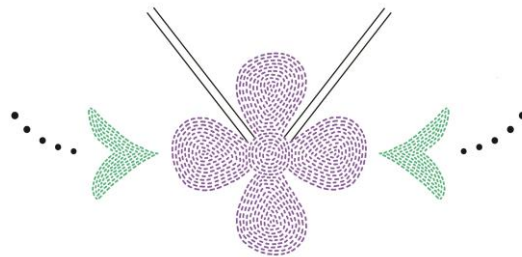


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Lower Post, British Columbia**



PUBLIC

Wednesday February 28, 2018

Statement - Volume 273

**Dominic Charlie & Mary Charlie,
In relation to Tootsie Charlie**

Statement gathered by Kerrie Reay

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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."

III

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statement - Volume 273	
February 28, 2018	PAGE
Witnesses: Dominic Charlie & Mary Charlie	
Testimony of Dominic Charlie & Mary Charlie.	1
Reporter's certification	31
Statement gatherer: Kerrie Reay	
Documents submitted with testimony: none.	

**Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)**

1

1 February 28, 2018
2 Lower Post, BC
3

4 (PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 10:20 A.M.)
5

6 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Dominic, I now have the tape
7 recorder going. And -- and the other thing is at
8 times I may just make sure it's running, so I
9 will try to make sure I don't interrupt. And we
10 are now going to start the video. There we go.
11 All right.

12 So this is Kerrie Reay, statement taker with
13 the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
14 Indigenous Women and Girls, and we are at Lower
15 Post today on February the 28th, and the time is
16 now 10:20.

17 Today, I am speaking with Dominic Charlie of
18 the Liard First Nation, and Dominic is residing
19 in Watson Lake, Yukon. And Dominic is here to
20 share his truth in the loss of his sister,
21 Tootsie Charlie. That's T-o-o-t-s-i-e, who was
22 found murdered in Whitehorse, in the Yukon, and
23 the recollection is about 1967 or 1968.

24 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep.

25 KERRIE REAY: Okay. And Dominic may share today some
26 personal survivorship, but he will -- you'll make
27 that decision as -- as this -- as you -- as you
28 speak. Also present in the room is Mary Charlie,
29 who is Dominic's sister and is also Tootsie's
30 younger sister. And for the record, Dominic, you
31 are here voluntarily to provide your truth, and
32 you understand and agree to the videotaping and
33 audio taping, and we signed those documents. And
34 you also understand that this will be a public
35 statement.

36 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.

37 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Okay. As I said, Dominic, this
38 is your space. This is your time. And I invite
39 you to start wherever you feel comfortable
40 starting.

41 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Okay. And I think I was just a
42 young age, '67 or '68, I would be like six, seven
43 years old. And when I was younger, like five
44 years old, I used to go visit -- go -- used to go
45 visit Tootsie. I stayed across from the creek
46 from her. She used to reside in Two Mile.

47 KERRIE REAY: Okay.

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

2

1 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And I used to go visit her, and she
2 always happy to see me and, you know, and she --
3 I talked with her and stuff like that. And a
4 couple years -- and I was here, I went
5 to residential school. I went to residential
6 school, Lower Post, and then I lost contact with
7 her and -- and my parents. And I didn't know
8 nothing about Tootsie getting murdered and stuff
9 like that until my mom told me. And she took it
10 really hard, and I guess those days, really how
11 to survive is we don't -- we don't get no SA from
12 the government, like these -- like today. Today,
13 we have to survive by the bush, go hunt, or set
14 rabbit snares and stuff like that just to
15 survive, get water down the creek. And I mean
16 that was in the late -- late 60s was cold, man,
17 it was like this -- sometimes this is 60 below,
18 50, 60 below wind.

19 No one was going to do nothing for us, so we
20 had to do it ourselves. You know, going down the
21 creek called [indiscernible], getting water and,
22 of course, that's rabbit snare and stuff like
23 that, you know. Nobody's going to do anything
24 for us. We had to do it on our own.

25 KERRIE REAY: So how old would have you been? What
26 year were you born?

27 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I was born in '61.

28 KERRIE REAY: So at eight and nine, you were --

29 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.

30 KERRIE REAY: -- out doing rabbit snares?

31 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah, yeah.

32 KERRIE REAY: Okay.

33 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Eight and nine and but I went to
34 residential school when I was young age still.

35 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.

36 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. The boys school, I was down
37 here for '67 -- '66, '67, and my last year was
38 '75, which was residential school. I mean, I
39 didn't -- I didn't know how my sister got
40 murdered, and my sisters told me, your sister got
41 murdered in Whitehorse, and I was young age. I
42 don't understand about, you know, death at young
43 age, you know.

44 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm. No.

45 DOMINIC CHARLIE: No. So I went to residential school
46 and had really hard time, really hard time at
47 residential school. And I used to get beat up

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

3

1 all the time. Tried to defend myself, but the
2 guys beat me up all the time, and it's like --
3 KERRIE REAY: Was that the teachers, the priest or --
4 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah, teachers, yeah, the students.
5 KERRIE REAY: The students?
6 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. People, I -- you know, I was
7 -- intermediate -- [indiscernible] -- was small
8 guys.
9 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Yeah.
10 DOMINIC CHARLIE: The intermediate, senior always pick
11 on us.
12 KERRIE REAY: Oh, okay.
13 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Having a hard time.
14 KERRIE REAY: And so for the commissioners, we're in
15 Lower Post. Where is -- how far is Two Mile from
16 Lower Post?
17 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I think it's about 18 kilometres,
18 maybe -- maybe more. I think it was something
19 like 26 kilometres.
20 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Now, is that towards Upper Liard,
21 or is that past Watson Lake?
22 DOMINIC CHARLIE: That's past -- that's past
23 Watson Lake, going to the airport.
24 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
25 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
26 KERRIE REAY: Okay. So it's west -- west of
27 Lower Post is east --
28 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yes.
29 KERRIE REAY: -- of Two Mile, and Two Mile is where
30 your parents were?
31 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep, at -- at the time, but we
32 usually stayed in Liard. We had a house in
33 Liard.
34 KERRIE REAY: And when you say "Liard," where are you
35 referring to?
36 DOMINIC CHARLIE: At the village, the bottom village.
37 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
38 DOMINIC CHARLIE: They call it Upper Liard Village.
39 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Is that towards -- is -- from
40 Lower Post, is that upwards towards Watson Lake?
41 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
42 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
43 DOMINIC CHARLIE: That's Watson Lake.
44 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Still past Watson Lake?
45 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. Going west.
46 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Going west.
47 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Toward Whitehorse.

