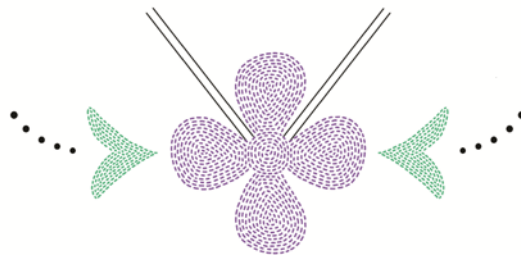


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Thunder Bay, Ontario**



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Statement - Volume 166

**Diane Geissler,
In relation to Kathleen McGinnis**

Statement gathered by Alana Lee

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

1 Thunder Bay, Ontario

2 --- Upon commencing on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, at 6:22
3 p.m.

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** This is Alana Lee, Statement
5 Gatherer, with the National Inquiry into Missing and
6 Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. It is November, or
7 sorry, December 5th, 2017. It is currently 6:22 p.m. We
8 are at the Best Western Inn in Thunder Bay, Ontario, here
9 with Diane Geissler. Diane Geissler.

10 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** Geissler.

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Sorry?

12 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** Geissler.

13 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Geissler, Diane Geissler,
14 and she's here to talk about her late mother Kathleen
15 McGinnis and, Diane, you're here on a voluntary basis.

16 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** Yes.

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah, to provide a
18 statement --

19 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** Yes.

20 **MS. ALANA LEE:** -- okay. And you were part
21 of the public hearing yesterday?

22 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** Yesterday, yes.

23 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Also in the room we have
24 with us Diane's husband. Would you state your name?

25 **MR. WOLF GEISSLER:** Yes, Wolf Geissler.

1 **MS. ALANA LEE:** And we have health support
2 as well.

3 **MS. TERREA HARRIS:** Terrea Harris (ph).

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** And again, you -- you agreed
5 to have it video and audio recorded?

6 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** Yes.

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Okay, perfect. Diane, what
8 would you like the Commissioners to know? What would you
9 like to tell us?

10 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** Well, I know yesterday
11 I gave some -- some part of a statement, but because it was
12 so public I didn't really finish --

13 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

14 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** -- and it was so
15 emotional I didn't get to really finish my thoughts. I
16 worked up to when my mother was killed, and what she was
17 doing on the highway at the time that she was struck and
18 killed.

19 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

20 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** And the fact that I
21 have the medical examiner's report. The difficulty of
22 getting the report, and the fact that it was -- a lot of it
23 was blacked out.

24 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

25 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** But I kind of ended

1 there so I wanted to kind of continue from that point. We
2 know how she died --

3 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

4 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** -- she was struck by a
5 vehicle. But it was the circumstances of her being there
6 that were -- that are so mixed up and the fact that no full
7 autopsy was done --

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

9 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** -- because the examiner
10 said it wasn't required because she was intoxicated and --

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

12 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** -- but they just --
13 there was so many contradictions between the police report
14 and the autopsy that even just looking at it that's what I
15 wanted really to -- to -- it -- the report left more
16 questions than anything.

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

18 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** The police reported
19 that she was dressed for the weather, but when they did the
20 autopsy they say -- when they -- they -- they listed her
21 belongings and they listed her as having a blouse, pair of
22 pants, pair of panties and socks.

23 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

24 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** It was April 5th, or
25 April 4th, 1978 outside of Calgary, Alberta.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

2 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Where's her shoes?

3 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

4 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Where's her jacket? We
5 looked at the weather report for that area, and it was
6 minus degrees at night time and it was snowing just the day
7 before.

8 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

9 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And yet, the police say
10 she's dressed for the weather, but the -- but the coroner
11 said she doesn't have that on her body.

12 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

13 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Which -- which one
14 didn't do their job or which one --

15 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

16 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- you know, what is
17 left, that the two contradict each other and it -- it -- to
18 me that's baffling. Like, you would expect to have some
19 kind of shoes on her feet --

20 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

21 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- and a jacket or --
22 and -- and I just -- it -- and that's something that, you
23 know, I don't know if that's in with the part that was
24 blacked out but --

25 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

1 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- it's certainly not
2 in there.

