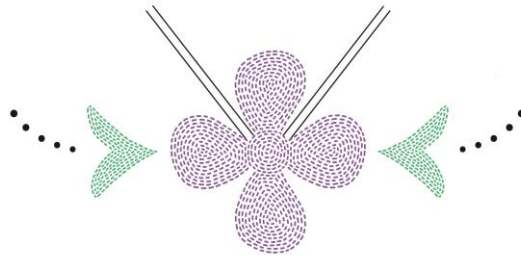


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre
Edmonton, Alberta**



PUBLIC

November 7, 2017

Statement - Volume 82

Kathy Augustine, In relation to Hilary Bonnell

Statement gathered by Jayme Menzies

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II
NOTE

Where not required by other statute, redactions to this public transcript have been made pursuant to Rule 55 of the Commission's Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice, which provides for "the discretion to redact private information of a sensitive nature where it is not material to the evidence to be given before distributing the information to the Parties. The National Inquiry will consider the public interest in releasing this type of information against the potential harmful impact on the individual whose personal information is at issue."

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Statement - Public
Kathy Augustine
(Hilary Bonnell)

1

Edmonton, Alberta

1

2

--- Upon commencing on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, at 6:31

3

p.m.

4

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay. My name is Jayme

5

Menzies. I'm a statement gatherer today on November 7th.

6

We're starting at 6:31 on the dot. My name is spelled

7

J-a-y-m-e, M-e-n-z-i-e-s. If you don't mind introducing

8

yourself, Kathy?

9

MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE: I'm Kathy Augustine,

10

and my name is spelled K-a-t-h-y, last name

11

A-u-g-u-s-t-i-n-e.

12

MS. BELINDA LACOMBE: And I'm Belinda

13

Lacombe, spelled B-e-l-i-n-d-a, L-a-c-o-m-b-e.

14

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Great. Thank you. So,

15

for the record, I'm just going to make sure I ask that you

16

are here voluntarily and you haven't been pressured to be

17

here today?

18

MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE: Yes.

19

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay, and you are okay

20

with us video and audio recording.

21

MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE: Yes, I am.

22

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay. So it's all

23

your -- all your time now, however you want to begin, at

24

the beginning of your niece's life or anywhere in-between.

25

MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE: Well, my niece,

Statement - Public
Kathy Augustine
(Hilary Bonnell)

2

1 everyone loved that girl. She was one of the most
2 rambunctious mouthy strong-willed 16-year-old little girl.
3 Like she was just -- if she didn't like something, she let
4 you know, and I -- she was supposed to live with me. She
5 was staying with me, but she wasn't living. She was
6 staying there, and I'm very strict, and she told me. She
7 said, I could never live with you, auntie. I love you, but
8 I could never live with you. You're too strict. You're
9 like Joomi (ph). She's too strict. Joomi is grandmother.
10 That was my mom. My mom passed away two years before that.
11 And everyone loved her 'cause she was everywhere. You
12 ever hear of one of those kids that knew everybody? Like
13 everybody from people my age to people younger, she knew so
14 many people, you know, and everybody loved her, even with
15 her attitude, and that girl had attitude too. Oh, my God.
16 She liked to do what everybody did when they
17 were 16. She liked to party. She loved shopping. I
18 remember she was staying with me the week before school
19 started, and then she was supposed to go back and stay with
20 her mom when school started because on the reserve -- my
21 sister Pam didn't live on the reserve. She lived off
22 reserve. She lived about an hour away from Burnt Church.
23 She lived with her husband. He has a house up there, and
24 Hilary didn't like Miramichi. She liked Burnt Church.
25 That was where she lived. That was our community.

Statement - Public
Kathy Augustine
(Hilary Bonnell)

3

1 That's --

2 So she literally would go from place to
3 place, house to house. There isn't nobody on my reserve
4 that she didn't sleep on their couch, but everyone -- like
5 everyone loved her, but she was with me that last week
6 before she went missing.