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

4

1 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
2 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
3 KERRIE REAY: So how old were you then when you found
4 out that your sister had been murdered?
5 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I was like eight, nine, I think I --
6 somewhere around there.
7 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
8 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Eight or nine, yeah.
9 KERRIE REAY: Okay. So around 1970 -- 1969, 1970?
10 DOMINIC CHARLIE: 60- -- '68, '69 --
11 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
12 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
13 KERRIE REAY: So it was -- it was at least a year
14 after she had been murdered?
15 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
16 KERRIE REAY: Do you know much about what happened,
17 Dominic, in the murder?
18 DOMINIC CHARLIE: No. I think in -- like I say, I
19 didn't really know about death at the time I
20 was -- this was when I was a kid just growing up.
21 KERRIE REAY: Do you know today as an adult how she
22 died, how she was murdered?
23 DOMINIC CHARLIE: She was murdered and -- and she
24 was -- she was dumped -- thrown in a dump, in the
25 murderer's dump. They find the body in the dump.
26 KERRIE REAY: Did they ever find who did it?
27 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Nope, never find. Never found --
28 KERRIE REAY: Never found out?
29 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- out which person responsible doing
30 that, no.
31 KERRIE REAY: No. It's been hard on the family?
32 DOMINIC CHARLIE: It's been very hard on the family.
33 I think, and -- you know, I -- I -- all these
34 years, I stayed in Watson and live around Liard
35 and Two Mile --
36 KERRIE REAY: Uh-huh.
37 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- you know, and I find it hard to
38 be living around there, even today, because so
39 much -- so much, you know, there's non --
40 non-Native, they're really prejudiced, eh.
41 KERRIE REAY: Okay. In Watson Lake?
42 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. Watson Lake --
43 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
44 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And I grew up there. I grew up
45 there.
46 KERRIE REAY: Right.
47 DOMINIC CHARLIE: They all call me, oh, buddy, you're

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

5

1 a good friend to me and stuff, but -- but behind
2 -- behind my back, they call me [indiscernible].
3 KERRIE REAY: Oh, dear.
4 DOMINIC CHARLIE: So I've -- they was all my life.
5 Now my --
6 KERRIE REAY: Racism.
7 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. And now I'm 57, and I still
8 see it today, you know.
9 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
10 DOMINIC CHARLIE: You know, I just like -- what can
11 you do? Can't do nothing about it. Can't get
12 mean about it, you know.
13 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
14 DOMINIC CHARLIE: It's been there for -- since I was a
15 kid.
16 KERRIE REAY: Right.
17 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And still today, it's so bad in
18 Watson more recent.
19 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
20 DOMINIC CHARLIE: So, you know, it's all around us.
21 KERRIE REAY: Yeah. Yeah.
22 DOMINIC CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
23 KERRIE REAY: Yeah. And we hear that.
24 DOMINIC CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
25 KERRIE REAY: We hear that as we travel --
26 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Oh, yeah.
27 KERRIE REAY: -- across the country.
28 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Oh, yeah.
29 KERRIE REAY: Racism is still very, very strong.
30 DOMINIC CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
31 KERRIE REAY: So is -- is your mom still surviving?
32 DOMINIC CHARLIE: No. She passed on around 2005.
33 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
34 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. Yeah --
35 KERRIE REAY: And your dad?
36 DOMINIC CHARLIE: My dad passed on in 1994.
37 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
38 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
39 KERRIE REAY: Did they -- did they go to residential
40 school?
41 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Not to -- I don't remember that
42 time --
43 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
44 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- I've got no idea if they went to
45 residential school.
46 KERRIE REAY: Right. Right.
47 DOMINIC CHARLIE: But, yeah, I'm pretty sure all my

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

6

1 sisters and brothers went to residential school.
2 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
3 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
4 KERRIE REAY: I'm just going to ask Mary if she knows
5 whether or not your parents went to residential
6 school.
7 MARY CHARLIE: I don't think so.
8 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
9 MARY CHARLIE: I'm not sure. Maybe mom went to day --
10 day school --
11 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
12 MARY CHARLIE: -- or something.
13 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Thank you. Thank you. And you
14 stayed at the residential school until you were
15 14?
16 DOMINIC CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
17 KERRIE REAY: And then did you go back home to live
18 with your parents?
19 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep, went back to Liard.
20 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
21 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And then -- and thens I --
22 KERRIE REAY: Yep.
23 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- and then I got into -- into
24 alcohol.
25 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
26 DOMINIC CHARLIE: It was my safeguard. It was like I
27 don't remember -- don't remember nothing from
28 residential school, so I would try to hide it --
29 KERRIE REAY: Right.
30 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- because I don't want nobody know
31 what happened to me in residential school.
32 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
33 DOMINIC CHARLIE: So I tried to drink it off.
34 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
35 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And I drank and drank, and I drank
36 and drank. I didn't know how long I drank. My
37 -- my family was really worried about me, said,
38 when you going to quit drinking? And I know they
39 talked to me, but I never listened.
40 KERRIE REAY: Right. The pain.
41 DOMINIC CHARLIE: The pain was there --
42 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
43 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- so one day -- one day, I end up
44 in the hospital, was early '94, before dad
45 passed, like early '94 --
46 KERRIE REAY: Okay. So you were 33?
47 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep. That when I -- when I went

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

7

1 into the hospital, that was my fifth time in the
2 hospital. Doctor said I -- doctor said I -- it's
3 still Watson doctor, family doctor.
4 KERRIE REAY: Uh-huh.
5 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And he told me, well, Gordie -- he
6 said, Gordie, and -- it's up to you now. You're
7 want to quit drinking, or you'll be permanent
8 [indiscernible] in Liard. And what he's talking
9 about, that, going to grief site and stuff like
10 that.
11 KERRIE REAY: Right, right.
12 DOMINIC CHARLIE: He said, it's up to you, you know,
13 and if you keep drowning in drinking, then you're
14 going to last for -- maybe in a year or stuff
15 like that. So, man, I had so hard time just to
16 deal with it and take [indiscernible] when I'm in
17 hospital. Oh, my, it's just like -- and it was
18 really hard. And I thought about it, so one day
19 -- one day I came to the hospital, and I said,
20 okay, I will deal with it. So I went -- I went
21 to treatment in Whitehorse.
22 KERRIE REAY: Okay. How long was the treatment?
23 DOMINIC CHARLIE: 28 days.
24 KERRIE REAY: 28 days.
25 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah, Crossroads.
26 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Crossroads --
27 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. Yes. I went there for
28 28 days, and I did so good. I did so good, and
29 then I came back to Watson, and there's no --
30 there's no support --
31 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
32 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- system around at that time.
33 KERRIE REAY: Right.
34 DOMINIC CHARLIE: It was early 80s, late -- late in
35 90s.
36 KERRIE REAY: 90s, yep.
37 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah, late 90s, there was no,
38 absolutely no support --
39 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
40 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- for anybody who come out for
41 treatment.
42 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
43 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And I did so good. Man, I did
44 really good, sober and got a job and started
45 making money, and then one day I fall off again.
46 And that what really got me. I fell off for
47 about two days. I was so mad at myself. Why I

