National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Northwest Community College
Smithers, British Columbia

PUBLIC

Tuesday September 26, 2017
Statement - Volume 9
Mabel Jack,
In relation to the Jack family
Statement gathered by Kerrie Reay & Caitlin Hendrickson

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II

NOTE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statement - Volume 9
September 26, 2017                                           Page
Witness: Mabel Jack

Testimony of Mabel Jack. ............................................. 1
Reporter’s certification. .............................................. 21

Statement gatherers: Kerrie Reay & Caitlin Hendrickson

Documents submitted with testimony:

1. One photograph of missing Jack family.
--- Upon commencing on Tuesday, September 26, 2017

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. So this is Kerrie Reay with the National Inquiry for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, speaking on the record with Mabel ---

MS. MABEL JACK: Mable Jack.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- Mabel Jack.

MS. MABEL JACK: Hereditary Chief, and my name is Abiolet (Phonetic), my grandpa’s name.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Thank you, Mabel. And you reside -- where are you living currently?

MS. MABEL JACK: Southbank, B.C.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And the location here today of the interview is at Smithers, B.C. and it is September the 26th. Are we the 27th?


MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh, 2017. So okay. All right.

So as the statement giver, you are here voluntarily to give you statement in the matter of your daughter-in-law and son, Doreen Jack and Ronnie Paul.

MS. MABEL JACK: Ronnie Paul Jack.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Ronnie Paul Jack.
And present with us in the room today is Gertie Pierre, a health support worker; as well as Caitlin Hendrickson, a statement taker as well. As we discussed, your statement will be audio recorded today, as well it’s -- you have allowed us to videotape, and that you are here voluntarily.

**MS. MABEL JACK:** Yes.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. So with that we will get started. So Mabel, can you tell us about Ronnie and Doreen?

**MS. MABEL JACK:** Yeah, Ronnie and Doreen, they -- and the two boys, Ryan and Russell. Ryan was four years old and Russell was 10 and they moved to Prince George. They were looking for job. And on September the 1st, Ronnie phoned me and he said he’s going to work at Lucas Lake, between Lucas Lake and the Vanderhoof. He said “Mum, if I don’t come back come and look for me at the house.” So it looked like he knows -- look like he knows what’s gonna happen the way he tell me that. It’s -- didn’t make any plan said it would be it.

We leave home and we went to his house about a month later and he’s been never come back so we moved in there, in Price George and we wait for them. He never come back so we moved back home and we started a small bingo so 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
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
where he tell us, Lucas Lake. We didn’t find him. We
didn’t find nothing and we moved back home again and we pay
(inaudible) down at Alberta Pow-wow. We go to Lake
Alberta. It’s a long way. We hire somebody to drive for
us and went there and my granddaughter, she was about eight
years old. She’s a pow-wow dancer. She danced -- she
danced in middle and then keep looking after that pow-wow.
They all mention the name that they -- those that were
missing, see if they can recognize. (inaudible) was
dancing (inaudible). We’ve been doing that too, went all
over the pow-wow and then she danced for the family and
she’s supposed to be here on Thursday.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And what’s her name?

MS. MABEL JACK: Lana Cahoose.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Lana?

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

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
granddaughter?
MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. MABEL JACK: Why am I -- my son don’t leave me anywhere. He don’t stay away that long. Because everywhere I go, like I go places and Doreen drive for me that time. That time I was healthy, but she still drive for me.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Doreen did?

MS. MABEL JACK: Yes. Doreen. And sometimes people dance and they dance all night. They like dancing.

MS. KERRIE REAY: M’hm.

MS. MABEL JACK: Ronnie likes to dance. Doreen likes driving, driving trucks.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Can you tell us a little bit more about Doreen and Ronnie. What was Doreen like as a wife?

MS. MABEL JACK: Ronnie’s girlfriend, Doreen his dad died when she was pretty young and she didn’t want to stay in the house where dad died there. So we let her stay with us and she goes to school that Ronnie going to school. And they get old enough and then they start dating and they had little [B] been staying with us until they moved to Prince George.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So how old was Doreen when
she came to stay with you?