7 I remember telling her that week I got
8 her -- her school cheque. I was getting it Saturday, so it
9 was the last weekend before school started, so we were
10 supposed to go school shopping on Saturday. We were going
11 to meet up with her mom and then go school shopping and
12 stuff like that, so it was that Friday, I remember. My
13 truck was broke down, so I wasn't driving her anywheres.
14 She was going to -- with her -- one of her friends. She
15 was going to go babysit, and after she was done
16 babysitting, she was going to a house party. This is
17 Hilary. This is -- this isn't something out of the norm,
18 you know. She goes out. She says she's going to be back
19 at this time. She might not be back because more than
20 likely she's going to keep drinking with her friends or
21 keep doing whatnot, you know, and me and Hilary, we got
22 along as long as she respected my rules while she's in my
23 house. She knew that if I told her she had to be back at a
24 certain hour, she'd say, Okay, I'm going to spend the night
25 at my friend's house, I'll be back Saturday, which is what

Statement - Public
Kathy Augustine
(Hilary Bonnell)

4

1 she said to me, she's going to be back Saturday 'cause she
2 knew if I told her, okay, what time you going to be done
3 babysitting, what time are you going to be done from the
4 party, she knows I wouldn't like her response because I was
5 very strict.

6 And I remember when she left that night. I
7 was actually working on my truck, literally under the hood
8 of my truck. She told me she was going to babysit. I got
9 mad at her. She was wearing those little tiny short
10 skirts. You know, it's September. You know, it's getting
11 chilly. It was still nice out, so she could still pull it
12 off, but I thought, you know what, by the time nighttime,
13 she's going to be cold. I even yelled at her. I said,
14 (speaks in Native language) change, you're going to get
15 cold. No, I'll be fine, auntie, don't worry. I said, So
16 you're going to be home tomorrow? She says, Yeah. I said,
17 I'm going to have your school cheque tomorrow. Be home so
18 we can go shopping. Yeah, I'll be home for sure, auntie,
19 love you. I love you too. She left, walked
20 (indiscernible).

21 When she didn't show up Saturday, I figured
22 it was Hilary. She probably played -- you know, she
23 probably drank too much, probably she's still hung over.
24 I'll probably see her later tonight. She knows I already
25 knew she was going to drink, so she knew I wouldn't be

Statement - Public
Kathy Augustine
(Hilary Bonnell)

5

1 angry at her. So I figured, okay, she'll probably come
2 home later tonight, something. She'll be fine.

3 So I called her mom, told her mom, Yeah, Hil
4 didn't come home. She said, Oh, that girl. That Hill, she
5 used to always say, Oh, that Hil. She -- her -- her mom
6 used to call her Hil. Where Hil came from, I think it's
7 just Hilary for short, you know, short, so she says, Ah,
8 she's probably at one of her friend's, she'll probably be
9 home later tonight or tomorrow. Okay. I didn't feel
10 worried.

11 Then Sunday came. She didn't -- she didn't
12 call. She had minutes on her phone. By then the phone
13 calls were going straight to voicemail. So I posted on
14 Facebook. Facebook wasn't as popular as it is now, but it
15 was very popular.

16 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** M'hm.

17 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** So I posted on
18 Facebook, and my reserve isn't -- it isn't the biggest, but
19 it also isn't the smallest. Everybody knows everybody, and
20 I posted on Facebook that I hadn't seen Hilary all week and
21 since Friday, and I wanted her friends to at least tell me
22 where she is, let me know if she's okay, when she's coming
23 home, what's going on, and I had so many people say, What
24 do you mean you haven't heard from Hilary? What's going
25 on? Where did she go last? And I already contacted the

Statement - Public
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(Hilary Bonnell)

6

1 friends she was going to babysit with. They said she was
2 at the party and after the party she left, and that was the
3 last time they seen her.

4 So Sunday Pam came down, and we all went
5 driving around looking for her. We went to all the
6 friends' houses. No one seen her, and that was very odd.
7 Hilary was everywhere and anywhere. There was always
8 somebody who saw her. Even if I didn't see her, someone
9 beside me saw her walking down the road over there or seen
10 her down the path over there. Someone seen her, you know,
11 and no one seen her.

