National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Encore Services Plus Hotel
Grande Prairie, Alberta

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Statement - Volume 311
David Cunningham, Cathy Cunningham & Ashley Jong, In relation to S.L.

Statement gathered by Caitlin Hendrickson

Verbatim Words West Ltd.
II

NOTE 1: 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.”

NOTE 2: The use of square brackets [ ] in this transcript indicates that amendments have been made to the certified transcript in order to replace information deemed inaudible or indecipherable by the original transcriptionist. Amendments were completed by listening to the source audio recording of the proceeding and were made by Bryana Bouchir, Public Inquiry Clerk with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ, June 4th 2018 at Vancouver, BC.
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List of documents provided by witnesses:

Item 1  Twenty photographs of Loved One and family
Item 2  Handwritten statement of Loved One regarding ex-partner and children (18 pages)
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So, we'll get started and when you speak I'll just have you introduce yourselves and what you'd like to speak about today and what you'd like the Commissioners to know. So, whoever would like to start first?

ASHLEY JONG: He's the man.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: You've been volunteered.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Hello, my names David Cunningham. I live in High Prairie, Alberta. I'm here to talk about my daughter. Her name was [S.L.], which is her married name. She's -- her maiden name is [S.L.'s maiden name]. She went missing after September 7th, 2014. There was a posting in Big Falls, Montana on Facebook and that was the last time we heard from her for three years. We put out a missing persons for her with the RCMP. Also, the border, customs.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And, we also -- my wife also phoned the authorities in Big Falls, Montana.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: It was Great Falls.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Great Falls, sorry. But every time that we did phone or talk to somebody they weren't allowed to give us any information. For three years we didn't know whether she was alive or dead. Until one time she did phone us from the jail. She was incarcerated in Los Angeles, California penal system. She is -- she was diagnosed with schizophrenia. At first she was diagnosed with drug induced psychosis, which she obtained within her family life, which led to separation. But, anyway, she's also a diabetic. So there was a concern for her safety. She did get a hold of us. My wife did say July, I thought it was August. Then she was in a penal system. She did have an earlier release. She was incarcerated under an alias and it was, I think, --

ASHLEY JONG: I can't even remember, something real dumb.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- yeah. I can't recall the name of the name she was under, her alias. But, as she was administered medication for her schizophrenia, she started to remember the phone
numbers, that's why she called me. Within that
time, we thought she was dead. Didn't know
what to think.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Tyson Arew (Phonetic)

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Tyson Arew. Yes, was her alias.

She --

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Tyson, sorry, what was the last
name?


CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: (indiscernible)

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And she was also registered that
she was 24 years old. But, she definitely isn't.

She's like 40.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Can I get you to also introduce
yourselves please?

ASHLEY JONG: My name is Ashley Jong. This is my
mother that we're talking about.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And I'm Cathy Cunningham. That's
my daughter, David's my husband.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Thank you. So, she's -- she was
diagnosed with schizophrenia.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yes.

ASHLEY JONG: Mm-hm.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And you heard from her last
year?

ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yes.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.

ASHLEY JONG: For the first time in three years.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. And has she since been
released?

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She was released in September,
early September. And she was hitchhiking north.

She got up to San Francisco and then next thing
you know she calls, she was in San Diego and she
was in a tent camp in San Diego somewhere for
homeless people. They put them somewhere,

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And, she was going to a -- where

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Homeless shelter.

ASHLEY JONG: Shelters.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, but she wasn't sheltered
there at all but she'd eat there. And because she
wasn't medicated again, well, you can tell
anytime she phoned that she became more psychotic. And then we haven't heard from her since late October. So we don't know where she is and anytime that we did put in a --

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Missing person.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- missing person, we came to a road block. On Facebook I even had -- it states there where Justin Trudeau was --

ASHLEY JONG: (indiscernible)

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- (indiscernible) no, I've got to talk about it because it did happen.

