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Statement - Volume 53

Cindy Head & Michael Wesley
In relation to Jennifer Hunter & Julia Hunter

Statement gathered by Francine Merasty

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MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: So, the camera is on now, and the recorder. My name is Francine Merasty with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, speaking on the record with Cindy Head and Michael Wesley (ph) of -- what Nation are you guys from?

MS. CINDY HEAD: I’m Métis on the treaty.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. From the Métis Nation, and they’re from Winnipeg. You’re from Winnipeg?

MS. CINDY HEAD: Yes.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: We’re here in Winnipeg on October 20th, 2017. Cindy, you’re here to voluntarily give your statement in the matter of your loved one. And present with us in the room, you just want to say your name?

MS. CINDY HEAD: Cindy Head.

MR. MICHAEL WESLEY: Michael Wesley.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Health supports?

MS. SHANNON MCCORORY: Shannon McCrory.

MS. SHERYL BLASFA: Sheryl Blasfa (ph).

MS. GLENDA: Glenda (indiscernible).

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: And then -- so, your statement will be audio recorded today and you have allowed us -- allowed us to video tape your statement. Can you
please confirm that you agree with this?

MS. CINDY HEAD: Yes, I agree.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. So, what do you want to share with us today, if you want to begin?

MS. CINDY HEAD: Well, there’s two sisters that were taken from us. My younger one was -- she would have been 21. Well, she was turning 21 when she was taken from us, and her name was Jennifer Hunter. And that’s my nephew’s -- my nephew, Mike, that was his mom. I think it was over 18 years ago already, she’s been gone.

She was happy that day. She phoned my mom. Every night, she always says goodnight to my mom or she calls one of us. And it was a Sunday night, so I guess she said goodnight to my mom. She wasn’t drinking or anything. And then my mom phoned me the next day and told me. I said, “What, did Jennifer phone you?” She said, yeah, she said goodnight last night and I said oh, okay, that’s good.

So, that day -- well, that morning, nothing dawned on me, you know? We thought she was okay and everything, but that’s when the cops came to my door and they said, “Are you Cindy, Cindy Hunter?” And I said yeah. “Do you have a sister named Jennifer Hunter?” And I said, “Yeah. Why, what’s going on?” And they said, “Well, she’s at the hospital. Would you like to come with us?” And they didn’t tell me till I was in the cop car, and that’s
when they told me they found her.

They found her in an apartment on Maryland Street by the Maryland Hotel there, in the basement suite; I guess that’s where she was staying. I guess she was naked. And this is just what my mom and them were telling me, but when the cop picked me up, that’s what he told me; that she was naked. She was covered up in a sheet and I asked him well, what happened? How did this happen? And, I guess they told me that her so-called boyfriend put something in her drink and I -- I don’t know. I just -- I just didn’t say anything until my mom got there and that’s when she was already gone. She was already brain dead because the pills were already in her system early. So, my mom, I don’t know, she kind of freaked out and everything and...

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** And that happened here in Winnipeg?

**MS. CINDY HEAD:** Yeah. And then after that, I don’t know. That guy tried coming to the hospital but my uncles and them told him to leave. And, he wanted to bring her clothes to her, you know? So, we left that to him again. My mom took care of the investigation and everything or whatever. But, I just thought I’d get that out, like, because I know that guy did kill her because she wouldn’t take pills for nothing. I knew my sister well,
you know? She liked to drink, but never take pills.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Mm-hmm.

MS. CINDY HEAD: And we didn’t know who this guy was because she was going out with this guy just to make his dad jealous. Because they were -- his dad and her broke up, and I guess she went out with him and kind of made him jealous, I think. If she -- if he didn’t -- if she didn’t meet up with this guy, she would have been alive today. But, I don’t know. For me, they should have just arrested him there, but I don’t know. I don’t know what happened and I blocked a lot of things out because I -- in a way, I’m mad of, of what happened. Like, the cops really didn’t investigate right.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Mm-hmm.

MS. CINDY HEAD: And they told us there was not much they could do. And then I said -- well, my mom was telling me, and she was crying and everything, and these kids were still small. And, I said, “What are we going to tell them, that their mom is gone, you know?” And then I guess -- I don’t know. He was brought up with a -- with a foster mother and he -- she took them right from the hospital, him and his brother. So, she raised them until they were 18, and she did a good job.