12 So my sister, Pam, went and filed a missing
13 person's report for her on Monday, and the police said that
14 more than likely she ran away. Probably she just wanted to
15 keep drinking. She probably ran away. Her friends are
16 probably hiding her. And it felt like we were alone, like
17 we didn't have anyone to help us. We didn't know what we
18 were supposed to do. So we took it to Facebook. We
19 said -- all of us, we said we're -- we're going to look for
20 Hilary. No one can find her. No one knows where she is.
21 We're going to meet at the fire department.

22 Like we have a building on our reserve that
23 used to be a fire department but is no longer a fire
24 department. They called it the fisheries, so we said we're
25 going to meet there. We're going to get together. We're

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Kathy Augustine
(Hilary Bonnell)

7

1 all going to get together, everybody here. We have to look
2 for Hilary, and so many people that I never knew knew
3 Hilary were saying stuff like, She stayed at my house, I'm
4 there. What time are we going to meet? And the police
5 still kept saying she's probably just a runaway and kept
6 treating it like it was nothing. They -- they didn't even
7 go talk to anybody.

8 Tuesday when we said we were going to do it,
9 I think it was three or four o'clock. We had so many
10 people at the fisheries. I swear we had at least 200
11 people. The police showed up. They showed up and took
12 credit for -- for getting this all together. They didn't
13 do anything. It was so many times that if they would have
14 just tried.

15 We searched for my niece since September 4th
16 to November 13th, and we didn't stop. Every time the
17 police -- we would go so long and they would kind of give
18 up, and you could feel them giving up 'cause they
19 wouldn't -- they wouldn't want to be organizing any more
20 searches. After they called off the dog searches and all
21 that, they -- they kept saying the trails were going cold.
22 Every time they did that, we all got together as a
23 community, and when I say "we all got together," it's like
24 500 people on one of the nights, and we literally went down
25 to every house that anyone said they might have seen her.

Statement - Public
Kathy Augustine
(Hilary Bonnell)

8

1 We went to every door. We busted down doors to find my
2 niece. They would come out when they knew we were going
3 looking. We didn't just go a couple people and we didn't
4 give up after a week, two weeks. We kept looking and
5 looking.

6 I think that was the first time that I ever
7 felt like my reserve was a place I could call home because
8 they were there as a community. That was the first time.
9 And I don't know if the police saw it or whether they were
10 trying to play on the fact that it was such a publicized
11 search. Like Hilary's search, we searched every day. Like
12 every day we searched. Every day when we went out, not
13 just a little bit, like vehicles upon vehicles upon
14 vehicles, hundreds of people, people flying in from all
15 over the place coming to help us look. It felt like so
16 many people were involved in the search, and we didn't
17 really do it alone.

18 But when they found her body, they found it
19 before they told us. They told us on Friday, November the
20 13th, Friday the 13th, and I always felt like they found
21 her the day before and then told us the day after to make
22 it more newsworthy. That's what it felt like, and they
23 didn't -- they didn't call our family and tell my sister
24 and her ex and the immediate family to meet at the house or
25 they didn't come, the police officers, to a home and say,

Statement - Public
Kathy Augustine
(Hilary Bonnell)

9

1 okay, we -- we found her body. They told us to all go meet
2 at the church on reserve so that they could tell everybody.

3 Yes, she was a part of everybody's life, but
4 she was my niece. That was my sister's daughter. She's
5 still devastated by it. That's her only daughter, was her
6 only daughter. To this day my sister does believe they did
7 everything, but there's a lot of things that I just -- I
8 seen because no matter how much it killed me to do all
9 that, to go searching every day, to wake up every day and
10 go looking and every night not find her, and when we found
11 her, it was the worst. I'm glad that we found her. I wish
12 she would have just came home and that we didn't have to
13 find her like that.

14 Still to this day people still talk about
15 her. I know they all said try to look for something in
16 everything. There's always a purpose for everything.
17 There's always a meaning for everything, and for the
18 longest time I felt like what happened to my niece meant
19 that you couldn't trust anyone, and that was wrong. I want
20 so much for what happened to her not to have happened.