ASHLEY JONG: He can't help you.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: That he was, like, looking for friends or whatever, his posting. So I friended him and I also asked him if he would deport my daughter from the States. They asked what I would do. As a matter of fact I've still got it on my phone and right away they said it would cost $17,000 to deport her from the States to Canada. And, I said, well, I don't have any money with me right now but I can send you $200, and they said okay, send the money and then send it -- send the rest later, up to $535. And, we will get the ball rolling to deport her. But, they kept on asking for money and it turned out that it wasn't -- it was a scam. So, but anyway, prior to that I did get a call from a -- Revenue Canada Agency and they were looking for her. And, I told them the story that we hadn't heard from her for a long time and that she's gone missing and that sort of thing. And then I asked them, well, if you do get a hold of her could you tell her she has family members that want to speak to her. She has six children and they told me, she said, no we can't give you that information. I said, so, if she dies could you give me that information? Canada Revenue Agency said, no, we can't even divulge that information. I said, so she's gonna to be a Jane Doe somewhere in the States if she passes away and that we won't be notified. Cause that's the hardest part

is not knowing --

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

ASHLEY JONG: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- whether she's --

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: It's very important that we know.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- yeah.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Have her have somewhere. It's just in us that we need to know if something bad like that happened.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: So with all the --

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: There'd be something missing (indiscernible) [forever].

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- like, she lost, she told me she lost all her identification, she was beaten up, robbed of all her ID. She didn't have no treaty card, no money, no bank card, that -- we couldn't help her at the time. We sent money while she was incarcerated but because it wasn't from a --

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: US post office.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- US post office and that it was from Canada, even though it was in US funds, they sent back the money. So now we had to get the money to the States from a US post office to send to her 'cause she was saying, "Dad, I'm getting hungry".

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: But now we don't even know where she is.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: I read things, now we don't know where she is.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And no way of knowing.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Since October.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Have you been in touch with any authorities down in the United States?

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She was in touch with ...

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Well, the one that I phoned they were all friendly and nice and what have you but they all came up with the same thing, that I'm sorry but we can't divulge that information. She's an adult and she has a right to her privacy. And I say, well you know, she schizophrenic and sometimes we know she's not responsible for her actions, and they said yes, even then. So that kind of deterred me from ...

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Listening to them.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yes.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: To any type of authority. Because even the Canada Revenue Agency. Like, they don't divulge no information. At one point in time my daughter told me, "Dad, I want you to be my power of attorney." Even when she was incarcerated there was a lady was, that was her worker but she wasn't there, like, I found out from that lady
after, pressing her that she would just stay -- I
forget what the term they used.

ASHLEY JONG: Counselling home.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: It wasn't a counsellor. They used
the term where they just made sure that she
continued to do her time spent in jail. It
wasn't about counselling or anything like that.
She did not have a counsellor. And that was in
the Los Angeles penal system. She got out, she
had no money, tried to come home. For some
reason or other she got turned around and I
believe she was on drugs and I don't know where
she is right now.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you know what she was
incarcerated for?

ASHLEY JONG: Allegedly she said that she -- for
assaulting a police officer and breaking and
entering, armed robbery or something.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: It wasn't armed robbery.

ASHLEY JONG: (indiscernible -overlapping speakers)

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Just entering.

ASHLEY JONG: Okay.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And do you know which facility
she was incarcerated at?

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I think I have it on my iPad at
home.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Los Angeles.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I looked it up so I have it in my
iPad.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes. You can always email it to
me later. I'll give you my information. I don't
know what -- again, because it would be a
jurisdictional thing. We do under our Act in
terms of doing an inquiry, we could be asking
for, you know, records.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: I don't know how that extends
into the United States and if we would get road
blocked by that. But, it's something that, like,
if you got me the names of institutions and any
professionals you maybe talked with, I might be
able to bring that to our legal team and they
could assess whether or not they could do
anything with that.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: The only way that she could be
identified was by tattoos.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She had one on her neck and one across her back is a dragon?

ASHLEY JONG: Yeah, it would be a dragon.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And she had on her left leg a tattoo of a bear paw. And that's the only way that they could for sure identify her because she had lost all her ID.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: When all the avenues came to a road block, I don't know, I was reading the paper one day and I was looking in the South East news and a ladies name, matter of fact her name’s Melissa, her face came up and she had a phone number on there and so I got a hold of her. That's how I came to know the, the missing women.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: But I believe prior to her being missing and everything that we'd have got more help from our town.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: A lot of this wouldn't have happened. Our town, like, my daughter married a lawyer's son. And when they got in trouble -- you're going to have to pee a lot again --

ASHLEY JONG: Well, he frickin' bailed them out all the time.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And, I know. Just like, we'd go to doors and say, can you help us, our daughter's schizophrenic, we need help. And they'd say no, we work with [S.L.'s father-in-law], that's his name, we can't help you and the door would close.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: So, we had about two or three times that happened to us so we gave up.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Because he represented child welfare and at that time there was a child battle going on for our grandkids.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: There was, yeah. The kids were taken away at one time by the police and brought over to our house. And the process -- they were in the process of giving them over to us --

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- to keep. And, within a month they were taken out from the house and gone to the dad’s.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So ...
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She was attended by a [Doctor 1] (phonetic), here in Grand Prairie.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: [Repeats name]?