But, now, my nephew has no mom, no dad. The dad got sick and he passed away and now they’re all ---
they’re alone and sometimes they cry some, but I’m there for them, for both of them, because I always was. And I always listened to them sometimes, and sometimes it’s hard to do that because my kids never came to me and asked -- told me to listen to them, you know? They tried, but sometimes they always say oh, never mind, you know?

But, I always listen to them all the time. Sometimes I tell them what to do, or sometimes I give them advice. So, I said there is only so much I can do to give you guys, to know what to do, I said. And I said maybe down the road -- I said to his other brother there, I said maybe down the road, if you’re really missing her, I said, you should talk to someone, I said, about it. I said sometimes when I -- when I got through that, I said, I go and talk to my supports, I said, out there in the community.

And I said they listen to me sometimes, and “Yeah, Auntie, but it’s hard, I want my mom.” I said, “Well there’s nothing going to change,” I said, “She’s gone.” I said, “You can talk to her, you can pray to her and go to a men’s group or a sharing circle or something.” But, he didn’t listen. But, the only thing I was -- I suggested back in the day, that the police should have did more to investigate and question more people around. Because there was a few people that were in her apartment.
that night. And they were out bumming, I don’t know what
the hell. But, there should have been more, more
investigation with that back then.

But, I don’t know, just like that -- to me,
it just seemed like the cops really didn’t care because she
was a drunk. She turned to alcohol after she lost her kids
to CFS. That’s why she turned to alcohol, after that --
yeah, she just turned to alcohol. She wasn’t taking pills
or anything. I don’t know about street drugs because I
never used to drink with her at the beginning, but towards
the end, we were drinking and I got along with her okay,
but I don’t know.

I hide a lot of things because I didn’t cry;
I didn’t cry about my sister. I don’t know why. At first,
I did, but putting her down to rest, I don’t know, just --
I think I just locked it away.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: So, how did you know
that she had died of a, like, a medica ---

MS. CINDY HEAD: They did the autopsy and
they did what was -- they did find a little bit of bruises
on her, and then the tox screen showed that there was
diabetic pills in her drink -- what she drank. It was in
her system, and if that guy would have rushed her in at --
like, it was after 12:00 when she called my mom, so it was
after that.
So, if that guy tried waking her up at 7:00 in the morning, he should have rushed her in. But, he just looked at her and said, oh, I’ll let her sleep for some more. Then he went out panhandling again. And then he came back again at 10:00 in the morning, still didn’t wake her up.

Finally, at 1:00 in the afternoon, that’s when he had the nerve to phone the ambulance and told them to come and see what’s going on with her because she’s not moving, she’s not waking up. You know, he just checked up on her. That’s what he was telling everybody. He just checked up on her. They would have saved her if he would have brought her in at 7:00 in the morning or when he couldn’t feel the pulse -- the pulse or something. But, he just let her lay there and those pills killed her.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Was she diabetic?

MS. CINDY HEAD: No.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: No.

MS. CINDY HEAD: But, I’ll let you talk to my nephew. But, I just thought that I’d come out. Yeah. I’ll talk again after.

MR. MICHAEL WESLEY: Okay. This is the first time I ever heard that. I grew up with my adopted mom. She took me and my brother from the hospital, took care of me and him. For a time, I didn’t really care about
my mom and dad, up to the age of 15 years old, and my brother was 13. That’s when I first met my auntie, because at that time, I’m a teen, a teenager (indiscernible) my side of my family.

So, I started hanging out with my family more every day. I wanted to know about my mom. They told me good things about her; she was a good mom, a good woman. I wanted to know how she died. My auntie and my grandma told me how she died. It was -- it was a little pain, a little painful to hear that a -- that a person had to do that; put some kind of drug in a drink. And it hurt me for a few bit -- for a few years. I know she’s up in heaven right now, a better place.

My brother, [C.], he always -- he always asked about her, talks about her, talks about our dad. He always wanted to -- he always wants to be with mom and dad.