3 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

4 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Witnesses say she
5 doesn't smell of alcohol and she didn't appear drunk,
6 yet --

7 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

8 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- when they do the
9 autopsy --

10 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

11 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- they claim she is
12 intoxicated and when they do the -- the blood report, yes.
13 They did a toxicology report and it does say that she has
14 alcohol in her system, quite a high amount of alcohol in
15 her system.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

17 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And when I look at that
18 and I looked -- again, I looked on the internet too -- for
19 her weight it was a very high amount of alcohol in her
20 system that to me, I think one more drink and she probably
21 would have been --

22 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

23 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- you know, dead from
24 alcohol poisoning.

25 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

1 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** And I'm looking at that
2 going --

3 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

4 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** -- how did she get to
5 this highway that is nothing around it but corn fields and
6 wheat fields.

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

8 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** There's no houses,
9 there's no bars, there's no nothing.

10 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

11 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** And yet she's in the --
12 she's in here with no shoes, no jacket --

13 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

14 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** -- and to me that --
15 that just -- and it's not investigated -- or it's not shown
16 in the investigation.

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

18 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** They took the -- like I
19 said, there's some statements there, some of them are
20 totally blacked out and the first guy -- one statement is
21 the first person who stopped for her.

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** And he says he drove by
24 and he turned around to come back and there's a semi behind
25 him and he thinks the semi clips her.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

2 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And the semi does stop.
3 But nobody calls, I know they don't have cell phones but he
4 had -- the semi had a CB and nobody calls. Four cars stop
5 and nobody calls for help. It's when the fifth car strikes
6 her and kills her, then they call the police to come.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

8 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Not until she's dead?

9 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

10 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: To me that's, you
11 know --

12 MS. ALANA LEE: Raises a lot of questions.

13 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: It does. They say the
14 first -- that -- that one statement says she's -- she
15 appears agitated and every time someone stops she goes back
16 on the highway to flag down another vehicle.

17 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

18 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: That's not the behavior
19 of someone who's -- I don't know, in their right mind.

20 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm. M'hm.

21 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And -- and that's
22 something that's not explained in these reports and then to
23 have it say that -- the -- it's just so confusing.

24 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

25 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: That when they say I

1 know she's listed as a, you know, pedestrian accident but
2 -- and that's something that the family said when they
3 looked. My aunt who is -- she said that in her mind she
4 believes that she was dumped there.

5 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

6 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** And she told me that at
7 the time she remembers that they were looking for a
8 vehicle. None of that's in the report that I got.

9 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

10 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** So what family
11 remembers from that and from what I've handed in this piece
12 of paper, there are so many blanks and so many
13 contradictions she -- I don't believe that she was -- in --
14 in my heart, I don't believe that she was just hitchhiking
15 and got struck.

16 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

17 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** I think there's more to
18 this story than -- than what they've given me.

19 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm. And how did you come
20 about this information?

21 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** It -- well, I guess
22 that I've -- I've -- was always curious about my birth
23 family and I did find out my birth name in 1991 and --
24 through my husband pushing me, guiding me, pushing me and
25 then I found -- I found out who my birth mother was, but I

1 couldn't really -- nobody would really talk about her back
2 then.

3 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm. M'hm.

4 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** Now I understand why.
5 You know, when I found but -- and then, like I said, about
6 2005 when the computers were more advanced and you got the
7 internet, I decided to put her name in the search engine
8 and I typed the name -- her name in the search engine.
9 That's when it popped up that she was on the Highway for
10 Tears.

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm. M'hm.

12 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** And she was listed as
13 murdered.

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

15 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** And that's all the
16 information -- again, it was like I just stopped.

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

18 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** To me it was -- I
19 didn't know what to think or -- I just remember thinking:
20 Oh, my God.

21 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

22 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** But, again, I couldn't
23 -- and then I -- that's when I realized. I thought, no
24 wonder they didn't want to talk about her and how -- how do
25 I, as her daughter, come to them and say: What happened?

1 Tell me about my mom's murder.

2 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

3 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: I just, I couldn't. I
4 couldn't get up the courage to do it and I didn't even know
5 if -- I knew they didn't talk about it back in '91 so I
6 didn't know whether -- would they be willing to share now.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah, (indiscernible).

8 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And how do you -- hurt
9 -- the family.

10 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

11 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: How do you pressure a
12 family to talk about their murdered sister and aunt?

13 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

14 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And --

15 MR. WOLF GEISSLER: When they already had
16 two in the family that was --

17 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And there was two more
18 sisters, so there was three sisters all together on that
19 list.

