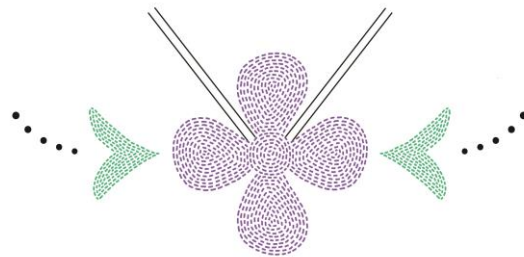


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Winnipeg, Manitoba**



PUBLIC

Friday October 20, 2017

Statement - Volume 53

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

Statement gathered by Francine Merasty

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1 Winnipeg, Manitoba

2 --- Upon commencing on Friday, October 20, 2017 at 10:20

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

8 **MS. CINDY HEAD:** I'm Métis on the treaty.

9 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay. From the Métis
10 Nation, and they're from Winnipeg. You're from Winnipeg?

11 **MS. CINDY HEAD:** Yes.

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

17 **MS. CINDY HEAD:** Cindy Head.

18 **MR. MICHAEL WESLEY:** Michael Wesley.

19 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Health supports?

20 **MS. SHANNON MCCRORY :** Shannon McCrory.

21 **MS. SHERYL BLASFA:** Sheryl Blasfa (ph).

22 **MS. GLENDA:** Glenda (indiscernible).

23 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** And then -- so, your
24 statement will be audio recorded today and you have allowed
25 us -- allowed us to video tape your statement. Can you

1 please confirm that you agree with this?

2 **MS. CINDY HEAD:** Yes, I agree.

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

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

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

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

1 when they told me they found her.

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

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

18 **MS. CINDY HEAD:** Yeah. And then after that,
19 I don't know. That guy tried coming to the hospital but my
20 uncles and them told him to leave. And, he wanted to bring
21 her clothes to her, you know? So, we left that to him
22 again. My mom took care of the investigation and
23 everything or whatever. But, I just thought I'd get that
24 out, like, because I know that guy did kill her because she
25 wouldn't take pills for nothing. I knew my sister well,

1 you know? She liked to drink, but never take pills.

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

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

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

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

24 But, now, my nephew has no mom, no dad. The
25 dad got sick and he passed away and now they're all ---

1 they're alone and sometimes they cry some, but I'm there
2 for them, for both of them, because I always was. And I
3 always listened to them sometimes, and sometimes it's hard
4 to do that because my kids never came to me and asked --
5 told me to listen to them, you know? They tried, but
6 sometimes they always say oh, never mind, you know?

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

17 And I said they listen to me sometimes, and
18 "Yeah, Auntie, but it's hard, I want my mom." I said,
19 "Well there's nothing going to change," I said, "She's
20 gone." I said, "You can talk to her, you can pray to her
21 and go to a men's group or a sharing circle or something."
22 But, he didn't listen. But, the only thing I was -- I
23 suggested back in the day, that the police should have did
24 more to investigate and question more people around.
25 Because there was a few people that were in her apartment

1 that night. And they were out bumming, I don't know what
2 the hell. But, there should have been more, more
3 investigation with that back then.

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

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

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

19 **MS. CINDY HEAD:** They did the autopsy and
20 they did what was -- they did find a little bit of bruises
21 on her, and then the tox screen showed that there was
22 diabetic pills in her drink -- what she drank. It was in
23 her system, and if that guy would have rushed her in at --
24 like, it was after 12:00 when she called my mom, so it was
25 after that.

1 So, if that guy tried waking her up at 7:00
2 in the morning, he should have rushed her in. But, he just
3 looked at her and said, oh, I'll let her sleep for some
4 more. Then he went out panhandling again. And then he
5 came back again at 10:00 in the morning, still didn't wake
6 her up.

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

16 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Was she diabetic?

17 **MS. CINDY HEAD:** No.

18 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** No.

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

22 **MR. MICHAEL WESLEY:** Okay. This is the
23 first time I ever heard that. I grew up with my adopted
24 mom. She took me and my brother from the hospital, took
25 care of me and him. For a time, I didn't really care about

1 my mom and dad, up to the age of 15 years old, and my
2 brother was 13. That's when I first met my auntie, because
3 at that time, I'm a teen, a teenager (indiscernible) my
4 side of my family.

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

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

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

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

1 **MS. CINDY HEAD:** I'm always -- I'm always
2 saying that, every day, every year. Every time when I hear
3 the news about the government or, you know, the city
4 budget, or whatever, you know? They -- why don't they
5 think about the younger generation? Because we're getting
6 older, but what about our kids, and their -- and our
7 grandchildren, you know?