**MS. CINDY HEAD:** There should be more supports for kids like his age, you know? More supports out there for what they’re doing right now; they’re grieving, they’re finding out what happened to their parents, you know? There should be more supports instead of putting these always kind of housing up and everything else. They should be putting shelters out there or programs for kids that lost both parents.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Mm-hmm.
MS. CINDY HEAD: I’m always -- I’m always saying that, every day, every year. Every time when I hear the news about the government or, you know, the city budget, or whatever, you know? They -- why don’t they think about the younger generation? Because we’re getting older, but what about our kids, and their -- and our grandchildren, you know?

It’s like a cycle. That’s what I think. It’s like a cycle because look at these kids now, you know? They went through rough relationships, too. I know my kids did, you know, and they’re still going through it rough, you know? One of my daughters was -- had a boyfriend that stalked her after they broke up, you know? I heard about that one of the families, telling that. You know, that’s hurtful, you know.

They just need more programs. They should just never mind these buildings or whatever, you know, and they’re closing down the hospital and they should be putting money out to the old people or to the younger generation. That’s why there’s so many of them are committing suicide too, you know? I don’t know. It just makes me so mad because it -- it’s always made me mad, and I hide it because I -- I don’t know who to tell it to. I tell it to some of my supports out there, but one of them always says, “Well, I’m with you Cindy.” And I say well,
we have to try and speak our mind, I said, sometimes, and
people speak their mind in closed doors. What is that
going to do?

But me, when I get a chance, I go and say
out there at a meeting. I’ll speak up. I’m not afraid.
You have to speak your mind or else then nobody won’t know
what you’re talking about or how you’re feeling.

Like him, he doesn’t even know -- he didn’t
even hardly know his dad. He just got to know his dad
before he -- just before he died, you know? What about his
kids now? They’re going to be asking in a few years, you
know, where’s my grandma, where’s my grandpa, you know?
But, right now, his son is calling me grandma so, you know?
And he’s just starting to get to know me. He was scared of
me at first, but now his girlfriend’s having another baby
and they found out he’s going to have a little girl, so I’m
really happy for that. And now the grandchildren are going
to have to go without no grandma, no grandpa, you know?
Uh, this is my daughter, [T.H.], who just came in.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: I’m going to put you
on the camera here. It’s doesn’t want to work. Are you
going to speak?

MS. CINDY HEAD: We’re talking about your --
your Auntie Jennifer. So, maybe, if you have any memories,
maybe you can just tell them and how it impacted you.
MS. [T.H.]: Well, I haven’t met my Auntie Jennifer.

MS. CINDY HEAD: No, you didn’t, eh? No, because [T.H.] was born in [date of birth] ’95 and Jennifer died in February -- yeah, February. And she knew I was going to have a little girl so she said, “Oh, I can’t wait,” and I said, “Yeah me too.” And she always wanted to see what my little girl looked like because she always wanted me to have another little girl and to put -- she always wanted to see that was in my stomach. So, that’s when she was born, in March, and she didn’t even get to meet her auntie and she didn’t get to meet her either.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Mm-hmm.

MS. CINDY HEAD: Yeah. She didn’t even know her auntie. I was -- she was there in my stomach when she passed away.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Mm-hmm. Do you want to talk a little bit about Jennifer, like how she was as a person?

MS. CINDY HEAD: She was a good little girl, you know. Like, we -- back in the day there, when we were growing up, she used -- her nickname was doggy because she used to always bite all the time. Even in elementary, she’d get into fights and bite, you know? She’d get a phone call -- or my mom would be getting a phone call, “Oh,
your daughter’s biting again.” So, my mom would have to come and get her and let her stay home for a few days there. But, that’s how she got her nickname, was doggy.

And she grew up with that until she was, like, 13 maybe, and then grew out of it. So -- but, she was always a good little girl, you know? She -- she liked going to school and she liked to go out. She just started to experience alcohol, maybe 16, 17 maybe. And then when she turned 18, that’s when me and my mom, we went out with her for a while and we got -- we sat outside in the backyard of my mom’s. We had a great time, you know? She used to always make us laugh all the time.