20 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

21 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: My mother was the first
22 one to pass away and then her two sisters also. Another
23 sister -- my mom in April in '78 and her sister in November
24 of '78, and then another sister here in Thunder Bay years
25 later. And how do you go to the family and say: Tell me

1 about it.

2 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

3 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: When part of me wasn't
4 even sure if I --

5 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

6 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- if they even
7 accepted me or that I was part of them.

8 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

9 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And how do you tell
10 them to -- tell me about it now.

11 MS. ALANA LEE: Yes. Let me ask -- tell --
12 tell us a little bit more about that 'cause, before we got
13 the camera and audio rolling, you had mentioned -- or you
14 had just mentioned your birth family. So can you say a
15 little bit more about that? So you were adopted out when
16 you were younger?

17 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: I was -- my mother was
18 a teenager and she was in residential school.

19 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

20 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And my father was a few
21 years older than her and he was part of the residential
22 school also but she became pregnant and had me and from
23 what I find out, I actually got in -- I was in contact with
24 a women that's -- funny story, she -- she runs a
25 restaurant, and my husband and I have a cabin and we often

1 would stop at the restaurant 'cause it's on our way, it's
2 three hours from Thunder Bay so it's half-way point, so
3 we'd stop, have coffee or -- or a meal. And one time when
4 we were there and we were talking and she mentioned how I
5 looked so familiar --

6 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

7 MS. DIANE GEISLER: -- and I mentioned who
8 my birth family was that's when she realized that she
9 actually had known my birth mother. My birth mother used
10 to babysit her.

11 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

12 MS. DIANE GEISLER: So --

13 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

14 MS. DIANE GEISLER: Yeah, my birth mother
15 babysat her and she says she remembered her babysitting her
16 when she was pregnant with me.

17 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

18 MS. DIANE GEISLER: And how my mother was
19 so looking forward to being a mother and she could hardly
20 wait to have the baby and be a mother.

21 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

22 MS. DIANE GEISLER: And when I was born I
23 lived with my mother and her parents.

24 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

25 MS. DIANE GEISLER: A traditional lifestyle

1 from what I understand and they had a trap line and lived
2 from the land --

3 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

4 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- hunting, fishing,
5 and they lived on the reserve.

6 MS. ALANA LEE: What reserve?

7 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Rainy River First
8 Nation, Manitou Rapids and one -- they -- they would often
9 go in once a month to Fort Frances to do groceries --

10 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

11 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- to get any, you
12 know, groceries, supplement groceries that they needed and
13 one day my mother had gone in with her -- with her mother
14 and her sisters to do grocery shopping and because of the
15 distance they would often -- sometimes would stay overnight
16 just depending upon the ride and --

17 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

18 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- 'cause it was --
19 even though it's what 30 kilometers, in the 60's
20 transportation wasn't so easily and sometimes they had to
21 walk --

22 MS. ALANA LEE: Yeah.

23 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- so they would stay
24 overnight and come home the next -- so they'd gone in
25 grocery shopping and it was after they'd left I guess

1 Children and Family Services came and apprehended my
2 brother and I.

3 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

4 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: We were staying with my
5 grandfather and my uncle and they were the ones who were
6 taking care of us, and they apprehended us and I was
7 adopted quite quickly.

8 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

9 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: I wasn't in foster
10 care, I was adopted I think almost immediately.

11 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

12 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: My mother was from what
13 my aunts and uncle and cousins had said was that she was
14 quite devastated and my mother never went on to have any
15 more children. It was just my brother and I, she never --
16 never forgot about us and never stopped looking for us.

17 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

18 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: She loved us.

19 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

20 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And that's the hard
21 part.

22 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

23 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: I will never know my
24 mother. I don't even know what she looks like. There
25 aren't any pictures of her other than of her as a baby in

1 one of those little carry -- wooden carriers -- the
2 bundled --

3 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

4 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- things -- I don't
5 even know what they're called. But there's a picture of
6 her in that.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

8 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And you can't even see
9 her face. You see her, because it's a black and white
10 magazine photograph.

11 MS. ALANA LEE: Oh, okay.

12 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: It was an article and
13 the picture was part of that article, so it was photocopied
14 from the original magazine, and so you can't really even
15 see her features. You just -- I just was --

16 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

17 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- that was her and --
18 but I have no idea what she looks like, what she looked
19 like at all and I never -- I will never get to know.