21 She -- what happened to her made my
22 community so close to right now I don't think anyone would
23 even have thought of waiting a day if someone's missing,
24 and I've seen it so many times on Facebook. If someone
25 doesn't come home when they're supposed to, it's on

Statement - Public
Kathy Augustine
(Hilary Bonnell)

10

1 Facebook, and I see so many people in my community stand up
2 and right away say, oh, I saw her here, I saw her there or
3 tell them, okay, she's here. Everyone helps out to the
4 point that no one wants to sit back and just watch when
5 someone's missing.

6 I have to believe that she had to do that,
7 you know. I have to believe that she did something, and if
8 it was one thing, it was to bring that community together
9 because I've never seen that. I've never seen my community
10 come together like that, not for one person. She was so
11 loved by everybody. She was so young. She was 16.

12 It had a lot of effect on everybody, not
13 just me, not just my kids. People in my community that I
14 didn't even know were friends with Hilary, it affected
15 them. I know one of her good -- one of her friends,
16 Chelsea (ph), loved Hilary so much. Like they all had an
17 effect on Hilary's passing. I don't think anyone went in
18 Burnt Church and didn't have some kind of impact from it,
19 the stress of searching for her, not knowing and then
20 finding out that it's someone in our own community that did
21 that to her.

22 Even afterwards I just -- for me it was how
23 they told me, how they told us as a family. I understand
24 they wanted to involve the whole community because the
25 community was there for it, but I guess this is the selfish

Statement - Public
Kathy Augustine
(Hilary Bonnell)

11

1 part of me 'cause -- 'cause she was my niece.

2 I'd say I'm one of the few people that had
3 her sleeping on my couch, but I'm not. I guess everybody
4 else deserved it too. They deserved the right to know like
5 the rest of us. I just thought they shouldn't have did it
6 so much for the TV. I felt a lot of times when the cops
7 were involved it was because the camera was there. If the
8 camera wasn't there, they weren't there. The reason they
9 came that first day was on Facebook, and, you know, there's
10 the news channels and stuff. They watch Facebook because
11 all of a sudden they started appearing. Like I said, the
12 police showed up to say that they -- that they put it all
13 together, but I remember I even still have my Facebook
14 messages. Every now and then it shows up in my timeline.
15 September 4th it always shows up. No, not even September
16 4th because that's where she went missing. It's days
17 afterwards when I posted on Facebook, and all those
18 conversations, those show up on my timeline, and every time
19 I see it, my heart breaks because all I keep thinking is
20 she was such a beautiful young lady, and I wonder what she
21 could have been -- what she could have been, where she
22 would have been in her life.

23 You know, my daughter -- my daughter and her
24 were so close. They were practically the same age. I
25 think my daughter [Daughter 1] was maybe older than her by

1 six months or a year, but she loved her, and they got along
2 so good. [*Three lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55*]. They
3 felt like, you know, if they knew her friends more better,
4 but my kids weren't allowed to know the same people. I was
5 very strict.

6 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Can I ask you a
7 question? Did the cops ever lay charges and was there --

8 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** The guy was actually
9 her first cousin. She had gone into the store that's right
10 on my reserve that's on the highway and going right into
11 the reserve, that road. It's called Four D's Road. She
12 went in there and then she left, and someone came in. Her
13 first cousin came in, came into the store. If you look on
14 camera and you see, and I actually worked at that store at
15 that time, and he came into the store. I wasn't working
16 that -- that morning, but he came into the store and was
17 seen on camera going down each aisle looking for someone,
18 and then he was actually involved in the search of Hilary.
19 He was there the whole time trying to help out. That's
20 what he says. Then he was -- he -- he's the one who told
21 them where he hid her body. He told them what he did. He
22 said he did it by accident, said it was consensual,
23 consensual sex. That was her first cousin.