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

8

1 did this? You know, how come I did this? I did
2 [indiscernible], beating myself up for --
3 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
4 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- falling off.
5 KERRIE REAY: Right. Yeah.
6 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Because it's too much -- every time,
7 every place you go, it's so much alcohol in the
8 community. Every place you go, there's alcohol
9 there -- alcohol there.
10 KERRIE REAY: Yep.
11 DOMINIC CHARLIE: It's just everything. One day, I
12 really mad at myself and the -- mom mad, and mom
13 -- she's really tough in [indiscernible] and tell
14 me, okay, son, what you can do, you can go
15 treatment again. Maybe it's best you can
16 treatment again, get stronger. So I decide,
17 okay. So I went to treatment again. It's second
18 time.
19 KERRIE REAY: Okay. And what year was that.
20 DOMINIC CHARLIE: '81.
21 KERRIE REAY: 2001, the second time?
22 DOMINIC CHARLIE: 1981.
23 KERRIE REAY: Okay. When you said you -- sorry. I'm
24 just trying to get the timeline, so I may have
25 the first one wrong. In 1994, you were 33.
26 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
27 KERRIE REAY: And 1994, you went to treatment in
28 Whitehorse the first --
29 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep.
30 KERRIE REAY: -- time.
31 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep.
32 KERRIE REAY: So the second time was in 2001 in.
33 DOMINIC CHARLIE: No, '81, 1981 -- oh, 2001, yeah.
34 Something like that.
35 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Yeah. All those numbers; right?
36 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I was going backwards.
37 KERRIE REAY: Yeah, the other way. Okay. 2001, okay.
38 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep.
39 KERRIE REAY: And that was your second time that you
40 went to Crossroads?
41 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah, second time --
42 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
43 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- second time went to Crossroads.
44 KERRIE REAY: And --
45 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And I came back out from Crossroads,
46 and ever since, I never drink --
47 KERRIE REAY: Congratulations.

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

9

1 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- to this day.
2 KERRIE REAY: Congratulations.
3 DOMINIC CHARLIE: You're welcome.
4 KERRIE REAY: That takes a lot of strength.
5 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I got a -- I got a lot of support
6 from my sisters and --
7 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Good --
8 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
9 KERRIE REAY: -- good.
10 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. And '84 -- '84, I was in
11 Whitehorse. '82 -- '83, '82 -- I think around
12 was '82, I think, I found a girlfriend in
13 Whitehorse.
14 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
15 DOMINIC CHARLIE: [Indiscernible] stayed in Two Mile
16 for a year, I think, or six months.
17 KERRIE REAY: And what was her name?
18 DOMINIC CHARLIE: [Girlfriend].
19 KERRIE REAY: Oh, [Girlfriend]?
20 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. So I stayed in Two Mile for
21 six months, Two Mile, and then we moved to
22 Whitehorse in '83.
23 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
24 DOMINIC CHARLIE: End of '82, we moved to Whitehorse.
25 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
26 DOMINIC CHARLIE: So I got a job there. I started
27 working. I worked, then I had my first daughter,
28 1984, [Daughter 1].
29 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
30 DOMINIC CHARLIE: 1984, I had my first daughter with
31 [Girlfriend], June of '84.
32 KERRIE REAY: So you had your first daughter in June
33 of 1984, and what was her name?
34 DOMINIC CHARLIE: [Daughter 1].
35 KERRIE REAY: [Daughter 1]?
36 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. [Daughter 1].
37 KERRIE REAY: Marie. Okay. Yep.
38 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep. And then I started out for --
39 Kwanlin Dün First Nation. I was working to build
40 the new village up -- they have the village in
41 Whitehorse --
42 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
43 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- the new village, way up.
44 KERRIE REAY: Oh, okay.
45 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. So that room, we start
46 building new village, and I worked there for -- I
47 started working there in 80- -- '83 --

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

10

1 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
2 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- and work and work and work and
3 had my first daughter, '84. And then I continued
4 working, and then I had another daughter, '85.
5 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
6 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Her name was [Daughter 2].
7 KERRIE REAY: [Daughter 2]?
8 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
9 KERRIE REAY: All right.
10 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Then I worked there -- I worked -- I
11 worked '83, '84, '85, '86, then '86, we -- and
12 after I had two daughters and '86, I worked too
13 much, I think -- I don't know if I worked too
14 much or -- I don't know. But -- and -- but my --
15 my g- -- my -- and -- [Girlfriend], then she started
16 --started chasing other guys and, you know -- I
17 caught them kissing away and stuff like that.
18 And I got pissed off. And I try -- I try -- I
19 tried my best to work it out with her, but
20 [indiscernible] so hard.
21 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
22 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And she continued doing that, so I
23 started working '86, and end up '86, I think I
24 went and quit my job. And my boss said, why you
25 quit? Too much [indiscernible], and I said, too
26 much problems with -- and -- my family -- family
27 life. So I left -- left Whitehorse.
28 KERRIE REAY: And did you go back to Two Mile?
29 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I went back to Watson.
30 KERRIE REAY: You went to Watson?
31 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep.
32 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
33 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And I stayed with my sister Mary.
34 Mary always there to help me out and everything,
35 and I thank her for everything. Like, she help
36 me out.
37 Even today, I -- still help me out. Now, at
38 [indiscernible] -- [indiscernible] help me out in
39 every way. She's having a hard time getting
40 around to help out, to doing this and doing
41 that -- and, you know, I did something wrong and
42 get mad at me. You know what, it's like, okay, I
43 can't say nothing to her.
44 But after that I came back to Watson, '84 --
45 '87, I came back and I stayed in Two Mile with my
46 parents. We had a house in Two Mile, so I went
47 back to my parents, stayed there, and then I live

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

11

1 with Mary in town. She used to have a place in
2 town.
3 MARY CHARLIE: Apartment.
4 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Used to have an apartment in town,
5 so I visited there, and then I met this other
6 girl, and she's from Ontario. And she was going
7 by, and she was going by town, and then -- and me
8 and her hooked up, and -- and so she ended up
9 staying with me for, I think, about two and a
10 half years -- or maybe two years. And then she
11 was -- then I give her a baby, a boy, yeah. But
12 then -- before even she was -- even born -- the
13 boy was born, and she -- she took off back to
14 Sudbury where she -- her family's from.
15 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
16 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. Ever since then, I never see
17 them. I never contact them. I never -- never
18 see them to this day. So I got a son back East I
19 don't know. I always wanted to go search for him
20 one of these days. I know -- I just never did.
21 And today, to this day too, I have really hard
22 time with my daughters.
23 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm. Did they stay in Whitehorse
24 when you came back to Watson Lake?
25 DOMINIC CHARLIE: My daughters, they all stay in
26 [Community]. They always say you can stay with
27 me. You can come down and stay with me, but they
28 never did stay with me.
29 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
30 DOMINIC CHARLIE: So, like -- but they always -- but I
31 make sure I would support them from -- from --
32 from when they were baby and grown up. I always
33 support them. I always there for -- to buy food
34 for them and clothes for them. And so I was
35 basically -- basically their provider for them.
36 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
37 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And -- and today I was having some
38 issues with my daughters right now. I try to
39 talk to them, but, you know -- I -- I've had
40 really good relationships with [Daughter 2], but
41 [Daughter 1] now, she's - [redacted]
42 [line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
43 [line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
44 [line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
45 [line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
46 [line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
47 [line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