20 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

21 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And so for what I've
22 known is what I've read in -- in the paperwork.

23 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

24 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And, sorry.

25 MS. ALANA LEE: Oh, it's okay. Just you

1 take -- take a couple of deep breaths, have a drink of
2 water if you like.

3 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** I mentioned yesterday
4 that in 2014 our family was approached by a newspaper
5 reporter.

6 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

7 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** David Bruser from the
8 Toronto Star. He was doing -- he wanted to do an article
9 on the Highway for Tears Missing and Murdered Women, and he
10 came across the three sisters' names, so he approached our
11 family and asked us if he could do an article and I agreed
12 to be part of that article. And that was -- it was through
13 his help that -- I was always told that she passed away in
14 B.C. so when I tried to google her in B.C., we couldn't
15 find anything on her.

16 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

17 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** And it was -- that was
18 when David Bruser had mentioned that she had actually
19 passed away in Alberta, not B.C.

20 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

21 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** She was on her way to
22 B.C.

23 **MR. WOLF GEISSLER:** (Indiscernible) in that
24 report that he had.

25 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** There was no report --

1 was no name but he -- but then I googled the Calgary Herald
2 and that's where I found her -- a small little couple lined
3 obituary of her.

4 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

5 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And the date that it
6 says that she passed away we could correlate with the
7 article that she was a victim of a highway accident.

8 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

9 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And he said that he
10 found out that there was a medical examiner's report on her
11 and he suggested that I look to see if I could get that
12 report.

13 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

14 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And when I first
15 contacted them they looked it up, they found her report and
16 said: Oh, yeah, we have a report. Now, you have to
17 formally apply for it and they had the file on -- on the
18 desk and so I said: Well, how do I do that? And they
19 said: Oh, you have to send us your birth certificate.

20 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

21 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And I said: Well,
22 that's not going to help because on my birth certificate it
23 lists my adoptive parents.

24 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

25 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And that's when they

1 told me I had no right to that information, because I --
2 she gave me up for adoption. I was no longer her child --

3 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

4 MS. DIANE GEISLER: -- so I had no right to
5 it. And that's when I told them that that wasn't right
6 because I was not given up, she did not give me up. I was
7 taken, and at no time did she sign away her rights to me --

8 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

9 MS. DIANE GEISLER: -- you know --

10 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

11 MS. DIANE GEISLER: -- that --

12 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

13 MS. DIANE GEISLER: -- that she didn't sign
14 away anything.

15 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm. When in fact you were
16 part of the 60's Scoop is what you were (indiscernible).

17 MS. DIANE GEISLER: I was -- I was part of
18 the Scoop.

19 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

20 MS. DIANE GEISLER: The woman that I had
21 spoke with, she said that, and I mentioned this yesterday
22 off the record, she could tell me that if I presented my
23 birth registration which they were now opening up --people
24 could ask for their birth registrations then -- she said:
25 If I could find -- get a copy of that then -- then they

1 might accept that instead of the birth certificate.

2 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

3 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And I did I -- I
4 applied for her -- my birth registration and that piece of
5 paper -- how do you explain it, my mother's writing, her
6 handwriting --

7 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

8 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- her signature. This
9 was a part of her that I was finally given. That's
10 something I will cherish forever. She filled it out, she
11 signed it. I finally had a piece of her, something I never
12 had before and I sent a copy of it in and they did send me
13 her -- the medical examiner's report and finally 2014 from
14 '63 to 2014, I finally had a piece of my mother. Part of
15 her, a description.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

17 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Yes, a very gruesome
18 description but a description of how tall she was, how much
19 she weighed, scars, tattoos, piercings. There, finally a
20 piece that I could say my mother was this tall and she
21 weighed this much. Similar to my middle daughter, same
22 height, same weight and I'm thinking, finally, I can put an
23 image --

24 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

25 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- I mean I can't put a

1 facial image, but all of a sudden from nothing to --

2 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

3 MS. DIANE GEISLER: -- I can imagine a
4 shape. You know, at the beginning of the Inquiry when they
5 were talking about the red dress and they said: Imagine
6 your loved one, I couldn't.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

8 MS. DIANE GEISLER: I can't, I can't
9 imagine her in that dress because I don't know what she
10 looked like. People say that they don't know what this
11 Inquiry -- if it'll be any good. But if these stories
12 aren't even told, how can you stop them. How can you stop
13 another girl, woman, from going through this? How can you
14 stop other children from growing up not knowing?