24 There's some -- some people on our reserve
25 don't think anything about a cousin and a cousin having sex

Statement - Public
Kathy Augustine
(Hilary Bonnell)

13

1 together. My family, especially my mom's, my mom's family,
2 very, very, very strict. You don't date your first cousin.
3 You don't date your second cousin. If you can follow them
4 on your tree line, you don't date them. You don't. So my
5 niece Hilary was raised in that atmosphere. That girl
6 practically lived at my mom's house before my mom passed
7 away. My mom passed away in 2007. Hilary was always
8 there. Hilary knew that that's a taboo. You don't have
9 sex with your first cousin. Are you kidding me? That's
10 like having sex with your brother. That's how close
11 relatives. For me, my first cousin, I remember them since
12 I was a kid just like my brother. It's like my sister.
13 First cousins, you don't do that. He said it was
14 consensual sex and that he accidentally put his hand over
15 her mouth 'cause she was screaming, and that's how he
16 killed her, but it was an accident. Then he said that he
17 used to pay her for sex.

18 I used to get my niece's cheques 'cause she
19 was on the reserve. I used to get her cheques for her.
20 When she needed money, I gave her money. That's one thing
21 she didn't have to worry about. When she needed her
22 personal hygiene stuff, she came and seen me. I gave her
23 what she needed 'cause her mom lived in town. Her mom
24 couldn't do it, you know, *[one line redacted - personal*
25 *information]* so it's not easy to get around and do all this

1 stuff, you know.

2 And he was charged. I can't remember if
3 it's first-degree murder. He's serving life -- life in
4 prison, Curtis Bonnell, so, yeah, he got life in prison.
5 Where he murdered her was right beside the store I worked
6 at. They say that when he killed her, he killed her and he
7 left her body at the house right beside the store, and I
8 remember there being such a bad smell. I never smelled a
9 smell like that in my life. Come to find out they said
10 that was more than likely her body rotting because he had
11 it at his house beside the store.

12 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** While your family were
13 searching and throughout the court procedures were there
14 any organizations, whether culturally relevant or western,
15 if we can call it that, any organizations or individuals
16 that were offering resources or support to you and your
17 family?

18 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** I know when she first
19 passed, we had -- the police department got counsellors to
20 come, and then I believe someone on the reserve got a few
21 people to come and do some -- some smudging. I can't
22 remember who they -- I know they brought some spiritual
23 leaders in. I remember that 'cause we used to
24 have -- throughout the whole time we were searching for
25 her, we used to have the sacred fire going. When we first

1 started searching for her, we had the sacred fire going,
2 and we kept it going until we found her body, even in the
3 winter, and it was getting cold.

4 When we were going through the courts,
5 Victim Services was there for us. They made it a point to
6 make sure that we were being able to speak. My daughter
7 felt like she didn't have a chance to speak as much as she
8 could. Like even with this Inquiry, she was frustrated
9 because in New Brunswick, it's a small province. It's not
10 heavily populated, not like out here. My daughter lives in
11 Fredericton. She goes to university, and, like I said, she
12 was really -- she was devastated by Hillary's loss, and I
13 know the first thing she said was, Why don't we have an
14 opportunity to speak at one of these inquiries? Why don't
15 we have that chance? And I said, I don't know why I'm
16 having that chance. I said, I honestly walked into this, I
17 said, because I didn't even know they were here until I
18 seen and spoke to some -- that's how I knew they were here.
19 Even when I heard it, all I could think of was Hilary.

20 And I know that I haven't spoken much about
21 this to anybody other than my immediate family, and it
22 feels good. Like it really does feel good to speak about
23 it. I was kind of worried. I was talking with my husband
24 about it, and (indiscernible) spoke about it. I was kind
25 of scared I was going to break down. First anxiety attack

1 I ever had was when we found out Hilary died. That's the
2 first time I ever had an anxiety attack. Never had one
3 before.

4 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** How is your family
5 coping now? Do you have supports or are they -- have they
6 found a way to remember her in perpetuity or does it still
7 really affect the family?

8 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** See right now it's
9 different for each one of my family. Each side it's
10 different. For my sister Pam, I'm not actually on speaking
11 terms with her anymore. We had a falling-out, and choices
12 she's made, I can't -- I can't have in my life, *[six lines*
13 *redacted pursuant to Rule 55]*. Like I don't know.

