National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
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Statement – Volume 119

John Spyglass

Statement gathered by Kerrie Reay

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| Item 1 | Hand drawn map of event (1 page) |
--- Upon commencing on Wednesday, November 22, 2017 at 12:25

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, John, are you ready?

**MR. JOHN SPYGLASS:** Yes, I’m ready.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. This is Kerrie Reay. I’m a statement taker with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and we’re at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan today, this November the 22nd, 2017, and the time is 12:25. Today I am speaking with John Spyglass. He is of the Mosquito-Grizzly Bear’s Head Lean Man First Nation and is residing in Saskatoon. And along with John in the room is the niece, Chatty (ph), a health support worker. And, today, John, you’d like to tell your story of an incident that occurred in October of 2012, and what you believe was an abduction of a woman?

**MR. JOHN SPYGLASS:** Yes.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** An Indigenous woman?

**MR. JOHN SPYGLASS:** Yes.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** And your experience with the police. I’ve also invited you if you would like to speak about anything else, please do so. So, the space and the time is yours, John.

**MR. JOHN SPYGLASS:** My name is John Spyglass. I moved to Saskatoon in 1997, and I’ve been here for 18, 19, 20 years, 21 years in Saskatoon. I grew up in
Mosquito on my reserve, and I came to the First Nations University of Canada to gain my education. I worked with the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre. First off, I was volunteering there and then I became fully employed not long after. I -- what I do when I’m not working is I do beadwork. I do jewellery making. And, during the days, I go out onto the streets of Saskatoon and I try and sell my beadwork to support myself and to help out with the house.

I live on [address] and I’ve been there for probably the past 10 years. It is two blocks down from 20th Street and Avenue H. On the day of October, in the afternoon, I left in the morning from my house and I went downtown to go try and sell my earrings, my jewellery. And, I stopped in at the second-hand store to see if I could pick up some material that I can reuse, repurpose for my jewellery making.

I have two degrees. I have a Bachelor of Education Degree and I have a Bachelor of Indigenous Studies Degree, Bachelor of Arts Degree. One from the University of Saskatchewan and one from First Nations University of Canada, University of Regina. I do a lot of cultural teachings. I teach the people of Saskatoon cultural awareness about Indigenous people. When I was coming home on that day in October, it was about 2:00, 2:30 in the afternoon, I was coming by the church on 20th across
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the parking lot and I saw a lady coming down from -- coming down from 20th Street and she was staggering. And, I knew she was a First Nations lady because she had long black hair. She was trying to cross the street towards Fas Gas and what I noticed was all of a sudden there was a truck that -- a blue truck that came right onto the parking lot, right next to me and he looked behind at that lady. And it reminded me of something like a hunter that saw something and had to return back to that area. But he turned around, got back onto that street. And what was so unbelievable of what I saw was that he was a big man, a white guy, he had blonde hair or brownish hair. To me, he looked about, like, maybe in his 40s, 30s maybe, late 30s, 40s and he jumped out of his truck, and as that lady was trying to cross, he stopped right beside her, and he picked her up and threw her in the back of the truck and he took off.

What bothers me is that, as soon as I got home, I phoned the police and I told them exactly what I saw, what I just described here. And I told him what I just saw and they really didn’t ask me for details, they said that they’d have somebody follow up this incident and that they would send somebody over. This was in October 5th of 2012 and to this day I’m still waiting for the police to come and see me about that incident.

Then I looked -- I looked through all the
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posters and trying to see if this was the lady that I saw that got thrown in the back of the truck. I don’t even know to this day if she is still alive or who she was or what happened to her. I know I’m being punished by the Creator for not letting this -- finding out the answer, because a lot of things are happening that I can’t control. I had to tell somebody and throughout the years, these past years have been hard because what can I do? Where was that lady? Is she -- where is she? I don’t know what else to say but it really bothers me that I wasn’t able to do anything to help her. I know it -- it was only like five minutes, the incident took five minutes but it really, really bothers me even to this day.

I tried calling the police again, and they transferred me to speak to somebody but when they transferred me all I got was a blank -- a blank call. I asked about -- I inquired about my phone call and there was no phone call made that day to the police. And, yes, I made that phone call. I know I made that phone call. My roommate was sitting there listening to me. I made that phone call, but when I called back, I continued to call back there’s no -- there’s no record of me calling.