12

1 around her, you know, family --
2 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
3 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- oh, my dad, he don't want to --
4 he don't want to help me, don't want to talk to
5 [line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
6 [line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
7 KERRIE REAY: Right, right.
8 DOMINIC CHARLIE: So I try -- I tried my best. I
9 tried to talk to her. I always tell her, come
10 down. Come down and stay with me. I've got a
11 place of my own. If you stay with me, you
12 know -- you know, and I always tell her to take
13 treatment, but she don't want. [Indiscernible].
14 Means she's ready, I guess -- I can't -- I can't
15 force her to take treatment -- only to stand by
16 her and talk to her and stuff like that.
17 KERRIE REAY: No.
18 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
19 KERRIE REAY: And it sounds really tough.
20 DOMINIC CHARLIE: It is.
21 KERRIE REAY: You know, I -- I can hear the difficulty
22 you feel by maybe a little bit of guilt for not
23 giving her money --
24 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
25 KERRIE REAY: -- but you know at the same time what
26 she's going to use it for.
27 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
28 KERRIE REAY: So that's really tough to -- it's kind
29 of tough love, isn't it?
30 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah, it is.
31 KERRIE REAY: It's hard being tough like that when you
32 know that's what they're doing with it.
33 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah, it is.
34 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
35 DOMINIC CHARLIE: It's so hard.
36 KERRIE REAY: And -- and so if -- if -- with her
37 addictions, you talked earlier about your pain
38 and how you turned to substances to help deal
39 with that pain.
40 DOMINIC CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
41 KERRIE REAY: And perhaps something similar for her,
42 you know --
43 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
44 KERRIE REAY: She's trying --
45 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I know how she's going through
46 because I went through it at a young age.
47 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Okay.

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

13

1 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. I know how -- I know how
2 she's going through each -- going through with
3 it. I -- I --
4 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
5 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- at an early age, I went through
6 that for 20 years of my life. M'mm-hmm.
7 KERRIE REAY: Did you find when you went to Crossroads
8 that there was a lot of support for the pain that
9 you endured as a young person to help?
10 DOMINIC CHARLIE: It take -- it take me -- you know,
11 when I first went to Crossroads, it took me a
12 long -- to really -- really admit it --
13 KERRIE REAY: Uh-huh.
14 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- that I was alcoholic, and --
15 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
16 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- and I really -- didn't really
17 admit it that alcohol was a problem -- was the
18 problem. But it took me a long time.
19 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
20 DOMINIC CHARLIE: In 28 days, it took me -- like, when
21 counsellors talk to you, and she -- at least the
22 counsellor was patient for me, eh.
23 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
24 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And that told me -- you know, it's
25 new for me, and it's really hard for me to come
26 out, you know, and bunch of strange people --
27 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
28 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- and, you know, a big group, that.
29 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
30 DOMINIC CHARLIE: It was hard for me to --
31 KERRIE REAY: Oh, I bet.
32 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- you know, it was --
33 [indiscernible]. Oh, and then -- but slowly --
34 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
35 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- slowly came out, you know.
36 KERRIE REAY: And I think for many people -- like, the
37 counsellors hear those truths --
38 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep.
39 KERRIE REAY: -- over and over --
40 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep.
41 KERRIE REAY: -- and over and over.
42 DOMINIC CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
43 KERRIE REAY: So for people who go there for the first
44 time, sometimes it's like feeling you're the only
45 one.
46 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. Yeah.
47 KERRIE REAY: And then as people talk, you -- you see

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

14

1 that, oh, I'm not the only one.
2 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
3 KERRIE REAY: But the counsellors, you know, they've
4 heard it other and over --
5 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
6 KERRIE REAY: -- especially for those who suffered
7 through residential school.
8 DOMINIC CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
9 KERRIE REAY: So they have that sense of what's
10 happened. But you're right, it's in your own
11 time --
12 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep, yep.
13 KERRIE REAY: -- right? You have to find the trust.
14 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
15 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
16 DOMINIC CHARLIE: It's really hard to find that trust
17 when you really want it, yeah.
18 KERRIE REAY: Right, right.
19 DOMINIC CHARLIE: You can't just trust anybody, you
20 know. You just like --
21 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
22 DOMINIC CHARLIE: You have to be -- have to be really
23 sure.
24 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm, m'mm-hmm. So if I can ask,
25 growing up in the family home --
26 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
27 KERRIE REAY: -- how was that for you? You -- you
28 don't think your parents went to residential
29 school?
30 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I don't think so, no.
31 KERRIE REAY: So your family, as children, were the
32 first generation going to residential school?
33 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
34 KERRIE REAY: So can you share a bit with what it was
35 like growing up in the home?
36 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I think when I was growing up in the
37 home, it was a lot -- it was a lot of us --
38 KERRIE REAY: Uh-huh.
39 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- growing up and we were close.
40 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
41 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Even to this day, we were really
42 close --
43 KERRIE REAY: Right.
44 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- family. Except that big family,
45 we always right among each other, and then we get
46 mad at each other, but -- but in -- in just five
47 minutes later, we don't -- we're happy to

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

15

1 [indiscernible]. You know how family -- our
2 family is really close, you know, and --
3 KERRIE REAY: How many children?
4 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Eh?
5 KERRIE REAY: How many children?
6 DOMINIC CHARLIE: There's 14.
7 KERRIE REAY: 14 children, wow.
8 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah, 14, yeah. Yeah.
9 KERRIE REAY: Okay. And just for the record, earlier,
10 you referred to your boss calling you "Gordie."
11 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep.
12 KERRIE REAY: And so just want to share with the
13 commissioners that your legal name is "Dominic."
14 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. My legal name is Dominic.
15 KERRIE REAY: But when -- when you were in residential
16 school, they called you "Gordon" --
17 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep.
18 KERRIE REAY: -- or "Gordie."
19 DOMINIC CHARLIE: My sisters call me -- gave me the
20 name.
21 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
22 DOMINIC CHARLIE: That's where I heard it was -- and
23 my sisters gave me the name "Dominic," so --
24 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
25 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
26 KERRIE REAY: Okay. All right. And so -- so growing
27 up in the family home was -- was good?
28 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep.
29 KERRIE REAY: It was a positive experience?
30 DOMINIC CHARLIE: It was good, you know --
31 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
32 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- because we always -- we always
33 rely on each other. We help each other out.
34 KERRIE REAY: Okay. And it sounded like when you were
35 talking earlier that the family lived off the
36 land --
37 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep.
38 KERRIE REAY: -- when you talked about snaring --
39 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
40 KERRIE REAY: -- rabbits and your dad hunted for the
41 family food --
42 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. He was really good food
43 provider.
44 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
45 DOMINIC CHARLIE: He was a good provider, my dad.
46 KERRIE REAY: And so when you spoke about your
47 struggle with alcohol --