15 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

16 MS. DIANE GEISLER: That's what I want. I
17 don't know if I will ever know the true story. But if they
18 never know part of the story, how can they stop them from
19 happening and that's what I believe in. I believe this
20 Inquiry to help stop this from happening --

21 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

22 MS. DIANE GEISLER: -- from a police
23 looking at a woman and saying: Oh, she's just a drunk
24 Indian, we don't need to find out what happened to her.
25 That's not the legacy my mom is leaving behind.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

2 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: She was a woman, she
3 was a mother, she was a sister and an aunt. That's what
4 needs to be left behind from her. This Inquiry has given
5 me my family --

6 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

7 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- that's what it's
8 done. Those cousins that I sat with yesterday, until this
9 Inquiry I wasn't --

10 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

11 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- I didn't feel like I
12 was part of the family, that's what this Inquiry has given
13 me, my family.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

15 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: That's why they would
16 support me and we have to continue. I hope there's an
17 extension -- there's talk that they want to try to get an
18 extension, I hope it's an extension.

19 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

20 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Because they need to
21 continue --

22 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

23 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- giving us our family
24 back.

25 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

1 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** Sorry.

2 **MS. ALANA LEE:** That's all right. Do you
3 have any recommendations? I know you had mentioned some
4 just --

5 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** I think part of -- part
6 of it is that the -- these records should be opened up.

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

8 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** You know, I wasn't even
9 given the original accident report, it is all whited out.

10 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

11 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** That's something the
12 family should have been received, without any whiteout on
13 it at all and I'm not given that. So give the information
14 to the family.

15 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

16 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** Let the family know
17 what's happened to their loved ones.

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

19 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** Yes, it's hard, but
20 it's harder not knowing. The police need to start treating
21 with respect whether it's missing, whether it's death. The
22 families, the investigation, it needs to be done
23 respectfully. Just because traditions are different or --
24 or you know --

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

1 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** -- it's hard what I'm
2 trying to say because I was not lived in the culture
3 because there is traditions, there is -- police should be
4 respecting that.

5 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

6 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** When they go into these
7 communities to talk to the families, they need to know that
8 there may be traditions that they need to follow. There
9 need -- you know what I'm -- and to respect the families
10 themselves when the families say --

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** (Indiscernible).

12 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** -- you know.

13 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

14 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** They need to be taught,
15 especially if they're policing in areas that have
16 traditional reserves --

17 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

18 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** -- and people, they
19 need to learn how to treat and police in those areas. I
20 know a lot of reserves are having their own police force
21 now, but there are so many that like, live in the cities.

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** Just because we live in
24 the cities, doesn't mean that we're not *Anishinaabe*.

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

1 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** And you know, so they
2 need to start learning.

3 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

4 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** When you think of the
5 other cultures, and you think of Muslim and that, they
6 treat them with respect --

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

8 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** -- and they -- you
9 know, they don't -- and -- and that's what they need to do
10 with us, they need to treat us with respect.

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

12 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** And that's what I hope
13 this -- this Inquiry does, it needs to bring teaching.

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

15 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** We're part of Canada.

16 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

17 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** And that needs to be
18 acknowledged and not -- not just acknowledged but actually
19 part of --

20 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

21 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** -- part of their laws,
22 part of their, you know.

23 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

24 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** I think that's it, I'm
25 not sure.

1 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Is there anything else you'd
2 like to add, I see that you're writing some notes.

3 **MR. WOLF GEISSLER:** I -- I know she wanted
4 to (indiscernible) notes on the anomalies as to why if
5 somebody would have looked at that accident report they
6 would have said: There's something not right here.

7 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

8 **MR. WOLF GEISSLER:** And one of them, I will
9 -- I made a -- kind of a list here. The fact that she
10 didn't have a backpack, do you want to comment on that?
11 Because the family had --

12 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** She was hitchhiking
13 from Thunder Bay to B.C. and like I said, her possessions,
14 I mean --

15 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

16 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** -- where's her
17 backpack, where's her --

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Shoes.

19 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** -- where's her shoes,
20 you know, where's her -- yet, they found her ID.

21 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

22 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** And her ID had her name
23 and address here in Thunder Bay.

24 **MR. WOLF GEISSLER:** And yet what did they
25 do?