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: [Doctor 1].

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: [Doctor 1].

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yep. It's spelt a little different.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: I believe that's the way it's spelt. I phoned their office and see if they would help by giving any information. But because she had been gone for three years they considered her not a client anymore. So, I, I was trying to find any records of her that would help get her back to this -- to Canada.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Because she did say, "Dad, I want to get deported again. I want to go home." But when she got lost in her psychosis because she wasn't given any drugs anymore, then she -- and we started losing her. She started making rash judgements.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you have a medical number for her? Like a provincial medical registration number?

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I could have a look. Like a health care number?

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Somewhere.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes. Because if you have something like that, that might make it easier for say, like, us to try and locate some -- locate documents, maybe FILU could also use that to help locate documents of, you know, diagnoses and other identifying information that could be helpful.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: (indiscernible)

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes. So, that's what I would suggest that if you were to track down that number --

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Mm-hm.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: -- you could give it to FILU or give it to us and we can see if there's any information there that we can help with.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Better write that down.
Statement - Public 8
David & Cathy Cunningham
& Ashley Jong
(S.L.)

1 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes.
2 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: One thing she did have --
3 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: There's a pad and a pen here.
4 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- she did have an altercation or
5 some kind of problem at the border when she left.
6 There was a number when we tried getting hold of
7 them, which was a border, whatever you call them.
8 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Customs.
9 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Uh?
10 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Customs.
11 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Customs, it said on the phone. She
did have trouble. I asked her about it and she
said she was told from customs she can't come
back to Canada for three to five years. She
maintained that. So I don't know what happened
and that would have been back in 2014. So that
was one of the deterring factors of her coming
back over here. She wasn't quite sure is what
she told me. And now it's only three years,
but --
12 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: That what she said though to me
(indiscernible-overlapping speakers)
13 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. That's all I can say, right,
it's what she told me.
14 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. That's right.
15 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: There is one thing that I would
like to kind of get a picture for the
commissioners of, kind of her timeline? Like,
when she born and her childhood, what was that
like for her?
16 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Okay. She was born [birthdate],
17 1977. We weren't rich. She had an okay
18 childhood. We both worked. She was the oldest.
19 So...
20 ASHLEY JONG: From what I understand it was pretty
good for her growing up, like, she was getting
into modelling and stuff like that. She was
really good with school. Like, she still holds
records at the high school that I went to for
like track and field. She was an amazing
athlete, really (indiscernible), until her and my
dad started getting together.
21 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She was a very good artist.
22 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah, amazing artist.
23 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: He just took her from us, that's
what he did.
24 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: But her marks were in the 90s.
ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She was smart.
ASHLEY JONG: Really phenomenal student. My teachers
when I went to – 'cause I went to the same school
and saw some of the same teachers, they talked
about her a lot.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. She had sports since she was
young. Good in school. She enjoyed, had lots of
friends, social.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Did she have any hopes or dreams
about what she wanted to achieve?
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She wanted to be a model before she
met her husband. And I did take her to modelling
school and we were on the process of getting her
to go again but that summer is when she was
working when she met [S.L.'s ex-husband].
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And I didn't -- we didn't have
enough time.
ASHLEY JONG: No.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She was just gone.
ASHLEY JONG: She got pregnant with me right away.
She was only what, 16?
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She was a very good mother, no
doubt about it. But once they started getting
into drugs.
ASHLEY JONG: Yes, my dad is a severe alcoholic.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She couldn't beat it.
ASHLEY JONG: Yeah, (indiscernible)
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Then all of a sudden, yeah. I'd go
to the house and she'd -- bottle was in her
garbage thing. I said, "where's all this coming
from?" I'd tell her and she said, Oh, it's, you
know
ASHLEY JONG: (indiscernible - overlapping speakers)
they were really bad into it
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: (indiscernible - overlapping
speakers) they were doing a lot of drinking.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: They did separate for a while. She
did work with me 'cause I was a contractor at the
time. And, she was doing really well. She was
over her drugs and that her husband --
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: (indiscernible -overlapping
speakers)
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- ex-husband came back and he fell
off the wagon and got her going again.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She went back.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And she went on the other side, I guess. But before he, he, he separated with her again, he put the -- he had a company also because I helped him for a while work the company. He put the company in her name when -- while she was under her psychosis, in her name. And his mother who has the same first name as her, they're both [S.L.] now, went to Edmonton. She sat in the vehicle and this is what she divulged to me that the mother in law put the company in her name and they were in a hole of $100,000, they claimed bankruptcy. All the bills for furniture and anything like that, they put in her name and they separated. She stayed in the house for a while, because she couldn't make the bills they told her to leave. They got rid of the house. So she was out in the street and I told her, you, she stayed with us for a while. We told her, like, you gotta stay away from drugs. However, he -- I told her, he's going to send somebody over to give you drugs and she said he has already done that. So, and the fight was on for the children. The father in law is, is a lawyer in High Prairie.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: He has all the connections with the judges, with the judge and the police.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And welfare.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: So they practically buried her financially, emotionally, and she was still under the influence of drugs. We have statements at home for all that. She even made some statements on her own. We are missing three pages out of eighteen that she wrote down, what happened to her. She was abused physically. I got a picture here with a -- with a black -- with her and a black eye. She told me, dad, [S.L.’s ex-husband] has a gun under the mattress. If I do anything, he said he's going to shoot me. And, --