MS. MABEL JACK: Doreen was pretty young.

They both the same age. When they were missing -- they both 26 years old when they missing.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So was Doreen in high school when she came or was she younger?

MS. MABEL JACK: She finished -- she finished high school.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah, she very -- both Ronnie didn’t finish high school and he went in upgrading -- upgrading in our home.

MS. KERRIE REAY: I’m just trying to create a bit of a timeline.

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So that we can understand.

So Doreen was -- you were kind of raising Doreen as a mother?

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And then became a mother-in-law?

MS. MABEL JACK: Yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah. So we’re just trying to try to get a bit of a timeline about how old she was when she came to stay with you.
MS. MABEL JACK: I think she was about -- I think she was about 16 years old.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And so she lived in this -- on the Reserve?

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: With -- okay. With her mum?

MS. MABEL JACK: Her mum took off on them for a long, long time and is dad raised them up. His dad -- her dad he was name Charlie -- Charlie Edmond. He died on cancer.

MS. KERRIE REAY: M’hm. So if I understand then, Doreen didn’t really have much contact with her mum.

MS. MABEL JACK: No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. MABEL JACK: I don’t think. I don’t think so because she took off when Doreen was pretty young.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Have you heard from Doreen’s mum at all from the -- when they disappeared?

MS. MABEL JACK: No. They none of them they come to us, the sister over here she was -- she come over, that’s here sister.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.
MS. MABEL JACK: Marlene.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. MABEL JACK: And they never -- they never help us when we were searching for the missing family. I never seen none of them.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So Doreen and Ronnie have the two boys and you said they really liked to dance?

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So what took them to Prince George then from ---

MS. MABEL JACK: They was looking for jobs.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. MABEL JACK: There was no job at that place.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So how long were they living in Prince George before they disappeared?

MS. MABEL JACK: Not very long. Maybe one year.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So looking for employment ---

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- took him, Doreen, and the boys to Prince George.

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Did Doreen work?
MS. MABEL JACK: Doreen was look after the kids.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. But she -- is she finished high school you said?

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. So she had a pretty important role raising the boys.

MS. MABEL JACK: Yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And you were saying that Ronnie’s phone call to you ---

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- he sensed something wasn’t right, by what you were saying.

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And so did he talk about in that phone call, whether or not he was planning to take Doreen and the boys ---

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- with him at that time when he phoned you?

MS. MABEL JACK: He said he is taking his family.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And did he say that made him nervous or anything like that?

MS. MABEL JACK: No, he didn’t. It’s very
few words he say and that was it.

    MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

    MS. MABEL JACK: Now the older. Sorry, go ahead Caitlin.

    MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: I just wanted to know if you knew where he was calling you from?

    MS. MABEL JACK: At his place.

    MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: From home?

    MS. MABEL JACK: They rent -- they rent a place in Prince George.

    MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.

    MS. MABEL JACK: Upland Street.

    MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. Did you hear from him at all anywhere along the way?

    MS. MABEL JACK: No.

    MS. KERRIE REAY: And you were saying that the boys were going -- was Russell -- Russell was the oldest, 10, you said?

    MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

    MS. KERRIE REAY: Was Russell in school?

    MS. MABEL JACK: I don’t think there was school there. I think they were, I don’t know.

    MS. KERRIE REAY: No, but when he was in Prince George was he attending school?

    MS. MABEL JACK: Yes.
MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Do you know if --

so he was attending school.

MS. MABEL JACK: A young boy, he have to go

to school.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes, yes. So when you

went to Prince George to wait, at what point did you

consider calling the police?

MS. MABEL JACK: We call you cops right

away, soon as we know he’s not coming back. Because he ---

MS. KERRIE REAY: So was that from Prince

George?

MS. MABEL JACK: Yes. And they know, they

start searching right away.

MS. KERRIE REAY: They did?

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Did they come and meet

with you?

MS. MABEL JACK: They meet with us and they

took pictures and everything.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And it was a very trying

time for the family?

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Were they helpful? Were

the police helpful to you and your family?