Then she used to always curl her hair like my mom, eh, back in the day. They had these big roll curling irons, big curls like this, and she’d be way more hair, you know. She used to always like to look nice with her hair. That’s all I remember her as, just having a good old time with her all the time, and I used to always stick up for her all the time, or she’d stick up for me and --- yeah, I kind of miss those days.

But, I went on because I had -- I adopt -- me and my husband adopt -- no, I adopted my nephew, [D.], maybe a year, when he was a year old. And that was my sister’s boy, [J.]. And he got attached to me when he was a baby, so I adopted him and now he’s, what, 28?
MS. [T.H.]: Mm-hmm.

MS. CINDY HEAD: And, that was her boy -- when I -- before Jennifer passed away, she was visiting us. And then I had [S.]. She was three back then. She loved her auntie.

She used to always babysit for me once in a while, too. I used to like to go out too, on the weekends, because I’d be with them, you know, every day and go out and enjoy myself for a while. Jennifer, or Julia, or -- not really [N.], but two of them used to always babysit for me all the time.

But, you know, I try and go on. I went on because my uncles and my mom and them told me, you know, you have kids now. You have to try and go on with your life. Don’t dwell on it because you won’t let her rest. So, it took me a few years but, yeah, I just went looking after my kids and that. I had two already, and then she came along, and I had three and then...

I don’t know how fast I want to jump into it but my other sister Julia Hunter, she passed away. She was take from us. It’ll be six years January 30th. They found her on Maryland in January -- it was in winter. It was so cold out. And, what I found out was -- I think [N.] phoned me because [N.] is the one that had always used to try and keep Julia all the time, and she knew Julia was in a bad --
always in a bad relationship, always getting abuse from her boyfriends, eh?

So, I guess she always knew where to go when she got beaten up or she get locked out or, you know? She always went to [N.]’s house. But that night, I guess, she didn’t make it there. And [N.] only lived maybe a block away from where she -- from where her boyfriend was staying on Maryland there. And I guess, uh, that night, I guess they must have been drinking and she must have passed out because that guy dragged her body outside in -- like, it was like a big apartment, but they lived in the basement, and we went to go look where they found her, and it was like a little crawl space. Like, you had to go like this just to -- you couldn’t even stretch out.

So, he dragged her out and how we knew he dragged her out and she froze, there was scrape -- the autopsy said there were scrape marks on her back, and she was badly bruised all over, top to bottom. And, that’s what he did. There was even one time she went to the hospital because there was already gangrene setting in her leg and what he did, he went back to the hospital and got her out, and he was pushing her in a wheelchair.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: And that was her boyfriend?

MS. CINDY HEAD: That was her boyfriend that
did that to her, and that’s when I got involved with -- me
and [N.] got involved with Ka Ni Kanichihk. I don’t know
how to say that name.

MS. [T.H.]: Ka ---

MS. CINDY HEAD: Ka Ni Kanichihk or
something. It’s Medicine Bear anyway, but there are
supports for murdered and missing, so we went to go talk to
them, and we told them our situation and that we knew -- we
know my sister got murdered from him because he dragged her
body out there, probably when she was passed out, or he
would have knocked her out, whatever, you know? And it was
cold that day.

So, we went for help there and we had a
meeting and one of the investigators is a cop, had a
meeting with us over there and she told us, “Well, we’ll
see what we can do.” But, I don’t know if -- I think she
got a hold of [N.] and my mom, but -- I only went to a few
meetings, but -- because I was hurting and I was hiding it,
and I didn’t want to know anything because, I don’t know,
it was there again, you know?

I don’t know. Everything just got to me and
sometimes I hide stuff when it gets so bad, you know, and I
tend to forget things and -- but, I can’t cry. I don’t
know. That’s -- that’s the hardest part is my emotions, my
feelings, everything. It just -- I don’t know where it
went when my both sisters died.

But, now -- now that it’s all coming up again, it’s like, it’s hurting, because I wanted more justice back in the day when -- when it wasn’t there. Just like with other family members; there was nothing back then until early 90’s, you know? There was hardly any support for us when my sister, the younger one, died. There was -- I didn’t know anybody back then. If I did, then I would have went for help, but there was nothing back then.