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

16

1 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep.
2 KERRIE REAY: -- did your parents consume alcohol?
3 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. They consumed alcohol. They
4 consumed alcohol.
5 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Would you -- given your
6 experience with alcohol, would you -- how would
7 you describe their use of alcohol?
8 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I was -- I was a bit young too, so I
9 think they consumed fewer [indiscernible].
10 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Okay. So growing -- growing up,
11 you -- you -- it sounds from you talking, you've
12 been back and forth between home and -- your own
13 home or --
14 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
15 KERRIE REAY: -- with your sister? And one of the
16 things that -- I know you were young and maybe --
17 maybe Mary might be able to answer this -- I'm
18 just wondering how the impact of your -- the
19 murder of Tootsie impacted your parents?
20 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I think it impact quite a bit, that.
21 I'm pretty sure it impacted quite a bit.
22 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
23 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And then I remember when we lost
24 Thomas in an accident, car accident.
25 KERRIE REAY: Uh-huh.
26 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And me and Peter was inside there
27 too --
28 KERRIE REAY: Oh, okay.
29 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- when that happened.
30 KERRIE REAY: Uh-huh.
31 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And that really -- it was '79. That
32 really, really affect my parents, especially mom.
33 It was just like --
34 KERRIE REAY: Because I -- I often won- -- you know,
35 like, in terms of the consumption of alcohol --
36 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Uh-huh.
37 KERRIE REAY: -- and substance because so many people
38 turn to that to deal with pain.
39 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah, I do.
40 KERRIE REAY: And as you -- and as you describe, and
41 now your daughter is struggling with the same,
42 and -- and it becomes the coping --
43 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
44 KERRIE REAY: -- the way to cope. Does -- did your
45 daughter ever share with you what her pain was?
46 DOMINIC CHARLIE: No.
47 KERRIE REAY: No. Do you suspect what it is?

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

17

1 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah, I know.
2 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
3 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
4 KERRIE REAY: Right. And what -- do -- do you keep in
5 touch, or have you -- did you keep in touch with
6 [Girlfriend] as the girls were growing up?
7 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I kept in touch with her, but -- and
8 to this day, it's just like, every time I see
9 her -- it's just like we have no communication at
10 all. She always -- she always --
11 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
12 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And she track our daughters in --
13 KERRIE REAY: She's still in Whitehorse?
14 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. She still in -- beside my
15 daughters, stay behind with --
16 KERRIE REAY: Oh.
17 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- the daughters and keep track --
18 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
19 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- and keep an eye on them. And me
20 and her, we have no communication at all. Every
21 time we see each other, we just like --
22 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
23 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- you know, no communication. But
24 we have five grandkids.
25 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Okay.
26 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah, five grandkids.
27 KERRIE REAY: Does [Daughter 1] have children?
28 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Two.
29 KERRIE REAY: Two?
30 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
31 KERRIE REAY: Yeah, yeah.
32 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Two boys.
33 KERRIE REAY: Two boys. And [Daughter 2] has ...?
34 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Three girls.
35 KERRIE REAY: Three girls?
36 DOMINIC CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
37 KERRIE REAY: And how's [Daughter 2] doing?
38 DOMINIC CHARLIE: [Daughter 2]'s doing really good. It
39 was about a year ago, I went -- I think a year --
40 she went out for treatment. She was drinking a
41 lot --
42 KERRIE REAY: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.
43 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- admitted to treatment. And she's
44 had a baby too.
45 KERRIE REAY: Oh.
46 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And she went to treatment and doing
47 good.

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

18

1 KERRIE REAY: Good.
2 DOMINIC CHARLIE: But had a couple -- a couple slips,
3 and the last one -- the last one she had, it was
4 about three weeks ago. And then her mom phoned
5 [indiscernible].
6 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
7 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Because mom concerned about --
8 KERRIE REAY: And that's [Girlfriend]?
9 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep. [Girlfriend] phoned -- phoned
10 [indiscernible] on her. So and [Daughter 2] was mad
11 at her and so I had a good talk with [Daughter 2].
12 I told her, [Daughter 2], you know what, you
13 should -- you should, you know, consider quitting
14 drinking. Your mom just concerned about the
15 babies, you know.
16 KERRIE REAY: Yeah. Yeah.
17 DOMINIC CHARLIE: You know.
18 KERRIE REAY: But, again, it becomes, you know,
19 children are being taken from their families.
20 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah, yeah. Yeah.
21 KERRIE REAY: Right.
22 DOMINIC CHARLIE: So --
23 KERRIE REAY: It may not be residential school, but --
24 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
25 KERRIE REAY: -- it becomes -- now it becomes foster
26 care.
27 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah, foster care, yeah. And I told
28 her that, you know, you have a lot of times been
29 babies and a lot of times, we can --
30 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
31 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- like, with babies, what you want
32 is -- you know, it's, okay, Dad. I'll quit
33 drinking. Then we went to see -- you got to
34 comfort her.
35 KERRIE REAY: Uh-huh.
36 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And [indiscernible] comfort and come
37 to help out quite a bit, and I'd talk to her and
38 talk to her constantly.
39 KERRIE REAY: So -- so you can see how the substance,
40 the alcohol --
41 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
42 KERRIE REAY: -- you know, it starts with pain.
43 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep.
44 KERRIE REAY: You know, maybe with your parents, the
45 loss of Tootsie in such a violent way, right --
46 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep.
47 KERRIE REAY: -- and your experience at residential

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

19

1 school.
2 DOMINIC CHARLIE: She -- she --
3 KERRIE REAY: Now, your daughter's --
4 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
5 KERRIE REAY: Right. And now they've got --
6 [Daughter 2]'s got three girls?
7 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
8 KERRIE REAY: So just it becomes this continuous
9 cycle.
10 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Continuous cycle.
11 KERRIE REAY: Yeah. But you demonstrate how life can
12 change when you quit --
13 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
14 KERRIE REAY: -- drinking.
15 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
16 KERRIE REAY: And so, you know, those are part of --
17 those are some of the things that the commission
18 is looking for --
19 DOMINIC CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
20 KERRIE REAY: -- is the patterns that occurs within
21 Indigenous families that --
22 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
23 KERRIE REAY: -- that leads to, you know, problems
24 with child welfare coming in --
25 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
26 KERRIE REAY: -- and just so that it doesn't keep
27 going from generation to generation.
28 DOMINIC CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
29 KERRIE REAY: You -- you spoke briefly to your own
30 pain at residential school and that you shared
31 some of that in your counselling.
32 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
33 KERRIE REAY: And so that -- that talks about really
34 getting to where the pain comes from. Is there
35 anything about your sister's murder that you
36 would like the commission to know?
37 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I -- I don't really much know
38 about --
39 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
40 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- about that. I know really -- I
41 know didn't ever talk to any of my sisters about
42 it.
43 KERRIE REAY: Right.
44 DOMINIC CHARLIE: So I think --
45 KERRIE REAY: And do we know a sort of --
46 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- I think my sisters went to
47 Whitehorse has [indiscernible] on it --

