22 [Iris] went missing. And she was found.
23 There's still no closure because we don't know what
24 happened to her. But we all know in our family, we know
25 she never took her own life. We know that. And when we

1 say she never -- she wouldn't take her life (inaudible)
2 here because we all knew her.

3 I guess a lot of them -- I don't even know
4 if my siblings remember that my mom and Iris were close,
5 real close. My mom had a blue jacket and it was a winter
6 jacket with fur on it. And my sister Iris started calling
7 my mom Eskimo. So they both called each other Eskimo.

8 And we had parents but they weren't just
9 parents. They were our friends. They done a lot with us,
10 my parents. When would follow us, watching us play ball.
11 They say (inaudible) being a parent -- I was -- our parents
12 -- my dad was my best friend.

13 And I think that's how my mom was with all
14 of my sisters. Maybe she didn't tell them but if you could
15 see from here you could know, you could tell that kind of
16 (inaudible).

17 Yeah. And I'm 59 and it looks like I was
18 20, 21 when 2009 was when she went missing -- and I came
19 into town, bar hopping, listening, seeing if anybody can
20 talk about it.

21 And my mom sat me down to talk to me. She
22 talked to me, then told me not to do what I said I was
23 going to do. She said, "It's in the Creator's hands now."
24 And the pressure that I was carrying, the load I was
25 carrying after I was taught that, that was a couple of

1 tons.

2 And we all hope that we get the answer and
3 like I said, it's been 37 years, so the sooner the better
4 but whether it takes 10 years and we get an answer, that's
5 great. My son and them won't have to wonder. These kids
6 will be (inaudible).

7 *[Registrar's note: confidential testimony omitted].*
8 Some have taken the wrong path and some have made a good
9 life for themselves.

10 And just like during this and everything is
11 I remember walking, holding it, my sister's casket, walking
12 with -- my aunts had -- my aunt had to be pried off to let
13 go. It was one of my cousins. She had to come across and
14 had to pull my hand off.

15 But yeah. And the ones weren't -- were
16 there, I was (inaudible) because one of the questions I
17 asked and I asked. Like, with today, if we say we give you
18 permission to ask for those coroner's reports and the
19 police report and if you do get that and just say can you
20 have it sent to us?

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** What?

22 **[WITNESS 1]:** If we want the coroner's
23 report and the police report.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Yeah.

25 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** If we have given you

1 permission to get them for us.

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Nobody's asked that
3 question of me before, so what I can say at this point is
4 that I can look into that and get back to you on that right
5 away after we finish these interviews.

6 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** And I don't know if my
7 [family members] heard, but I know my dad said when they
8 found her about three weeks in water. I don't know if he
9 touched her, but he said she was real soft.

10 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm.

11 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** And that really hurt
12 coming from my dad.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm.

14 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** Yeah. I was telling the
15 people in the conference that this lady, she was a shell.
16 The shell is gone. But she's still in here. All the
17 memories that I have, we look at each other and we smile.
18 That's how I'm telling people she gives me strength because
19 she's here. And I look at her every day like I look at my
20 mom and my dad every day because they're here, little
21 pictures that my mom said the camera can never capture,
22 just ones that you have in your heart.

23 And there's not a day I still think about my
24 sister or my dad or my mom. I (inaudible) the ones that
25 are gone.

1 And I didn't really tell people about that.
2 I was talking to somebody and they were talking about, oh,
3 like, my parents are dead.

4 I smile at them. "But they never die."

5 Where do you get this, what's running
6 through our heart? Where do you ever get it? Where do
7 you get the blood that runs through our heart? That's my
8 mom's and my dad's blood, still pumping through us and it
9 will never die.

10 And I've got the memories of her in my
11 heart, that won't die.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm.

13 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** For sure now,
14 (inaudible). And I hope maybe if you can access the truth
15 so it's going to continue for final truth.

16 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So I had some more
17 questions but I can also see that it's noon. So we can
18 take a break so people can eat and regain their strength
19 and then we can continue after lunch, or we can keep going,
20 whichever you'd prefer.

21 [Registrar's note: confidential testimony
22 omitted].

23 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Take a break? Okay.
24 So we will pause it for lunch. And take all the time you
25 need and then just come back and then we'll continue, okay?

1 Thank you.

2

3 --- Upon recessing

4 --- Upon resuming

5

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. So we're back
7 from lunch and we're going to continue speaking with
8 [Arnold Frank and confidential witnesses].

9 [Registrar's note: confidential testimony
10 omitted].

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm.

12 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** To get back to your
13 question, the one you just asked. The situation she got in
14 was like she was open, trusting. And that can be a real
15 vulnerable area and guys can take advantage of that.

16 So I would say as long the (inaudible) have
17 to trust (inaudible) take advantage. So that's how my
18 sister was. She just liked chatting with people a lot.
19 She didn't care who you were, what colour you were. She
20 was always friendly and talked and that. You know, that
21 was the (inaudible). It's the trust that she had and the
22 openness.

23 Because it could be a problem because
24 everywhere (inaudible) she trusted too fast.

25 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So do you think that's

1 something that we can teach children today? Do you have
2 any ideas of how we protect girls now? For instance, do we
3 need to change the way that we're raising men as well as
4 the way that we're raising girls, to protect them?