And I had so much stuff, and -- you know? And I went through the same relation -- same kind of thing, you know; alcohol abuse, and everything, drug abuse, when I was young. She did it, my sisters did it, you know, it’s like a cycle. But, I try, I broke the cycle, my cycle, quite a few years ago, but -- when my kids were young because I have -- I had six kids of my own, and two nephews I adopted, and my youngest young is 17 right now.

So, I did mine, I did my part. Now, I’m -- I’m here for my nephews, I’m here for my nieces, I’m here for my kids, two of my -- three of my kids have kids now, so I’ve got six grand children. And I’m trying to help them out as much as I could to babysit, to watch them, take them to school once in a while, you know? I’m a good mom. I’m a good grandmother.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** I wanted to ask you
about the police response to both your sisters’ deaths.

MS. CINDY HEAD: I don’t know. The first one, Jennifer, the police came and got me, but they didn’t tell me at the door. They just told me when they were taking me out there, telling me what happened and I said, “Oh my God, really?” And they didn’t give me no support when I -- when I was waiting for my mom. And then after that -- and then -- I don’t know. I just closed up and I think my mom -- what I remember, I think my mom and my dad and my other siblings were taking it hard in the hospital.

So, I kind of think -- I wasn’t really involved with the -- when they were doing the investigation with my mom and them. I don’t remember much, but what I heard when they came and told me that my sister was -- was found, and she is in the hospital, she’s brain dead.

I don’t know if they gave my mom much support, but I wish they did, you know? Julia, I don’t know. I heard from my sister and then went to the hospital. She was gone already. And next, Julia was put into a shelter for domestic violence and everything. They moved her to a -- they moved her to a central there, into Manitoba Housing for protection for women that are getting abused. So, she was in there with her kids for a while, a couple of them. But, I don’t know -- I don’t know what happened to that. I think that’s when she went back with
that guy. And then I guess she got evicted from there and then she stayed on the street and then she just went living with that guy too, again.

But the cops never went back and, you know, told Julia, you know, you’re going to stay (indiscernible). They never told her that they were going to put a restraining order on -- on him or anything, because two cops did go there a few times, I remember in a park, because that guy was hitting her. And, nobody even phoned the cops on them and it happened right in central park, you know? People just don’t care sometimes, you know? They -- they should phone, you know, if they see a woman getting beat up or something.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Mm-hmm.

**MS. CINDY HEAD:** I don’t know. A lot of things should change.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So, what ended up happening to Julia’s boyfriend after she passed?

**MS. CINDY HEAD:** When we were in the hospital that day, he had the nerve to come back up on the same floor, the Intensive Care Unit, and he brought her clothes. And then, again, a couple of my uncles were there, and they told security, and they told him to leave the floor. And after that, I think we -- we never seen him after that for a while, but a couple months later, after we
had buried her, me and my other sister seen him on the city bus here and he just looked at us. And then I guess my sister must have said something to me, because we were sitting beside each other, and then he said, “Talking about me?” he said. “If you are,” he said, “I’ll do the same thing what I did to your sister to you,” he told my other sister.

And I guess my sister, [N.], just stood up to him and said, “What? Try it,” she told him. Right on the city bus, that’s what he said. Me and my sister were coming from Walmart, I think, that day. And then after that, we never seen him. And that was over five years ago, I guess. I kind of think maybe he passed away too. I don’t know. Because he always a Main Street person. I don’t know.

But, they never did charge him either. And meanwhile, that cop said no, we’ll do that. I remember her saying, “We’re going to do the investigation. We’re going to see if we can get him charged.” And I said, “Well, you should.” I said, “He’s the last one to see her. He’s the one that probably dragged her out.” But, that cop said, “No, there’s not much evidence there.”

But, out family knows what the autopsy showed to my mom, that she was dragged out. And we do believe that he did kill her; probably knocked her
unconscious and then dragged her out to freeze to death. People upstairs too, they should have phoned the ambulance, a couple hours later. Middle of the night, when he dragged her out, she was lying there, people upstairs were coming down and they seen her body there. Why couldn’t they phone the police, too? They walked right by her then they came home, uh, the next morning at 7:00 in the morning. They still -- they said they seen her lying there again, and she was still laying in the same position. They could have called the cops. They -- she could have been saved, maybe. You know, but some people, they just, you know? They don’t -- don’t know how to call the cops when they see stuff like this, you know. Her too, she had seven kids, 10 grandchildren. I don’t know. I’d just like -- just like to say that I hope that -- I hope they make changes involving -- they should do more -- more checking up on women that are getting abused.