1 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** And yet, there's a
2 statement in that -- that paperwork saying that and I -- it
3 doesn't say who the people were --

4 **MR. WOLF GEISLER:** They were trying to ID
5 her; right?

6 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** Saying they're trying
7 to ID her and they have an alias name for her, but where
8 did that come from? Like, it's totally out of left -- why
9 would you even look for an alias when you already have her
10 ID?

11 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

12 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** And the family has
13 confirmed her ID, but then all of a sudden, they find an
14 alias and this person -- one statement in there says: We -
15 - you know, it said we and then a blacked out name
16 confirmed that this person was also known as and it gives
17 an alias name. Well, why would you -- where did that come
18 from? It's not even explained. It's just kind of thrown
19 in as part of the -- why were they looking for an alias
20 when they had her ID and had -- and had already contacted
21 the family and the family confirmed her ID.

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm. And so the
23 documentation that you're speaking of right now, I just
24 want to make it clear for the record, that you did already
25 put this -- this information has already been shared with

1 the Inquiry.

2 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Yes, I gave -- I gave
3 -- I gave the full medical examiners report --

4 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

5 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- to Jennifer Cox
6 (ph) --

7 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay. So --

8 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- who --

9 MS. ALANA LEE: -- legal.

10 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Yeah, who -- who
11 photocopied it --

12 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

13 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- and gave me back my
14 originals.

15 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

16 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And she gave copies to
17 both Commissioners.

18 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay, okay. And so that was
19 the only documentation that you provided -- not the only
20 but that was medical report and --

21 MR. WOLF GEISSLER: Police report,
22 statements.

23 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Police, the -- that --

24 MR. WOLF GEISSLER: The summaries, that was
25 all that stuff, eh?

1 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- that was all in that
2 and --

3 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

4 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- I also provided my
5 birth registration --

6 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

7 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- the letters from
8 Children and Family Services.

9 MR. WOLF GEISSLER: Your adoption order.

10 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: My adoption order.

11 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

12 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: So I provided all of
13 that.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

15 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: I also had
16 documentation on both my aunts --

17 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

18 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- so I also provided
19 that documentation, what I had from both of their --

20 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

21 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- from those --
22 what's, you know --

23 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

24 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- their cases, I
25 guess.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

2 MR. WOLF GEISSLER: You were going to
3 comment on the -- the -- the fact that the people have
4 stopped were all males and then --

5 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: M'hm. From what I can
6 understand in -- in this statement, yeah, that -- that was
7 part of it is when the first person who stopped, it was a
8 male.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

10 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And he's the one who
11 said when he stopped and talked to her, she didn't appear
12 drunk and he couldn't smell alcohol on her but she appeared
13 agitated.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

15 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And then the truck
16 driver who they thought clipped her was a male --

17 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

18 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- and again, she
19 wouldn't -- when he tried to talk to her she flagged down
20 the next person --

21 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

22 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- and then he got out,
23 she flagged down the next person, and when he got out she
24 went back on the road to flag down another vehicle and they
25 couldn't keep her off the road.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

2 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And it was the fifth
3 vehicle I think, that struck her.

4 MS. ALANA LEE: What do you think that
5 means? What does that mean to you?

6 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: To me, when a woman is
7 agitated and refused to accept help from a male --

8 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

9 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- to me, that's
10 assault.

11 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

12 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: She's afraid of the
13 males.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

15 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: She doesn't trust them.
16 No shoes and no jacket on.

17 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

18 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And not letting these
19 men near her.

20 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm. M'hm.

21 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: I mean it doesn't say
22 it, there was no rape examination done.

23 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

24 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Part of it is the
25 condition.

1 **MR. WOLF GEISSLER:** You wanted to comment --
2 okay, you wanted to comment on --

3 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** When the vehicle struck
4 her, he admits to saying -- seeing the vehicles stopped on
5 the side of the road. But he said: But I didn't see her
6 'cause she was in dark clothing. He struck her in the
7 right-hand lane of the highway going 100 kilometers an
8 hour.

9 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

10 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** He never even slowed
11 down for the vehicles that he saw on the side of the road.

12 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm. M'hm.

13 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** If those people were in
14 trouble would you have not at least slowed down --

15 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

16 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** -- or moved into the
17 left-hand side of the lane.

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

19 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** He never --

20 **MR. WOLF GEISSLER:** They said there were
21 hazards, there were -- they all said they had hazards on.