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

20

1 KERRIE REAY: Uh-huh.
2 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- last summer, but I was working.
3 I work for YTG. I work for the government --
4 KERRIE REAY: Oh, okay. Okay.
5 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- since 1995.
6 KERRIE REAY: Good, good, awesome.
7 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. I'm a firefighter.
8 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Good for you.
9 DOMINIC CHARLIE: We travel -- travel the country.
10 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
11 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. And then you talk to my
12 sister more. I don't [indiscernible].
13 KERRIE REAY: Do you want to know anything about it?
14 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I think I'd just leave it at that.
15 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm. You carry enough pain?
16 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I carry enough -- carry enough pain
17 around.
18 KERRIE REAY: Yeah. Yeah.
19 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
20 KERRIE REAY: Is there anything you would like the
21 residential -- you would like the commissioners
22 to know about how residential school has impacted
23 your family? We can see the alcohol abuse.
24 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. Can see the alcohol abuse,
25 but I don't want to -- you know, this --
26 KERRIE REAY: No. No. That's -- that's fine. That's
27 fine. One of the things, you know, we're also --
28 the commissioners are also interested -- the
29 terms of reference talk about violence in
30 families and -- you know, you have a different
31 lens.
32 DOMINIC CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
33 KERRIE REAY: You know, you've found sobriety and for
34 a long time now -- and again congratulations --
35 is there anything, you know -- do you see any
36 domestic violence in your daughters'
37 relationships?
38 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah, I see. I see it, especially
39 [Daughter 1] --
40 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
41 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- gone through it and going through
42 the hard time with spouse.
43 KERRIE REAY: Uh-huh.
44 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. I tried -- I tried talk to
45 her, but she don't want to listen.
46 KERRIE REAY: Yeah. Sometimes people have to find
47 their own time; right?

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

21

1 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah, yeah. I tried -- I tried -- I
2 tried to talk to her, but, you know -- like --
3 like -- like I said, all -- all the
4 [indiscernible] all the [indiscernible] to her --
5 KERRIE REAY: Right.
6 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- could support her, yeah --
7 because support her all the time and talk to her.
8 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
9 DOMINIC CHARLIE: But it really comes down to her
10 to --
11 KERRIE REAY: Right.
12 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- to decide what she really want
13 and change her life. I think it's the best for
14 her to change her life, change the alcoholism.
15 KERRIE REAY: Do you think -- do you say are there
16 better services now? You mentioned earlier the
17 first time you went to treatment in 1994 that
18 when you came back --
19 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Way, way, way --
20 KERRIE REAY: -- is there better support in the
21 communities now?
22 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- way, way better, yeah. Before --
23 before when I came [indiscernible] back -- back
24 to the community over, there was nothing.
25 KERRIE REAY: Right. Okay.
26 DOMINIC CHARLIE: There was no support, nothing. It's
27 really important to have support, you know, I
28 think.
29 KERRIE REAY: Is the support coming from the band
30 council or the band office, or is the support in
31 the -- with the Yukon territory --
32 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I think --
33 KERRIE REAY: -- services?
34 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I think it's mostly the people you
35 know.
36 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
37 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
38 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
39 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I always -- I always take my support
40 from my family --
41 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
42 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- [indiscernible] --
43 KERRIE REAY: So you've done good. So the support
44 you've found yourself, within your family --
45 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep.
46 KERRIE REAY: -- not on alcohol, on drug --
47 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep.

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

22

1 KERRIE REAY: -- counselling service?
2 DOMINIC CHARLIE: No.
3 KERRIE REAY: You've -- you've been lucky to have
4 that --
5 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
6 KERRIE REAY: -- family support?
7 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I take -- I take the treatment.
8 KERRIE REAY: Right.
9 DOMINIC CHARLIE: But I take the support from my
10 family. Like --
11 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
12 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- Ann, Ann was -- she was my
13 support when I went in to tell my stories from
14 residential school.
15 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
16 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And she was beside me and --
17 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
18 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- and so ...
19 KERRIE REAY: All right. And what about -- you spoke
20 about the racism.
21 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
22 KERRIE REAY: I just want to come back to that because
23 you said that's still very prevalent in 2018 --
24 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
25 KERRIE REAY: -- in -- in Watson Lake. Is it getting
26 any better, or is it -- is it the same, or is it
27 getting worse --
28 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I think --
29 KERRIE REAY: -- over time?
30 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yes. I think it pretty much the
31 same.
32 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
33 DOMINIC CHARLIE: But they sure -- they sure hide it
34 pretty good from you. I'm pretty sure it's the
35 same.
36 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
37 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. Growing up -- I've been
38 growing up, and I see it all the time, all the
39 time.
40 KERRIE REAY: ID'ed for what?
41 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Eh?
42 KERRIE REAY: ID'ed for what?
43 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I just see it all the time. I just
44 see it all the time, people just putting me down
45 because you're First Nation.
46 KERRIE REAY: Oh, okay.
47 DOMINIC CHARLIE: You can't hang around the store,

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

23

1 and -- you know, you go to Watson -- some day,
2 you go -- I go to lunch --
3 KERRIE REAY: Uh-huh.
4 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- you know, from -- from work.
5 KERRIE REAY: Uh-huh.
6 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I go to the store all the time and
7 see members there drinking and try to hang around
8 there, and the owner just, you're not allowed
9 here. Get back home. And it's like, holy mack.
10 It's like, I'd say something, but I -- I work for
11 the government. So I have to respect -- respect
12 everybody, you know.
13 KERRIE REAY: Yeah. Yeah. It's unfortunate that the
14 respect doesn't come back.
15 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah, yeah, for sure. But, yeah,
16 nobody -- government always assign -- always
17 assign people that have respect in the community
18 because you're working with the community. You
19 work with the community all the time --
20 KERRIE REAY: Right. Yes.
21 DOMINIC CHARLIE: So -- [indiscernible] you work with
22 the public --
23 KERRIE REAY: Yeah, yeah.
24 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And the public, you know -- and my
25 job, you know, they always watching. Everybody
26 watching you --
27 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
28 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- how will you demonstrate
29 yourself, how will you -- how will you present
30 yourself and stuff like that.
31 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm, m'mm-hmm.
32 DOMINIC CHARLIE: And I'm getting pretty good at that,
33 you know --
34 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
35 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- these days. I'm a teacher now,
36 so I teach.
37 KERRIE REAY: Yeah, yeah. Take the high road and make
38 those who are racist --
39 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep, yep.
40 KERRIE REAY: -- show for who they are --
41 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep.
42 KERRIE REAY: -- and you take the high road. And that
43 must be difficult at times?
44 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Oh, sometimes very difficult. Yeah.
45 Sometimes I just --
46 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
47 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- bite my tongue, and the ones

**Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)**

24

1 doing -- and it's just, oh -- I quit a few
2 companies.
3 KERRIE REAY: Any ideas how -- how -- any ideas about
4 how we could try to teach people, to educate
5 people that we're all people, we're all human?
6 Racism doesn't have a place?
7 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I think it's just the environment of
8 how they're brought up.
9 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
10 DOMINIC CHARLIE: You see all be from brought up --
11 you know.
12 KERRIE REAY: So need to teach it --
13 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
14 KERRIE REAY: -- from little, little, little?
15 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Little, little, yeah. Yeah.
16 KERRIE REAY: Well, you know, it's interesting that,
17 you know, you're starting to see research and --
18 and children don't see any differences.
19 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
20 KERRIE REAY: It's being taught somewhere --
21 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
22 KERRIE REAY: -- as -- as they get older. It's being
23 taught. So is there anything you -- else you
24 would like the commission to know?
25 DOMINIC CHARLIE: No.
26 KERRIE REAY: This is your space and your time --
27 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Oh, yeah, I think I did --
28 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
29 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- did -- did a lot.
30 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Feeling good about it?
31 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I feel a lot better.
32 KERRIE REAY: Good, good. All right. Then it is
33 11:04. So if you feel comfortable, we can turn
34 off the video.
35 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
36 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
37
38 (BRIEF RECESS)
39
40 KERRIE REAY: Okay. We're going to go back on the
41 record. It is now 11:08, and Mary Charlie, who
42 has been here supporting her brother Dominic --
43 we'd just like to take a moment to provide the
44 commission with some information about the
45 challenges the family had trying to find out
46 information on the death, the murder of her older
47 sister Tootsie.

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

25

1 So space and time is yours, Mary. Please, I
2 invite you to start wherever you'd like.
3 MARY CHARLIE: Yeah. I just wanted some -- like to
4 get some information on that missing, murdered
5 Indigenous women. My sister was murdered in -- I
6 think it was '67, '68. I was about 20, I think.
7 Anyway, when she passed on, they found her body
8 in Whitehorse, and it was in a dump. And we were
9 in -- by the riverbank in Liard when the cops
10 pulled up, and I was standing there, and they
11 asked me where -- where can I get -- if I knew
12 Pete Charlie or Lina Charlie, and I said it was
13 my parents. And I said they're down by the
14 riverbank doing some fishing. And the cops said,
15 well, we'd like to talk to them, both of them.
16 So I called them up, and they got -- got mom and
17 dad in the car, cop car, and -- and I knew right
18 away something happened.
19 Mom came out of the car just crying,
20 screaming, and I went over and talked to her.
21 And I told her, what happened? And she said they
22 found your sister in Whitehorse in a dump. When
23 she went to -- how she end up in Whitehorse was
24 she went to the -- she went to jail for -- they
25 gave her two weeks, but she served about a week
26 because of drinking. And that day, she was
27 supposed to come back on the bus she never made
28 it back to our community, never came home. We
29 waited for her on a bus by the bus depot and see,
30 but she never showed up. But three days later,
31 that's when they found her body in Whitehorse.
32 But we were trying to open that case on her
33 to see what really happened to her, how she died.
34 We really wanted to know, but they never done
35 nothing on it. So actually, Mom just let it go.
36 It was like they slide it underneath the rug.
37 KERRIE REAY: Can I ask, Mary, when your mom was
38 trying to get information, was that at the time
39 that you learned of Tootsie's death, or was it
40 later? Was it later in the 70s or in the 80s,
41 trying to get them to reopen it? Or was it right
42 at the beginning?
43 MARY CHARLIE: It was -- I think it was a year later
44 or couple years [indiscernible] later.
45 KERRIE REAY: Okay. I'm just going to get you some
46 Kleenex here, Mary. Of course, I can't get in
47 there. Sorry. Here you go. Okay.

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

26

1 So how -- how long did your parents try to
2 get information from the police?
3 MARY CHARLIE: I tried to help them to see if they
4 could open a case for them because I figured they
5 was going to let it slide again, and they really
6 wanted to know how she died. That's all she
7 wanted. They wanted to know.
8 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
9 MARY CHARLIE: And we'd like to find out how she
10 passed away.
11 KERRIE REAY: Would you like to still know?
12 MARY CHARLIE: Pardon?
13 KERRIE REAY: Would you like to know?
14 MARY CHARLIE: Yes. I'd like to know how she -- like,
15 and then when they -- when they -- when they
16 found her, we buried her in Upper Liard Cemetery,
17 and -- but now -- not -- to this day, we couldn't
18 find her grave site because somebody took all the
19 cross off the grave, and then -- and then decided
20 we wanted to find out what year she pass on and
21 what month. And then Father Galbo [phonetic] was
22 the one in Liard for years back then --
23 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
24 MARY CHARLIE: -- and you can get all the records of
25 people where they were buried and what year
26 and -- you know.
27 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
28 MARY CHARLIE: But he's passed on, and then his house
29 burned down before he went back to Whitehorse.
30 KERRIE REAY: So all those records are lost?
31 MARY CHARLIE: All the records were gone.
32 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Do you know -- do you know
33 Tootsie's date of birth?
34 MARY CHARLIE: I'm -- let me think. I'm 49.
35 DOMINIC CHARLIE: 40- --
36 MARY CHARLIE: I was born '49. My sisters -- Phoebe
37 she's two years -- we're two years apart. So me,
38 Phoebe, Aggie, Effie, Tootsie --
39 DOMINIC CHARLIE: She turns 50- --
40 MARY CHARLIE: -- Abby -- Tootsie's --
41 DOMINIC CHARLIE: [Indiscernible] '45, '43 --
42 MARY CHARLIE: 40- --
43 DOMINIC CHARLIE: '40, '41.
44 KERRIE REAY: Yeah, Aggie's '45.
45 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I know. Tootsie, after it's --
46 MARY CHARLIE: Yeah.
47 DOMINIC CHARLIE: -- Tootsie, so '41.