And not only that, they should have men shelters, too. Because a lot of men do get abused out there. You’ll see it. Some of them are single parents, you know. Meanwhile, they’re trying to be good and the moms -- oh, it just makes me so upset because I see it all over. But, where is the money going, you know? Stuff we don’t need. We don’t need more homes; we don’t need no more apartments. We need things for elderly people and the
genrator that are coming -- that are, like, our kids, you
know, our grandchildren. We should make more supports for
them. That’s what makes me mad.

MR. MICHAEL WESLEY: Yeah.

MS. CINDY HEAD: I just wanted to say what I
had to get off my chest because I was kind of nervous
coming here to talk about my two sisters, and they were
good; they were good women at heart when they were alive.
And I could tell you, they truly used to keep me, when I
got thrown out of my apartment with a couple of my kids,
she kept me in that -- in that apartment block, what the
shelter gave her.

She gave us a bed on her floor for a couple
months and then I found my own place with my kids. She was
a good woman. She would have been a good grandma. I wish
she was still alive. I only got one sister left. And
she’s almost -- she’s a di -- she’s a real -- a real
diabetic. She takes her needles; she’s half blind. Who
knows, you know? You don’t know what comes and goes every
day, you know?

And my mom, she’s getting old and she can’t
hardly, you know, deal with a lot of stress. That’s why I
don’t hardly talk to my mom. That’s why I’m glad to have
Shannon and I have -- I just met you, and Angie and Leslie,
the Women’s Centre, Mama Wi (ph), you know? I have them to
talk to sometimes. Because sometimes I hide, and I -- I don’t talk about my feelings. That’s basically about me.

The ones that are passing, you know, just to let you know, there was another death in my family last week. It was my nephew. That’s the one that got hit -- got hit on Main Street. Cody Severight; he was 23. He used to talk about his mom and dad; now, he can be with them. They’re burying him today in the reserve.

That’s hurtful too, because I couldn’t afford to go there, me and him and a couple of my kids. I didn’t mind because I know I love him, I know he’s going to go into the right -- right place with his mom and dad.

But, I wanted to be here for my two sisters, and for myself, and for my sisters’ kids, you know? I’m happy I came, and my daughter is here. I just hope people will listen to my story and maybe, maybe they make a change and get some -- some more places up here, you know, or on the reserves or -- it’s hard.

When I have stress like this, I -- these kids don’t know I -- I hide a lot of things and I cry when I’m by myself. Sometimes I think about them because I do miss them sometimes, because I have nobody. And, Julia used to always listen to me and Jennifer used to always hang around with me all the time. Meanwhile, I’m the oldest, but oldest one of my sister (indiscernible).
But, I think I said a little bit for now, but, yeah, I hope that they should need more -- more counselling for -- for us and for these teenagers and kids that lose their -- both parents, you know, because who are they going to? You know, they don’t know who to go to. They cry when they -- they have to go out and maybe have a few and that’s when their -- their real emotions come out, that they talk about their mom and dad, you know? Because what -- maybe they don’t want to say it when they’re so -- when they’re -- I guess what I’m trying to say is they don’t know how to express their emotions when they’re sober.

But, I found out, some of the kids, they -- they tend to kind of drink a little bit and that’s when I find out the truth because they are hurting. And it’s hurtful when they come to you and when they say they miss their mom and dad, you know? What am I? All I’m here is just to listen to them and love them and -- but, I don’t know how to say because, you know, I never lost my mom, I don’t know how it feels. But, I love them, you know? I’m always here for them.

I guess that’s it from me. I just wanted to talk about my sisters and how it impacted me. And I wanted my nephew to be here, so he could tell how he never hardly met his mom. But, she was a really kind woman though.
But, I wanted them here for me, for support and, yeah, I think that’s about it. I don’t know if you guys have any questions.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Um ---

**MS. CINDY HEAD:** Like, this is -- this is my story, but uh, my mom and sister would have been here, but they’re, like I said, they’re burying my nephew.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Mm-hmm.