14 As for -- I have a very large family.
15 There's actually 14 of us brothers and sisters, so each one
16 dealt with it differently. Each one deals with it
17 differently. I deal with it by always telling my
18 kids -- after that night, I remember saying, No matter
19 where you are, no matter what time it is, no matter where I
20 am, if you ever need me to pick you up, you better pick up
21 that phone and you better call me. You don't ever tell me
22 you had to walk or hitchhike. If I'm in Alberta, you tell
23 me you need a ride, believe me, money can buy you what you
24 need. If I needed you to get a ride right now from the
25 hillbillies, believe me I can get somebody out there to the

Statement - Public
Kathy Augustine
(Hilary Bonnell)

17

1 hillbillies, get you and get you home. I said, Don't you
2 ever walk, and I've said it to my son too.

3 You know, they always talk about the women.
4 They don't talk about the young men, you know, and I've
5 always told my kids, No matter what, I don't care where you
6 are, and I'm very strict. They also don't like to even
7 have a drink around me, and them being highly intoxicated
8 is not something that they want to do in front of their
9 mother, but they know that no matter what -- and I always
10 tell them -- that I'll never judge you, but don't you ever
11 ever walk from somewheres, don't you ever get in a vehicle
12 with someone that's drinking. I always make sure that they
13 always can call me. It doesn't matter what time of day or
14 night.

15 I know my daughter [Daughter 1], it took a
16 long time for her, more than the other two. For her it
17 was -- she was fairly close to Hillary, and if you see a
18 picture of them, you're just like -- they look like
19 sisters. They were so close. You know, that's your first
20 cousin on your mom's side. Your moms are sisters. Of
21 course you're best friends, you know. It took her so many
22 years to get over it and still. I know she was in -- she
23 went to a conference in New Brunswick, and she spoke at a
24 conference for murdered women, and it still bothers her,
25 and she will still say it to this day like it took a long

1 time. [Four lines redacted pursuant to Rule 55] It took
2 years for anyone, and a year after Hilary, there was no one
3 that we could actually go to and say, look, I'm still
4 having a hard time dealing with Hilary. You know, most of
5 the people are going to look at you and say, well, why?
6 It's been a year. You should be fine by now. It's been
7 ten years since my mom passed, and there's still times that
8 I cry out for my mom and still wish she was here.

9 You know, have you talked to somebody about
10 unresolved issues about someone passing when they've passed
11 so long ago? Have you talked to somebody that is so
12 close-minded, and they look at you and see you as you just
13 want something. What do you want? You want
14 antidepressants. You want those uppers, those downers,
15 whatever. You go see a doctor and you ask for help, you
16 must want medication. You're Aboriginal. You definitely
17 want medication, definitely.

18 So I don't know how -- even now my kids have
19 a great relationship with me, and I'm -- I tell them if
20 they ever need to talk about anything, it doesn't matter.
21 It doesn't matter if it will hurt me for them to talk about
22 it. I try and be their outlet because if they had to look
23 to going and seeing somebody -- we're Aboriginal. We're
24 going to be looked at like we want something, and I know
25 that for a fact. That's how it always was, how it always

1 will be. It's just so sad. Even if we wanted to, [one
2 *line redacted - personal information*] but who are you going
3 to? You know, especially if you go to a doctor and they
4 automatically think, oh, well, what are those -- they have
5 drugs for everything, drugs to make you calm, drugs to make
6 you move more, drugs for everything, and they think
7 automatically you are going there 'cause you're
8 depressed -- depressed, you want to be on antidepressants.
9 Well, if it's not antidepressants, then it's something else
10 you want to be on.

11 *[Three lines redacted - personal*
12 *information]*. None of my kids like pills because I don't,
13 and I make them always say one thing. If you can't deal
14 with it in your mind unless it's going to -- you need
15 it -- you're diabetic, you need the medicine, okay, but if
16 it's something for depression, anxiety, if we don't learn
17 how to deal with it, we can't. Medication ain't going to
18 do anything except make you dependent, so yeah.