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

16 They just need more programs. They should
17 just never mind these buildings or whatever, you know, and
18 they're closing down the hospital and they should be
19 putting money out to the old people or to the younger
20 generation. That's why there's so many of them are
21 committing suicide too, you know? I don't know. It just
22 makes me so mad because it -- it's always made me mad, and
23 I hide it because I -- I don't know who to tell it to. I
24 tell it to some of my supports out there, but one of them
25 always says, "Well, I'm with you Cindy." And I say well,

1 we have to try and speak our mind, I said, sometimes, and
2 people speak their mind in closed doors. What is that
3 going to do?

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

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

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

23 **MS. CINDY HEAD:** We're talking about your --
24 your Auntie Jennifer. So, maybe, if you have any memories,
25 maybe you can just tell them and how it impacted you.

1 **MS. [T.H.]**: Well, I haven't met my Auntie
2 Jennifer.

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

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

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

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

20 **MS. CINDY HEAD**: She was a good little girl,
21 you know. Like, we -- back in the day there, when we were
22 growing up, she used -- her nickname was doggy because she
23 used to always bite all the time. Even in elementary,
24 she'd get into fights and bite, you know? She'd get a
25 phone call -- or my mom would be getting a phone call, "Oh,

1 your daughter's biting again." So, my mom would have to
2 come and get her and let her stay home for a few days
3 there. But, that's how she got her nickname, was doggy.

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

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

21 But, I went on because I had -- I adopt --
22 me and my husband adopt -- no, I adopted my nephew, [D.],
23 maybe a year, when he was a year old. And that was my
24 sister's boy, [J.]. And he got attached to me when he was
25 a baby, so I adopted him and now he's, what, 28?

1 MS. [T.H.]: Mm-hmm.

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

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

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

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

1 always in a bad relationship, always getting abuse from her
2 boyfriends, eh?

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

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

23 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** And that was her
24 boyfriend?

25 **MS. CINDY HEAD:** That was her boyfriend that

1 did that to her, and that's when I got involved with -- me
2 and [N.] got involved with Ka Ni Kanichihk. I don't know
3 how to say that name.

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

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

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

21 I don't know. Everything just got to me and
22 sometimes I hide stuff when it gets so bad, you know, and I
23 tend to forget things and -- but, I can't cry. I don't
24 know. That's -- that's the hardest part is my emotions, my
25 feelings, everything. It just -- I don't know where it

1 went when my both sisters died.

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

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

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

25 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** I wanted to ask you

1 about the police response to both your sisters' deaths.

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

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

16 I don't know if they gave my mom much
17 support, but I wish they did, you know? Julia, I don't
18 know. I heard from my sister and then went to the
19 hospital. She was gone already. And next, Julia was put
20 into a shelter for domestic violence and everything. They
21 moved her to a -- they moved her to a central there, into
22 Manitoba Housing for protection for women that are getting
23 abused. So, she was in there with her kids for a while, a
24 couple of them. But, I don't know -- I don't know what
25 happened to that. I think that's when she went back with

1 that guy. And then I guess she got evicted from there and
2 then she stayed on the street and then she just went living
3 with that guy too, again.

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

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

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

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

19 **MS. CINDY HEAD:** When we were in the
20 hospital that day, he had the nerve to come back up on the
21 same floor, the Intensive Care Unit, and he brought her
22 clothes. And then, again, a couple of my uncles were
23 there, and they told security, and they told him to leave
24 the floor. And after that, I think we -- we never seen him
25 after that for a while, but a couple months later, after we

1 had buried her, me and my other sister seen him on the city
2 bus here and he just looked at us. And then I guess my
3 sister must have said something to me, because we were
4 sitting beside each other, and then he said, "Talking about
5 me?" he said. "If you are," he said, "I'll do the same
6 thing what I did to your sister to you," he told my other
7 sister.

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

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

23 But, our family knows what the autopsy
24 showed to my mom, that she was dragged out. And we do
25 believe that he did kill her; probably knocked her

1 unconscious and then dragged her out to freeze to death.
2 People upstairs too, they should have phoned the ambulance,
3 a couple hours later. Middle of the night, when he dragged
4 her out, she was lying there, people upstairs were coming
5 down and they seen her body there. Why couldn't they phone
6 the police, too? They walked right by her then they came
7 home, uh, the next morning at 7:00 in the morning. They
8 still -- they said they seen her lying there again, and she
9 was still laying in the same position. They could have
10 called the cops. They -- she could have been saved, maybe.

11 You know, but some people, they just, you
12 know? They don't -- don't know how to call the cops when
13 they see stuff like this, you know. Her too, she had seven
14 kids, 10 grandchildren. I don't know. I'd just like --
15 just like to say that I hope that -- I hope they make
16 changes involving -- they should do more -- more checking
17 up on women that are getting abused.