**MS. CINDY HEAD:** But, they would have loved to be here.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay. What might have helped your lost loved ones?

**MS. CINDY HEAD:** Would have what?

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** What might have helped?

**MS. CINDY HEAD:** Maybe people that see someone lying there, maybe they should phone the police or more investigation, you know? Go door to door, you know, or go next door neighbours, see if that guy is fighting her, see if it’s true, you know, like, the cops should make more -- more -- more help to the victim, I guess. More, like checking up and doing more investigation, like seeing what -- who was all there or, you know, or seeing who -- if he did fight her and everything.

Same with Jennifer, you know? They said
that guy put pills, but who was all there? Jennifer said before -- she phoned my mom twice that night, once at 12:00 the last time and then earlier that evening and she said there was four of them -- that four -- four, like him -- her, her boyfriend and three other guys. I guess they were there drinking and then I guess once she probably -- after she talked to my mom and then I guess that’s when she probably went to bed or something, when they -- they probably came back and I don’t know what happened but that’s how those pills got into her. He must have put them in there, in her drink. But, she wasn’t drinking. What killed her was those diabetic pills, they said. She -- they made her brain dead. Yeah, I don’t know.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: So, how can we make things better for future generations?

MS. CINDY HEAD: The future generation?

More supports, more -- cops should do more investigating, you know? If something happens like this again to other families, you know, they -- they should do more investigation. They should check up on the kids that are losing parents, you know? More supports out there for the -- for the -- for our kids growing up there, you know? Because one day we’re not going to be here, you know? Who are they going to go to? Probably just -- I don’t know. It’s just hard to -- hard to explain because these kids
MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Is there anything else that you’d like to tell the Commissioners?

MS. CINDY HEAD: Just what I’ve been hearing, like, coming to this Inquiry. I hear a lot of stories, you know? Like, sometimes I put my feelings aside and mine are not even bad, but some of these other stories are really bad, you know? It’s -- I cry in there too because I feel for them. Meanwhile, it’s not my family, but I wouldn’t want to be in that position. It’s so hard.

It’s like what they say, you know? There should be more supports on the -- on the reserves, in Winnipeg here, you know? Like, more drop-ins for these kids so they can talk -- talk to people, you know? Like, some of our kids are on drugs, they should have more supports for that, helping, aching and over for their drug addictions because, you know, some of them are committing suicide and some of them are going crazy because of this meth, you know?

I hear a lot of that and I think that’s what needs to be done or even if they could try to make a change to get more programs out here and more places to go instead of putting up these things that we don’t even need, you know, in our city. It makes me mad. We should be looking
after the elderly people too, you know? My mom gets mad at me sometimes when I get mad like that, when I’m watching the news because I’m criticizing everything. “Well, we don’t need that and you’re into your politics again, eh Cindy,” she tells me.

But, that’s how I am. I just -- I don’t know. It makes me mad when they take the money and we don’t even need it, you know? The kids need it. The elderly needs it, you know? Or even for us, you know, when we -- when we need to talk to somebody like -- like for myself, you know? I’ve been having a lot of support for myself in the last couple weeks, because I heard this was coming, the Inquiry, and then I learned my nephew passed away. So, I was going through the different resources and seeing who I could talk to and everything. So, yeah, I guess that’s it for me.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Do you feel that you’ve been heard?

MS. CINDY HEAD: I think I did, yeah. Only they can hear my story. I know nothing won’t happen just like that, you know? It takes a while and I can -- I can understand that, just as long as they hear my story and that these kids won’t have mom and dads, you know, if nothing’s being done about women getting abused, women getting killed, you know? Stuff has to be done to make our
lives more -- to make their lives more -- more livable, you know? Yeah, that’s it for me. Thank you.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Do you have anything to add, Michael? Well, it’s 11:33 a.m., Friday, October 20, and we’re done.

--- Upon adjourning at 11:33
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST’S CERTIFICATE

I, Shirley Chang, 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.

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Shirley Chang

March 8, 2018