The RCMP heard about these, the police didn’t do anything. I don’t know. Maybe she didn’t know that man, maybe that was her boyfriend, maybe, I don’t
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know. But somebody should have gotten back to me to let me know that they were concerned about this lady. That somebody should be -- somebody should tell me that they did look into it, that, yes, this lady’s safe. I don’t know why I’m telling this story because I’m hoping -- maybe this is an answer to a puzzle that somebody’s seeking. Maybe this will help somebody find their daughter or their loved one. Maybe this is a puzzle that somebody needs to find the girl. And I’ve been holding on to this puzzle for how many years and the police are not doing nothing about it. They should come and talk to me and tell me, yes, we are looking into it, but there’s nobody that even recorded my call on that day. It’s October -- to this day I often wonder if -- I look at missing posters and see who wondered that girl I saw that got thrown into the back of the truck. You know, there was something wrong because she was staggering, and I know she was probably trying to get home only to be thrown in the back of a truck like nothing. My problem is somebody they’ve never ever met, this must be a puzzle that somebody needs.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Can I ask a few questions?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So, in Saskatoon, when you reported it, was that to the Saskatoon Police Department?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yes.
MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. So, you reported it when you got home on October the 5th?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And then you didn’t hear back from them.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And you called them back again?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And it went off to a sort of a blank ---

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: They transferred me and then when they transferred me that ---

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Now, the first time when you called, what information did they ask you?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: They asked me to describe the incident and where it happened, when it happened.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: And how it happened and then what kind of details that I have that I can give them.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. And you gave them the details you’ve given here today?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yes, yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: All right. Which really
does describe -- so from the map that you have there, you were walking through a parking lot?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Mm-hmm.

MS. KERRIE REAY: You were walking through that parking lot going from the east to the west.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: To my home, I live over here, yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. So, you were walking to that parking lot east to west.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: From the east to the north.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. And then -- but she was coming from the west down, coming down ---

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: She was coming ---

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- 20th, right?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: She was staggering here ---

MS. KERRIE REAY: Right, okay.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: --- and I know she was trying to cross here and that’s when that car -- that truck came in front of me and grabbed her.

MS. KERRIE REAY: But I’m just going to, for the record, the blue truck was coming from the west travelling east?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: West (indiscernible).
MS. KERRIE REAY: Right?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And it passed her at that corner?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And that corner is 20\textsuperscript{th} and ---

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: And Avenue H.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And H Street.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yes, H.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And then it came across that intersection, around through the parking lot you were walking at and then ---

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: I was right about here.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. And so, then it pulled out onto H and then travelling east or west? It travelled west now?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: It travelled -- it began turning here.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And now travelling west, stopped there, took the woman and put her in the back of the truck and continued to travel west?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: He took off really fast.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. So, when you were giving your information to the person on the phone, did
they ask any information about who you were or what your
phone number was?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: I gave them my number.

My name is John Spyglass and I just witnessed an incident
that I think you guys should be aware of.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Did they -- and so
they didn’t call back, so you said you called them back?
And you followed up a few times by what ---

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- by what it has said.
And, when you called them the last time or the time before,
did you explain what happened that day?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yes, I did. I told
them.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And they still did not ask
for you to come in?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: (Indiscernible).

MS. KERRIE REAY: No, that’s fine. They did
not ask you to come in and file a report?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: No, that they would send
somebody to my house, and I gave them my address and I’m
still waiting.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And you’re still waiting.
I just want to say it takes an incredible amount of courage
to come here and tell a story, because you can hear and see
the hurt and the pain that you are living with because of what you witnessed and the lack of response. And these are the types of incidents that are important for the Commissioners to hear because it gives some insight for them and the Inquiry to understand what happen when somebody witnesses such an event and then not to be taken seriously. So, do you recall the last time you called?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: That was probably about two years ago now.

MS. KERRIE REAY: About two years ago.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: I don’t -- I told my sister I need to tell somebody. I told the police, but they’re not listening. I told my roommate, Dan and Jamie, that what am I going to do with this story? How come nobody is listening to me?

MS. KERRIE REAY: So, how does that make you feel, John? You took the time to call.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: I feel so sorry for that girl. Who is she? I just wonder, wonder, wonder who she is, because I keep seeing her in my mind. I keep seeing her staggering. And I know she was trying to get home because that’s what it looked like.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. But what about yourself inside? How are you feeling about how you’ve been treated by the police?
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MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: I don’t like what they’re doing, or not doing anything. I don’t know why they haven’t called back. Maybe I missed a call, but I check my calls everyday. Even when I go out, I ask my roommates if anybody called. On other matters when I have to deal with the police, they’re right there. But on this matter, they didn’t even care.