22 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** -- but he never slowed.

23 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

24 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** And he struck her going
25 that hard.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

2 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: So hard that her leg
3 was torn at the hip and landed 150 meters from her body.

4 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm. M'hm.

5 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And no investigation is
6 needed because she was intoxicated. This is a violent
7 death.

8 MR. WOLF GEISSLER: Specifically, do you
9 remember what the accident -- the toxicology report said?
10 Was an investigation required: No, and then what was the
11 comment at the top.

12 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: I can't remember.

13 MR. WOLF GEISSLER: No, it wasn't -- it
14 said: No, intoxicated Native. No investigation required
15 because this was an intoxicated Native.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: It said that?

17 MR. WOLF GEISSLER: On the -- on the
18 coroner's report.

19 MS. ALANA LEE: Wow, and the inquiry has a
20 copy of that?

21 MR. WOLF GEISSLER: Yeah, yeah.

22 MS. ALANA LEE: Okay.

23 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: They identify her as
24 Native.

25 MR. WOLF GEISSLER: And there was no charge,

1 this guy came blasting through there with all these
2 vehicles with their hazards on at 100 kilometers an hour
3 and they didn't charge him with anything.

4 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** Pedestrian at fault.

5 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

6 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** She at fault. No
7 investigation needed, no further investigation needed.

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

9 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** I don't know what they
10 blacked out, but what they've given me, had this woman been
11 a white woman --

12 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

13 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** -- they would never
14 have ended it this way, ever.

15 **MR. WOLF GEISSLER:** They would've either
16 tried to figure out where she came from, who dropped her
17 off, how she got there.

18 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** And those -- there
19 would have been charges. That -- those driver -- that
20 driver would have been charged.

21 **MR. WOLF GEISSLER:** And the truck driver.

22 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** And the truck driver.
23 He didn't even report until after she was dead, that he hit
24 -- might have clipped her. And nobody got charged because
25 she was at fault.

1 **MS. ALANA LEE:** You had mentioned earlier
2 that the inquiry has -- has -- in -- in a part that this
3 process has helped you to get -- get your family back.
4 What -- what else would you like to see from the inquiry?
5 I know you've provided information but is there anything
6 that you would like? I don't know if there's any way we
7 can help assist with further information or anything like
8 that. I know you probably had already had a conversation
9 with legal but is there anything else that you would
10 request and like to see?

11 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** I want an apology.

12 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

13 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** From that police force.

14 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm. Do you know what
15 police force it was?

16 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** The RCMP.

17 **MR. WOLF GEISSLER:** Calgary.

18 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** Calgary.

19 **MR. WOLF GEISSLER:** Yeah.

20 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Calgary RCMP?

21 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** No.

22 **MR. WOLF GEISSLER:** No, it was the town next
23 door.

24 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** The town next door,
25 Strath something or other, it lists it but an apology.

1 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

2 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: An apology from the
3 medical examiner's office.

4 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

5 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: No investigation needed
6 because she is an intoxicated Native. I want an apology.

7 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

8 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Had they done a further
9 investigation would they have found out that she was raped?

10 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

11 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Would they have found
12 more abrasions on her?

13 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

14 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: They say: She's got
15 abrasions all over her body, from being hit.

16 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

17 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Somebody needs to look
18 at these discrepancies, dressed for the weather.

19 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

20 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: But not --

21 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

22 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: -- not listed. I mean,
23 even I can see that, if I see and I'm the investigating
24 officer and I mark down oh she's dressed for the weather
25 but then the autopsy comes back, they all get a copy of

1 that.

2 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

3 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** And it says that she
4 doesn't have shoes or a jacket on.

5 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

6 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** I mean, immediately,
7 doesn't that send up a red flag, that the two reports are
8 so contradictory?

9 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

10 **MR. WOLF GEISSLER:** But was she drinking or
11 not, you know?

12 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** Was she dressed for the
13 weather or not?

14 **MR. WOLF GEISSLER:** Right.

15 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Right.

16 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** She doesn't smell of
17 alcohol and doesn't appear to be drunk, but the toxicology
18 report comes back with -- I think it's like 294 blood level
19 and 304 urine level.

20 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

21 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** That's high.

22 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** You know? And she was
24 110 pounds.