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

27

1 KERRIE REAY: Do you know what month she was born in?
2 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Hm?
3 KERRIE REAY: Do you know what month she was born in?
4 MARY CHARLIE: Who?
5 KERRIE REAY: What month, January, March? Do you know
6 what her birth date was? Just to try and see if
7 we can find -- find this file.
8 MARY CHARLIE: I think it's February. I'm not sure.
9 KERRIE REAY: Okay. All right.
10 MARY CHARLIE: You know, I never had much time with
11 her because I was in residential school.
12 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm. M'mm-hmm.
13 MARY CHARLIE: And I really -- I know she was -- she
14 had a really good husband, really good husband,
15 Matthew Jimmy.
16 KERRIE REAY: Is Matthew still alive?
17 MARY CHARLIE: No. He baby her, do everything for
18 her, everything.
19 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
20 MARY CHARLIE: And he looks after the kids. She's --
21 she have -- she had three -- three kids.
22 KERRIE REAY: And -- and where -- where are they
23 today?
24 MARY CHARLIE: She lost --
25 DOMINIC CHARLIE: One passed.
26 MARY CHARLIE: -- one, eh.
27 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yep, lost one, the youngest one.
28 MARY CHARLIE: She lost one.
29 DOMINIC CHARLIE: She lost the youngest one, Richard.
30 MARY CHARLIE: Oh, she lost two of them --
31 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Two.
32 MARY CHARLIE: -- Richard, and there's a girl, and
33 then there's Darlene. Darlene is the only one
34 living right now.
35 DOMINIC CHARLIE: No, Jacky [phonetic] too.
36 MARY CHARLIE: Oh, Jacky excuse me.
37 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Jacky's. He's oldest -- six months.
38 Six months younger than me, Jacky.
39 KERRIE REAY: Was Jacky aware of the inquiry coming to
40 Lower Post? Do you know?
41 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I don't think so. I --
42 KERRIE REAY: Just wondering if Jacky would have liked
43 to have talked to the commission?
44 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Maybe. I'm not too sure.
45 MARY CHARLIE: Maybe.
46 KERRIE REAY: Where -- where does she [sic] live?
47 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Maybe -- maybe Ann could -- contact

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

28

1 him and talk to him about it.
2 KERRIE REAY: Where does Jacky live?
3 DOMINIC CHARLIE: He stayed in town.
4 KERRIE REAY: In White- -- in Watson Lake?
5 MARY CHARLIE: Watson Lake, yeah.
6 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah. He stayed in time.
7 KERRIE REAY: Well, perhaps maybe -- we're here
8 tomorrow.
9 MARY CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
10 DOMINIC CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
11 KERRIE REAY: If -- if Jacky would like to come and
12 speak about the murder of her mom --
13 MARY CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
14 KERRIE REAY: -- and what that meant for her, losing a
15 mom at such a young age.
16 DOMINIC CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
17 MARY CHARLIE: Darlene is in Vancouver.
18 KERRIE REAY: Okay. But -- but Jacky is here?
19 MARY CHARLIE: Jacky --
20 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Jacky is here, yeah.
21 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
22 DOMINIC CHARLIE: I think Ann could --
23 MARY CHARLIE: Talk -- --
24 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Approach -- approach him and --
25 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Why don't I leave that with you,
26 okay --
27 MARY CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
28 KERRIE REAY: -- as family?
29 DOMINIC CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
30 KERRIE REAY: And if -- if she would like to come,
31 we'll find time for her tomorrow. And -- so
32 there's three of us here, so --
33 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
34 KERRIE REAY: Anything else, Mary?
35 MARY CHARLIE: One of the -- the only thing I'd like
36 to -- about this story -- say, and like other
37 stories that happened before, let -- let the
38 family -- family to get together and talk about
39 it because we never really talked about our
40 sister --
41 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
42 MARY CHARLIE: -- because mom, they shut it -- they
43 shut it right out, and the only thing we knew how
44 she died and where she died, and she just let it
45 go because nobody done nothing -- behalf -- for
46 her, help her out.
47 KERRIE REAY: So sort of sounds like unfinished

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

29

1 business with the family.
2 MARY CHARLIE: Yeah.
3 KERRIE REAY: The family needs to have some closure.
4 MARY CHARLIE: Yeah. We need some closure somehow.
5 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Okay.
6 MARY CHARLIE: My younger -- my younger brothers and
7 sisters don't know much on her.
8 KERRIE REAY: M'mm-hmm.
9 MARY CHARLIE: You know, they never had a chance with
10 her and stuff like that.
11 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
12 MARY CHARLIE: And I -- I always think about her once
13 in a while, and it's pretty hard.
14 KERRIE REAY: I bet. Been a lot of years.
15 MARY CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
16 KERRIE REAY: Yeah, yeah.
17 MARY CHARLIE: A lot of pain been packed for years.
18 KERRIE REAY: Yeah. Well --
19 MARY CHARLIE: And also I'd like to see other families
20 that struggling like us, I hope they help them
21 out.
22 KERRIE REAY: Yeah. And not to leave that pain for
23 all those years.
24 MARY CHARLIE: Yeah. Just told them that it just sit
25 there --
26 KERRIE REAY: Right.
27 MARY CHARLIE: -- you know. Help them along.
28 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
29 MARY CHARLIE: At least tell them what they find out
30 about it, you know --
31 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.
32 MARY CHARLIE: -- about that story.
33 KERRIE REAY: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.
34 MARY CHARLIE: And then maybe it'll feel comfortable
35 in our heart that somebody's doing something for
36 it --
37 KERRIE REAY: Right.
38 MARY CHARLIE: -- for the family, you know, that we
39 lost.
40 KERRIE REAY: Yes, yes. Okay. So I will make that as
41 part of the request for follow-up --
42 MARY CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
43 KERRIE REAY: -- is for the family to be provided with
44 the details or the information from the police
45 investigation. That's what I think --
46 MARY CHARLIE: Okay.
47 KERRIE REAY: -- I'm hearing you say.

Statement - Public
Dominic & Mary Charlie
(Tootsie Charlie)

30

1 MARY CHARLIE: That'd be good.
2 KERRIE REAY: And it may be really tough, you know, to
3 hear and to see --
4 MARY CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
5 KERRIE REAY: -- you know, in writing, but that's for
6 the family to decide. Okay.
7 MARY CHARLIE: Yep.
8 KERRIE REAY: And not all -- maybe not all family
9 wants to know too, right, because that's --
10 that's -- for Dominic, he's not really sure that
11 he wants to --
12 DOMINIC CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
13 KERRIE REAY: -- to have that information. But to
14 have it gives you the choice --
15 MARY CHARLIE: M'mm-hmm.
16 KERRIE REAY: -- to decide who wants to -- to read it
17 and who doesn't.
18 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
19 MARY CHARLIE: I'd like to know.
20 KERRIE REAY: Yeah. And you were quite a bit older.
21 You said you were about 20, while Dominic was
22 maybe about eight, right.
23 DOMINIC CHARLIE: Yeah.
24 KERRIE REAY: You know, there 's difference. Anything
25 else, Mary, that you --
26 MARY CHARLIE: No.
27 KERRIE REAY: -- would like to share?
28 MARY CHARLIE: No.
29 KERRIE REAY: Okay.
30 MARY CHARLIE: Thank you.
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KERRIE REAY: All right. Then we'll -- it's 11:20,
and we'll turn this off.

(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 11:20 A.M.)

Reporter's Certification:

I, Cordia Wong, Official Reporter
in the Province of British Columbia,
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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
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March, 2018.

Cordia Wong
Official Reporter