MS. MABEL JACK: His name was Paul. He was
nice to us.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Good. And with this inquiry, it is really focussed and it’s not to take anything away from your loss, because Doreen was also like a daughter to you. One of the things that they are wanting as an inquiry is an understanding how you as a family were treated by the police. And what kind of follow up was there, or did you have to, you know, do the follow up as time went on.

MS. MABEL JACK: Actually, they were a lot a first so we keep looking and until it snow -- until it start snow then we quit. He tell us where that -- where he supposed to go, stay there for a long time.

MS. KERRIE REAY: But you said at one point you were in tents?

MS. MABEL JACK: Yes. We were all in tents.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Was there any support from anybody else, any other groups or organizations that helped to look for your son, and Doreen, and your grandsons?

MS. MABEL JACK: No. Don’t have a group. We just family.

MS. KERRIE REAY: It was just ---

MS. MABEL JACK: Our family. Just my family who were looking.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Is there something you
want the inquiry to know as you’re here today to give your statement?

**MS. MABEL JACK:** How I going to find my family if I do this statement? I want to find them. Because people -- people die and they bury each other. I got a headstone for my family and it’s still there, I have no place to put it.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** So you have no closure?

**MS. MABEL JACK:** I don’t like to do this and because, especially if somebody pass away. I go to church but I don’t -- I don’t go there to pray to find ---

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** No.

**MS. MABEL JACK:** --- for a long time. There no more -- who they are, I refuse to go to gravesite. Looks all around me and (inaudible).

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Can I just check in? How are you doing?

**MS. MABEL JACK:** Okay.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** You let me know if you want a couple minutes with Gertie. Are you okay Kerrie?

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yes, yes.

So part of what the inquiry is also doing is to try to understand the circumstances behind how the disappearance occurred. Do you know much more about what
happened that led up to Ronnie, and Doreen, and they boys leaving?

**MS. MABEL JACK:** Some white guy took them from the house and took them where they took -- where they going. He said they’re going to work where they all coming -- where they going they all coming, and left. They had some stuff there that they supposed to take and they didn’t take enough clothes or stuff they use if they live in a house.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** So it didn’t look like they were going to be gone for a long time?

**MS. MABEL JACK:** Yeah.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** Was there anybody in -- when you were searching and looking for help, was there anybody who lived close by that saw them leave, or anybody that we should talk to, to get more information?

**MS. MABEL JACK:** There was one guy who was in that lawyer knows the name of him, his name was [Witness].

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** [Witness]?

**MS. MABEL JACK:** Yeah, because he was with them.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** And do you know where -- do you know where [Witness] lives?

**MS. MABEL JACK:** He lives in the south side

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MS. KERRIE REAY: He lives on the south side.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Can I just clarify, what time of year was it that they were leaving?

MS. MABEL JACK: What’s that?

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: When -- do you know the date of when they left?

MS. MABEL JACK: September 1st.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. So it was in the fall.

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So you’re -- from what you’ve said, you’re hoping to not let their disappearance go unsolved. You’re looking for closure.

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: You’re here to let the inquiry know that you’ve lost your son, your daughter-in-law, and your two grandchildren and that you don’t want them to be forgotten. Is that what I’ve heard?

MS. MABEL JACK: No. That’s -- my son, the one that’s still alive, here to tell the way that -- they didn’t -- nobody do anything about it and he wants -- he wants to speak up too and then he’s working so he didn’t
come. He’s out in the town.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And your son ---

MS. MABEL JACK: My son.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And what’s his name?

MS. MABEL JACK: Is Stanley Jack. The oldest one is Richard, Richard -- other one is Ted Jack, he’s around -- he’s away someplace.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Are they all interested in sharing -- sharing a statement with us? Because they don’t have to be at the hearing to do that. They can call.

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: There’s a 1-800 number.

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And we can give you that information before you leave today, because they can -- they can do the intake information over the phone and then they can prepare to give statements at later dates.

MS. MABEL JACK: If he wants to be here, he’s here someplace in town here. They’re going to be having meeting.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: That’s Stanley?