19 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** I guess part of what
20 this Commission is hoping to achieve is to learn about what
21 contributes to women missing and murdered, but we're hoping
22 also to help or contribute to commemorating those people,
23 so I know that it would be hard for you to speak on behalf
24 of Hilary's mom or your brothers and sisters and the whole
25 community, but would you have any ideas as to how we could

1 best commemorate Hilary as an individual or as generally
2 the women and girls that have been affected this way?

3 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** I wouldn't even -- I
4 wish my daughter [Daughter 1] was here --

5 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Yeah.

6 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** -- because
7 she's -- she would have something to say.

8 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Yeah. You know --

9 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** I don't -- for me,
10 every day that we think happy of her. You know, for me I
11 don't need -- me personally, I don't need gratification or
12 some form of showing me, okay, we remember Hilary because
13 I'll always remember Hilary. My daughter will always
14 remember Hilary. Her mom is putting up a monument
15 for -- on behalf of Hilary. It ain't going to change the
16 way I feel about Hilary.

17 The thing you said about they want to see
18 how to stop it, our women -- and when I say "our women,"
19 I'm not talking about Mi'gmaw. I'm talking about all our
20 native woman are put in a position where they have to be
21 strong, whether they are or aren't. They have to get from
22 point A to point B. They don't want to walk. They don't
23 want to hitchhike, but if they actually said, I feel
24 scared, they're going to be hurt even more, they're going
25 to be ridiculed, and if not -- just by opening your mouth

Statement - Public
Kathy Augustine
(Hilary Bonnell)

21

1 and saying I'm scared, that makes them a target. In all
2 honesty, the way that our women are treated is wrong. You
3 know, you look bad if you're strong and independent and
4 made to believe that you're strong enough to fight off a
5 man.

6 I'm a very strong and independent woman. I
7 have my security license. I've taken self-defence classes.
8 I've got baton use, handcuff use. I've got everything you
9 could imagine, but I'm not going to sit there and believe
10 that I can fight off a man because I'm -- I'm not put in a
11 position to be vulnerable, but if put in a position to be
12 vulnerable right now, I would stand my ground even if I
13 knew I was going to get beat, but a lot of the native women
14 I find are put in a position where they have no choice. If
15 they say they're scared to do it, then they're a target.
16 If they do do it, then they're a target. How do you stop a
17 girl from hitchhiking when she knows if she asks this one
18 or that one for a ride they're going to say no 'cause you
19 have no money or, no, you're this or you're that? 'Cause
20 down home I see it a lot. I see the girls that do the
21 drugs or do a lot of drinking. They can't get a ride from
22 anybody. They're put in a position that they have to
23 hitchhike. Why? Because everyone says, oh, well, they do
24 this, they do that, they can do that. They put them in the
25 position to think that they're strong enough to do it when

1 they can't. They can't fight off a man no matter how small
2 that man is. Men are built one way, women are built
3 another way, and if you believe anything else, then the
4 only one you're fooling is yourself, to be honest, because
5 I honestly feel like if there was more people to turn
6 around and protect the ones that they think don't need the
7 protecting, they're the ones that need it the most, the
8 ones who stand there and say, oh, I'm strong, I can do
9 whatever I want, I can go wherever I want. They're the
10 ones that need it the most 'cause you know what? They're
11 just putting on a face in front of you saying that they can
12 do this and they can do that, but they can't, but the
13 moment they say they can't, that's when they're going to
14 get hurt the worst because they let their wall down.

15 I don't know how to stop it. It's really a
16 bad cycle to the -- and how do you stop it? How do you
17 stop a cycle that makes a woman tell her that she has to be
18 strong and then when she's strong, she can't show that
19 she's scared 'cause if she's scared, she's going to be a
20 target, and I honestly wish that there was more men willing
21 to take charge and protect our women, and I say men because
22 no matter what, you can get a skinny guy in here, and a
23 skinny guy still is a man. Without the men to help us, we
24 can be strong, independent as much as we want. Without
25 them to stand behind -- and I know this for a fact. If one

1 man stood up and said no, the rest will follow because they
2 all want to follow a leader.