MS. KERRIE REAY: It’s quite a burden to be carrying all these years, John.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: I don’t know who that lady is. How do I find out if she’s safe or -- it is a puzzle piece for somebody ---

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: --- looking for their daughter.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes. Would you like to request that the Inquiry, that the Commissioners have somebody look into this matter for you?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So, I can request it and -- so it will go to them, but they will make the decisions. We have a lot of missing Indigenous women. And I think, you know, many people, John, don’t do anything when they see something. It takes a real special person to make sure that when they see something like this that they do tell
the authorities and I want to thank you.

MR. JOHN SPRYGLASS: Oh, I did tell them. I did tell the authorities. I did tell.

MS. KERRIE REAY: I don’t doubt you at all. Don’t doubt you at all. And I think, you know, these are, as I was saying, these are -- this is another example of the frustration of what happens when people are reporting matters to the police and, in this case, something [three years later] was (indiscernible) -- five years later you’re still waiting.

MR. JOHN SPRYGLASS: Yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So, it -- I think it was -- again, I want to thank you for coming forward to share this because I can see the pain it gives you not knowing.

MR. JOHN SPRYGLASS: Every October 5th, I -- (indiscernible). Every October 5th, I, you know, tell somebody about this story.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Mm-hmm.

MR. JOHN SPRYGLASS: I keep telling everybody and everybody, and I’m at the point what’s the use?

MS. KERRIE REAY: But you know you may have a piece of a puzzle, really.

MR. JOHN SPRYGLASS: Yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes. And so I will request the Commission to have -- we have a date, we have a
time, we have a place and from what the detail that you continue to recall all these years later, and you have an image of the woman, the type of truck, the colour of the truck, a description of the man, so we will certainly request ---

**MR. JOHN SPYGLASS:** She wasn’t a very big lady too. I know she was tall ---

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** She was -- she was or she wasn’t?

**MR. JOHN SPYGLASS:** She was not a very big lady.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** She was not.

**MR. JOHN SPYGLASS:** Unless he was a very big man, because he just threw her in the back of the truck. Just grabbed her and just threw her in the back of the truck. He ran around the truck, climbed in his truck and took off. He also had two windows, it was a sliding back rear-view window, because I noticed -- that’s where you look towards the back, towards where he was -- where to go grab her.

**MS. KERRIE REAY:** Was there anybody else in the vehicle?

**MR. JOHN SPYGLASS:** No. No. There was just him. He was a white guy. To me, from a distance, he was taller than the lady. The lady was wearing a red --
reddish bunnyhug with jeans. She was staggering. She was trying to go across -- like she came down 20th and was crossing towards Fas Gas.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So, she was going south, trying to go south.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yes, she was going south ---

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: --- and that’s where she was trapped and taken away.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And he put her in the back of the truck, not in the front of the truck ---

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: He just threw her in the back of the truck.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And not the front of the truck in the seats.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: The cab, the box.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: The box.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: He just threw her in the box of the truck. I was thinking, I wonder -- like when I was still looking at him, I was in shock, you know.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Mm-hmm.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: What did I just see?
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And I don’t remember her trying to get up or anything to try and look out or anything. She just disappeared into the box of the truck and I thought that was odd.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Mm-hmm.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: I don’t if that matters, but ---

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah. And you know one of the things that the Inquiry is also looking at is also how to commemorate or to honour the missing women and murdered Indigenous women and girls. And, I’m just wondering as an artist that might be something as part of your healing and perhaps Denise can talk too about that. Maybe there’s something there for you to help you heal a bit.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Mm-hmm.

MS. KERRIE REAY: That’s a heavy burden, it’s an unknown burden. I sense a prolonged real feeling of guilt.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Mm-hmm.

MS. KERRIE REAY: You did everything you could. You followed up for a couple years, but I still sense that there’s something that you -- else maybe might be helpful. If there is something in your artwork that you’d like to dedicate to the Inquiry on behalf of this woman, the Inquiry would be very thankful to have something.
MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Mm-hmm.

MS. KERRIE REAY: But it’s just an idea, it’s just a thought.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Mm-hmm.