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

1 **MR. WOLF GEISLER:** You were -- I know that
2 you wanted to comment on the fact of how -- when they were
3 put in a vulnerable position because of the residential
4 school --

5 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** I think that's --

6 **MR. WOLF GEISLER:** -- and the 60's Scoop.

7 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** -- that's --

8 **MR. WOLF GEISLER:** Both (indiscernible)
9 families.

10 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** That's part of it. I
11 mean, they ask why -- you know, part of the inquiry was why
12 is that statistic so high for -- when you think about it.
13 She's put in residential school and told -- and I'm going
14 to use the terms that --

15 **MS. ALANA LEE:** Yeah.

16 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** -- they would have
17 used. You can't be Indian anymore.

18 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

19 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** That it's savage and
20 you can't follow your traditions --

21 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

22 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** -- that it's a disgrace
23 and often the children were abused and beaten because they
24 would follow their religion. They're told their families
25 don't want them anymore and then when she does find that

1 her family wants her and she has me, then she's told: Oh,
2 because you live a traditional lifestyle you can't be a
3 mother, you're not good enough to be a mother. Not that
4 she's done anything wrong. She wasn't drunk, she wasn't on
5 drugs, she wasn't abusive. But because you choose to live
6 a traditional lifestyle, you're not fit to be a mother.
7 And then you wonder why she's in a vulnerable position.

8 She was not the disgrace, she was not the
9 unfit. She needs an apology, that's all I want because
10 she's dead and died at '78. I couldn't go through the
11 residential school inquiry because she died before --
12 before the cut off. But she was still part of it and I --
13 I deserve an apology.

14 I want CAS to apologize for taking me and
15 telling her was unfit to be a mother. I want an apology.

16 **MS. ALANA LEE:** And you had mentioned that
17 it's just now that you've started to learn your cultural
18 traditions.

19 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** You know, it is -- it's
20 hard for me to step in and say: I'm an -- I'm *Anishinaabe*,
21 I'm *Ojibwe*, because I have no idea what it means, none.
22 And it's really hard to learn. My adoptive family said
23 first six months of my life, I never spoke, I never had
24 emotion.

25 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

1 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** When I found my birth
2 family, my uncle told me *Anishinaabe Ojibwe* was the only
3 language spoken in the home.

4 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

5 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** I didn't know English,
6 and yet I'm thrown into this family. They loved me, I
7 never wanted for anything and I don't fault them.

8 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

9 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** But I had a mother who
10 wasn't at fault either and it's so hard because how do I
11 choose? I want to be with her, but I would never give up
12 my adoptive family either because they were loving and
13 kind. How do I choose? That has to stop and I'm hoping
14 that's what this inquiry does, it stops it. Race should
15 not play a part in anything. If you measure a white
16 woman's worth, an *Anishinaabe* should be measured with that
17 same ruler, and that's what I want this inquiry. The same
18 measurement, the same worth and the same respect. My
19 mother deserves that. I deserve that. My daughters and
20 grand-daughters deserve that. I can't pass on the
21 teachings and I can't pass on the heritage, that was
22 stripped from me and it's hard being a 54 year old woman
23 and having to learn things that an infant would learn.

24 **MS. ALANA LEE:** M'hm.

25 **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** I never had a sweet

1 grass and I looked at it and said: What is this? I have
2 no idea what this even is.

3 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

4 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Yet it was part of my
5 heritage, part of --

6 MS. ALANA LEE: Thank you. Thank you for
7 sharing that.

8 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Thank you.

9 MS. ALANA LEE: Very crazy, very -- very
10 real. Very powerful words that you can say
11 (indiscernible).

12 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Thank you for listening
13 to me.

14 MS. ALANA LEE: Thank you for sharing.
15 Thank you.

16 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And thank you for
17 giving me some respect back, that's what I felt here at
18 this inquiry from those Commissioners was respect.

19 MS. ALANA LEE: M'hm.

20 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: And from you, and I
21 appreciate that.

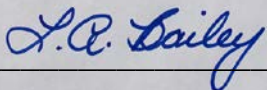
22 MS. ALANA LEE: Thank you.

23 MS. DIANE GEISSLER: Because this is giving
24 me my mother, something that I never thought I'd have. So
25 thank you.

1 **MS. ALANA LEE:** It's 7:10, and I -- we're
2 going to conclude.
3 --- Upon adjourning at 7:10 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Lynn Bailey, 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.



Lynn Bailey

March 11, 2018