3 They need one man just to stand up and take
4 care of one woman, one woman that he has nothing to do
5 with. There's no emotional standing behind it. Then maybe
6 other men will start to realize that they can start taking
7 care of their women and not just their women, the women in
8 their community. You know, it might not be their relative,
9 but you know something? No, they're not related to you,
10 but they're going out with your cousin's cousin. They're
11 going out with someone that you know.

12 I don't know how to fix it. The only thing
13 I could think of is for me, it's go back to the old ways.
14 The old ways, the man stood by the woman. There was no man
15 that would see a woman walk out of a building or out of a
16 house and say I'm going to hitchhike from here to there.
17 The man would turn around and say, well, no, you're not.
18 We're going to get you there. If we can't get you there,
19 we're going to find somebody to get you there. In the old
20 ways it was never like this, you know.

21 You want to know what your kid was up to in
22 the old days? You didn't have to ask far because everybody
23 knew everybody. I mean still down home, if I meet a young
24 kid and I don't know who they are, the first thing out of
25 my mouth is who's your mom because as soon as they tell me

1 who their mom is, I know what family they're from, so I
2 know what side. Do you know what I mean? Okay. They
3 might be my relative. They might be so and so's relative.
4 It's a circle. It's all a circle. This felt good.

5 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** I'm glad. You know,
6 it's -- if you leave here tonight and you think of anything
7 else you feel like you didn't say and you wanted to, you're
8 more than welcome to call the Inquiry. You can send in a
9 document, a written document, a poem, a video. You can
10 send anything in, and we can add it to your file, to
11 Hilary's file.

12 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** Okay.

13 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** If your daughters want
14 to --

15 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** That's what I was
16 going to do. I was actually going to try --

17 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** (Indiscernible).

18 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** -- and get ahold of my
19 daughters.

20 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** And you may send in
21 photographs of them with Hilary that (indiscernible).

22 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** I have pictures of
23 them.

24 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** We'll be able to see all
25 of that, and we'll be able to add it to what we have, and

1 our commissioners will look at it.

2 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** Give me an email
3 address, and I'll send you --

4 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Yeah.

5 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** -- pictures
6 and -- 'cause I know my -- my daughter [Daughter 1], the
7 one that was close to her, still has poems that Hilary
8 wrote to her.

9 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Yeah.

10 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** Hilary used to like
11 writing poems.

12 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** And we'd love to see
13 that just to give an idea of who Hilary was too and
14 (indiscernible).

15 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** Like we save a lot
16 of -- anything that I have that has her handwriting, even
17 if it's just a scribble. She scribbled on the
18 floor -- after my mom passed away, I got my mom's house,
19 and they used to always be in my mom's house, and on the
20 basement floor -- 'cause it's still a basement -- she has
21 her name scribbled all over the basement. I won't let
22 anyone wash that up. It's just cute little scribble marks
23 and cute little stuff here and there, but it's a touch of
24 Hilary.

25 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** M'hm.

1 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** And I love having a
2 touch of Hilary in that house, so, yeah, I'll -- I'll talk
3 with my daughters and --

4 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** 'Cause I know you
5 weren't planning on being here, so you probably -- had you
6 been planning it, you may have brought pictures or --

7 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** Well, yeah, I would
8 have had pictures that I would have known to give, and I
9 would have been like, okay, we can -- this one, this one,
10 this one 'cause, yeah, there's some pictures that -- like
11 I'm telling you, that girl knew everybody on my reserve,
12 and my reserve's the second-large reserve in New Brunswick.

13 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** And, you know, we may be
14 doing a hearing there or nearby in the year, so if your
15 family wanted to wait 'til then, that's entirely acceptable
16 as well, but if in the meantime you wanted to send
17 anything, we could even take photocopies of originals and
18 then send you back the originals, so whatever is best for
19 you and your family, we can --

20 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** Okay.

21 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** -- accommodate that.

22 **MS. KATHY AUGUSTINE:** That sounds perfect.
23 Yeah, I'll talk with my daughters probably tomorrow 'cause
24 they're three hours ahead.

25 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Right.

1 --- Upon adjourning

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Shawn Hurd, 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.

Shawn Hurd.

Shawn Hurd

March 10, 2018