18 And not only that, they should have men
19 shelters, too. Because a lot of men do get abused out
20 there. You'll see it. Some of them are single parents,
21 you know. Meanwhile, they're trying to be good and the
22 moms -- oh, it just makes me so upset because I see it all
23 over. But, where is the money going, you know? Stuff we
24 don't need. We don't need more homes; we don't need no
25 more apartments. We need things for elderly people and the

1 generation that are coming -- that are, like, our kids, you
2 know, our grandchildren. We should make more supports for
3 them. That's what makes me mad.

4 **MR. MICHAEL WESLEY:** Yeah.

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

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

21 And my mom, she's getting old and she can't
22 hardly, you know, deal with a lot of stress. That's why I
23 don't hardly talk to my mom. That's why I'm glad to have
24 Shannon and I have -- I just met you, and Angie and Leslie,
25 the Women's Centre, Mama Wi (ph), you know? I have them to

1 talk to sometimes. Because sometimes I hide, and I -- I
2 don't talk about my feelings. That's basically about me.

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

9 That's hurtful too, because I couldn't
10 afford to go there, me and him and a couple of my kids. I
11 didn't mind because I know I love him, I know he's going to
12 go into the right -- right place with his mom and dad.
13 But, I wanted to be here for my two sisters, and for
14 myself, and for my sisters' kids, you know? I'm happy I
15 came, and my daughter is here. I just hope people will
16 listen to my story and maybe, maybe they make a change and
17 get some -- some more places up here, you know, or on the
18 reserves or -- it's hard.

19 When I have stress like this, I -- these
20 kids don't know I -- I hide a lot of things and I cry when
21 I'm by myself. Sometimes I think about them because I do
22 miss them sometimes, because I have nobody. And, Julia
23 used to always listen to me and Jennifer used to always
24 hang around with me all the time. Meanwhile, I'm the
25 oldest, but oldest one of my sister (indiscernible).

1 But, I think I said a little bit for now,
2 but, yeah, I hope that they should need more -- more
3 counselling for -- for us and for these teenagers and kids
4 that lose their -- both parents, you know, because who are
5 they going to? You know, they don't know who to go to.
6 They cry when they -- they have to go out and maybe have a
7 few and that's when their -- their real emotions come out,
8 that they talk about their mom and dad, you know? Because
9 what -- maybe they don't want to say it when they're so --
10 when they're -- I guess what I'm trying to say is they
11 don't know how to express their emotions when they're
12 sober.

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

22 I guess that's it from me. I just wanted to
23 talk about my sisters and how it impacted me. And I wanted
24 my nephew to be here, so he could tell how he never hardly
25 met his mom. But, she was a really kind woman though.

1 But, I wanted them here for me, for support and, yeah, I
2 think that's about it. I don't know if you guys have any
3 questions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Same with Jennifer, you know? They said

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

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

16 **MS. CINDY HEAD:** The future generation?
17 More supports, more -- cops should do more investigating,
18 you know? If something happens like this again to other
19 families, you know, they -- they should do more
20 investigation. They should check up on the kids that are
21 losing parents, you know? More supports out there for the
22 -- for the -- for our kids growing up there, you know?
23 Because one day we're not going to be here, you know? Who
24 are they going to go to? Probably just -- I don't know.
25 It's just hard to -- hard to explain because these kids

1 won't have nothing if there's no supports out there for
2 them.

3 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Is there anything
4 else that you'd like to tell the Commissioners?

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

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

21 I hear a lot of that and I think that's what
22 needs to be done or even if they could try to make a change
23 to get more programs out here and more places to go instead
24 of putting up these things that we don't even need, you
25 know, in our city. It makes me mad. We should be looking

1 after the elderly people too, you know? My mom gets mad at
2 me sometimes when I get mad like that, when I'm watching
3 the news because I'm criticizing everything. "Well, we
4 don't need that and you're into your politics again, eh
5 Cindy," she tells me.

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

17 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Do you feel that
18 you've been heard?

19 **MS. CINDY HEAD:** I think I did, yeah. Only
20 they can hear my story. I know nothing won't happen just
21 like that, you know? It takes a while and I can -- I can
22 understand that, just as long as they hear my story and
23 that these kids won't have mom and dads, you know, if
24 nothing's being done about women getting abused, women
25 getting killed, you know? Stuff has to be done to make our

1 lives more -- to make their lives more -- more livable, you
2 know? Yeah, that's it for me. Thank you.

3 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Do you have anything
4 to add, Michael? Well, it's 11:33 a.m., Friday, October
5 20, and we're done.

6 --- 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.



Shirley Chang

March 8, 2018