MS. KERRIE REAY: That’s a personal choice for you.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: I told my mom about this when she was still alive, and my dad, my brothers and sisters. They live on the reserve. I’m the only one that lives in Saskatoon away from everybody.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: I do know a lot of people on the street today. I -- like I said, I sell my art beadwork along the streets. I see a lot of things, but to me that was the most difficult thing to ever see, and it might have even took three to five minutes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: But it stays with me forever.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And we can see that. We can feel it, John. Yeah.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Why does something that only takes three to five minutes stay with you so much and it bothers you so much.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes. I ---
MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: I feel bad that the police did -- that second time I called, they transferred -- they will transfer you to -- I don’t know, they said a name, and when they transferred me, all I heard was a blank recording or a blank, beep, you know that -- nobody there.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. So, once -- it went off to a line that didn’t exist.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: You couldn’t even leave a message.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: No.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: No. I did -- I called right back again. I said that line you transferred me to there’s nobody on there, and they took my name down and they were going to have somebody call me again, but still no one called. I really want this -- to me -- get it off my chest. To me by not saying anything, by not letting people know or by not having -- the authorities know about this. It’s my fault and that lady -- all this is haunting me and making (indiscernible) that I’m not -- that I stepped over the line somewhere and it’s causing bad things to happen in my life as well.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And today’s been your opportunity to share your story with people who are
listening, and the Commissioners will hear it, they’ll see it. We will ask that it be investigated not just about your call but also about what you have witnessed.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yes, because every time I see a missing person on Facebook, I mean, is that the girl I saw?

MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Is that who I saw? Is that -- even in 2012, I went back to 2012 on my Facebook, on my internet and tried to go back to 2012 after October to see if any of those girls matched the description of this girl.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: To see if that was her that I saw that got taken.

MS. KERRIE REAY: So, you really have done an awful lot.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Right? It’s not about doing nothing, you’ve actually done more than anybody.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yeah.

MS. KERRIE REAY: More than the police.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yeah. Because I tried
to match that description with what I saw of her.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Mm-hmm.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: And then I was thinking well maybe that was her boyfriend, or maybe that’s somebody’s (indiscernible) but the way they treated her -- the way that person treated her told me that it was an uncaring person.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes. Yes.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Somebody that she didn’t know because if that person cared about her, he would gently guide her into the truck or stop and make sure that she was sitting in the front.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Not just throw her in the back of the truck like nothing.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And the disrespect ---

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yes.

MS. KERRIE REAY: --- that that shows for her as an Indigenous woman.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: Yes. Why did they just throw her in the back? Why did they not put her nicely in the cab with them if they cared about her?

MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. Good point, very, very good point. Is there anything else you would like to share with the Commissioners?
MR. JOHN SPYGGLASS: I’m really happy that somebody’s doing this. I hope something positive comes out of this even though it can be -- how I mean positive is that these missing people are found no matter ---

MS. KERRIE REAY: Mm-hmm.

MR. JOHN SPYGGLASS: --- no matter how that they’re found.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Right, because it’s an incredible heartache.

MR. JOHN SPYGGLASS: Yes. I remember -- I’m a foster kid parent and one of my -- I had kept one of my granddaughters, and her and her -- three of them I kept, two of the older brothers and my granddaughter. My granddaughter was 6, my two older grandsons were 6, 8 and 10. The 8 and 10 years old went downtown and she followed, and we couldn’t find her for probably about an hour, over an hour, and during that whole hour it felt so, so, so, so long.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh my God.

MR. JOHN SPYGGLASS: So long.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Eternity.

MR. JOHN SPYGGLASS: And I can’t imagine what these moms, these families are going through when they missed their daughters or don’t know where their daughter is or sisters or brothers are.
MS. KERRIE REAY: Mm-hmm.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: For years and years and years and still not knowing forever. So, I can -- that’s why I have -- I wanted to tell the story. I told Dan, “Dan, you know, it kept bothering me, I don’t like it. I need to tell somebody and somebody has to listen. How come they’re not listening to me?” And that’s when he told me, “Well go down there and talk to somebody.” He couldn’t make it because he has to work, he has school. He’s also a teacher. He couldn’t make it to come help me and tell the story, but he urged me to come down and I did.

MS. KERRIE REAY: But how are you feeling now?

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: How am I feeling? I still see that lady.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: I still see ---

MS. KERRIE REAY: Being able to tell your story.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: I’m happy because somebody’s listening.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay, good. Good.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: And I want to follow up on it too. That you guys say -- you guys do what you’re going to do.
MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: I’m hoping that this provides an answer to somebody. I know it’s not much. I know I’m not -- I don’t know her. I know -- I know that it’s an importance to somebody, just those five minutes of my time, my seeing this that it’s an answer to somebody.

MS. KERRIE REAY: Yes. Deep breath.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: And thank you for listening. That’s all I have.

MS. KERRIE REAY: And thank you again for the courage to come and to speak. Okay. I’ll just turn this off.

MR. JOHN SPYGLASS: That’s what I said I told, Dan. Does it really matter to somebody?

MS. KERRIE REAY: Can I talk to you for a few minutes?

--- Upon adjourning
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 13, 2018