5 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** Well, that's what I said
6 in that thing. My mother -- it never came up. I was
7 (inaudible) so my mom always told me. I've got to respect
8 women. I had to respect my sister and my mom. And I
9 wouldn't want anybody doing to my sister what I was doing
10 to the young ladies out there. And that's what I've been
11 teaching my son in the past 24 years, 22 years.

12 The women, they give us our life and they
13 should be treated with respect. And I was just surprised
14 when I picked up that Declaration and that's what they had
15 written on there and my mom had told me that years ago,
16 that women should be respected.

17 But now that's what -- our parents,
18 especially mothers, and the dads have got to teach the
19 young fellows that women should be respected at all times
20 as men.

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm.

22 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** And no matter the race or
23 reputation. They deserve the same respect that you got for
24 your mom and for your sisters.

25 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Can I ask, what was it

1 for you that changed? What brought you to the realization
2 for you? What changed in your life where you -- was it the
3 fact that your mother kept just reminding you of it or was
4 it something else?

5 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** It's -- one day she just
6 asked me how I would like it if men were treating my
7 sisters and my nieces and my granddaughters the way I
8 treated them.

9 And I'm one of the guys that was in a
10 relationship for a few years and it was (inaudible).
11 That's like other kind of abuses still stuck there.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm.

13 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** Asking what I was doing.
14 Sometimes (inaudible). That's why she was always saying,
15 "Be careful what you say." (Inaudible) can't grab it, it's
16 gone. Once it's past, the damage is done.

17 She talked like that to all my brothers. I
18 just wish that I had (inaudible) more to listen but I wish
19 (inaudible) vulnerable. My dad was saying, It's so easy to
20 listen. But to hear," he said, "You listen over here and
21 you hear right here."

22 A lot of stuff I learned from my mom.

23 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. So for the
24 current young generation, for future generations, what can
25 we do -- not just what can we do as a family. But what

1 should society be doing to protect Indigenous peoples,
2 women and girls? What aren't they doing and what should
3 they be doing?

4 This is your opportunity to tell our
5 Commissioners what they should be putting in their report,
6 their recommendations.

7 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** Another recommendation is
8 that when the sexual offenders, the sexual abusers are
9 caught, the penalties should be higher, stiffer. Eighteen
10 (18) months is just like a holiday. Two years is a like a
11 holiday. But the damage that's done to a woman lasts their
12 life. And the sentence they get is just like calendar
13 days.

14 If the penalties aren't stiffer --
15 especially when it comes down to all people. One of our
16 granddaughters used to (inaudible). They got other kids;
17 they get that guy to go to court. They're on probation for
18 five years. So it's okay; go out and do it again. That's
19 what they're saying.

20 They get two years. Well, when you get out
21 you can do it again. That's the (inaudible), sexual
22 priors. They live off that.

23 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm.

24 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** It doesn't go away after
25 they got sentenced. I think (inaudible) because I was

1 sexually abused when I was eight years old. But we're not
2 here for that.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Would you want to
4 prevent children from being put in the same position that
5 you were in?

6 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** M'hm.

7 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Have you any ideas?
8 Anything that your experience brings to the table is
9 welcome.

10 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** Well, I told my son. I
11 said, "Let me know if anybody hurts you or touches you."
12 And he said, "Yeah, okay, Dad."
13 And I said, "Well, can you do that?" And
14 then I went about it the wrong way (inaudible) if something
15 happened to him: "I don't want my dad to go to jail."

16 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm.

17 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** And then I talked to him
18 again and I told him, "We'll go through the proper way.
19 We'll call the cops. We'll deal with it right." And
20 that's the (inaudible) stuff going on.

21 I asked and he was, "Dad, who can I trust?
22 Who can I talk to?"

23 And he said, "Well, you can trust all my
24 relatives." I said, "No. That's where it starts. It
25 starts in house. Just nobody -- anybody that touches you

1 wrong or tries to take you somewhere, run."

2 And he said, "But I'm a guy."

3 I said, "It happens to both."

4 And he is 24. And he's a good healthy young
5 man.

6 And when you were talking earlier about
7 alcoholism, this is a problem. Our sister never really had
8 a -- she wasn't really an alcohol abuser. Mind you, we
9 used to go out but when we were (inaudible) she used to
10 make sure none of us were (inaudible).

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm. So she was just
12 a normal 20-year-old?

13 **MR. ARNOLD FRANK:** Yeah. She had no
14 depression and she -- like I keep saying, she was fun-
15 loving and open, trusting and honest.

16 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm.

17 **[WITNESS 2]:** She was a -- she was going to
18 be a lady.

19 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So heavier penalties
20 for sexual offenders. Send that message.

21 But is there anything else that we can do to
22 make communities safer? Is there anything that we need in
23 place that will help people? For example, you know,
24 hitchhiking puts people ---

25

1 --- Upon adjourning

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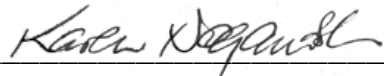
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

6

7 I, Karen Noganosh, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I
8 have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and
9 accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this
10 matter.

11

12



13

Karen Noganosh

14

October 2, 2017

15