MS. MABEL JACK: No, Ted.
MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Ted. Okay. I would let Ted know that he should come down as soon as he can because we might not be able to get to taking all of the statements that we can, because there is an intake process that we have to go through, which you’ve done. So make sure that he’s aware that there is some time sensitivity around that.

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: But that doesn’t mean he can’t give his statement. Again, we can always come back ---

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: --- at a later date.

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Mabel, you’ve come a ways. It’s about two hours that you’ve driven?

MS. MABEL JACK: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Is there anything else that you would like to let the inquiry know?

MS. MABEL JACK: I want -- I want my family to do the statement because I don’t know if Ted, and Stanley, and Richard, and some of my grandkids, they want to come but they just couldn’t. They’re working too.

MS. KERRIE REAY: One of the things that the
inquiry is looking -- that we will be interested to hear
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.
But what was Doreen like as a daughter in your home?

MS. MABEL JACK: She’s a real nice. She’s
helping, big help. She cook and everything, and go after
the kids. She was nice to us. She was no trouble,
nothing.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Did she ever talk about
her family life with you? Did she ever share what it was
like with her dad and her mum gone?

MS. MABEL JACK: She -- one time she tell me
that she dreamed about her dad and she asked me what’s that
mean? I didn’t know what to say, so I tell her she -- your
dad makes a prayer, wants you to pray for him.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Do you have any knowledge
that you could share about what Doreen’s life was like at
home?

MS. MABEL JACK: She’s good little wife, I
know. Little -- nice girl (inaudible).

MS. KERRIE REAY: Did they have any
difficulties?

MS. MABEL JACK: No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And what about -- were you
aware of any difficulties that Doreen had at home with her
father?

MS. MABEL JACK: No. She was pretty young, she didn’t -- but she start dreaming about him and that’s when she tell me.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah. She didn’t talk about her mum?

MS. MABEL JACK: No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: How are you feeling?

MS. MABEL JACK: I’m okay. Okay. So what we can do is if -- Ted lives in Smithers?

MS. MABEL JACK: He don’t live in Smithers. They have a meeting here someplace.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Is there anyway to get a hold of him to let him know that he can come here like ---

MS. MABEL JACK: Yes, he said ---

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- maybe tomorrow?

MS. MABEL JACK: He said he’s going to drop in after having a break or something.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. MABEL JACK: He said he’s going to drop in to see me.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MS. MABEL JACK: And he can make statement
if he wants to, he said.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** How are you feeling about your statement today?

**MS. MABEL JACK:** Oh, I am feeling -- had a long trip and then there was nothing ready for me and they thought I’m not coming, but they tell me I supposed to be here, so I’m here.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

**MS. MABEL JACK:** Nothing ready for me.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Do you think that there’s anything that could have been done that wasn’t done in terms of, you know, finding them?

**MS. MABEL JACK:** It’s been a long time.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** M’hm.

**MS. MABEL JACK:** I love my kids. I love him with my heart. I kept Ronnie for years of come and see me. Another one is family, is welcome you have to come. The people that -- people forget about my family missing, he said. Those are not -- they miss their brother.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Is there anything we can do that in your mind would honour Doreen and Ronnie?

**MS. MABEL JACK:** Yeah. One of my grandkids, he knows how to play guitar. He’s supposed to sing for us 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.
-- he can’t leave work even one day. He wants to sing for us.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Okay. So part of one of our teams is leading what they’re calling artistic expression. I can talk to them and see how we can, you know, maybe capture that on video and make it a part of this part of the inquiry, right? It’ll be a piece of your statement, and your family’s statement, about Doreen and Ronnie, and the boys.

**MS. MABEL JACK:** Yeah.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** Would that be good?

**MS. MABEL JACK:** Yeah.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** Do you think he could do that in the evening?

**MS. MABEL JACK:** Yeah.

**MS. CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:** If he’s here I mean we definitely have the resources to do available.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** We can do that. Is that something you would like to talk to ---

**MS. MABEL JACK:** Yes. The lawyer told me that my grandchildren should be here to sing for us and I would like that.

--- Upon adjourning
I, Janice Gingras, Legal Transcriptionist, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.

Janice Gingras
October 16, 2017