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And he was [paranoid when he was on drugs] very (indiscernible).

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.

ASHLEY JONG: Oh, that guy is fuckin’ retarded. Oh, excuse my language. He was bad.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I've heard stories about him holding people hostage in rooms ‘cause he was so
high and paranoid.

ASHLEY JONG: Yeah, like, and I've seen all this stuff growing up. Like, I've witnessed it all. Like, tried to shield my own, like, sisters -- brothers and sisters. Like, I would lock them up in my bedroom. And then, like, I was scared, like, that they were going to, like, kill each other, like, I've watched them take bats to each other, like.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: They've called us from the closet saying, "Kokum, can you guys come and get us."

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.

ASHLEY JONG: And then I would start, like, I'd get beat up because they didn't want anybody knowing what was going on at home.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And she was told to lie.

ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: When she was 8 years old, she'd phone and us and, to come and get 'em.

ASHLEY JONG: 'Cause I was scared and then I got in like, really big trouble about that and then I got scared to ask for help and then, like, my parents would be gone for like 4 or 5 days at a time. I missed a lot of school 'cause I'd have to take care of my baby brother. And, then finally, like, there was, like, this one time -- that was when we got, like, we finally got taken away by, like, Child Welfare and stuff. I called (indiscernible) 'cause I hadn't seen my parents in 5 days. My little infant brother was really sick, he was puking. I didn't know what to do, I'm only like 13 years old, so I was pretty (indiscernible) [freaked out] and I finally called them, so they came and got us. And then I think that's when Child Welfare got involved and that's when we got taken away.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: So there was, like, quite a few years of an abusive relationship there because of the drugs.

ASHLEY JONG: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Prior to the drugs, you couldn't ask for a better couple but they started getting into the drugs and then --

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- it became violent and abusive. They were gone for 2 or 3 days sometimes
(indiscernible). But that's where we stepped in 'cause they called us. So now because the son was in this state the father felt he had to do something to try to protect his son.

ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: They got into a car accident one time. And it was with a -- with a vehicle accident. My daughter drove --

ASHLEY JONG: My dad (indiscernible - overlapping speakers)

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- from there house because they were going to a drug run.

ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: A drug run into Grouard.

ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. My dad sent her.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And she was driving and she rolled the vehicle back. So, now they were trying to get away from the insurance claim and say that she stole it. They were trying to accuse her of stealing it.

ASHLEY JONG: When he's the one that sent her to go get it.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. I would -- in two occasions there was drug dealers that held over them at hostage. One day I went up there, when I got a phone call. She called me. She said, "Dad, we're being held hostage for $280 for drug money. Could you help me? Could you give me the money?"

My first impulse was to grab my gun and I was gonna go get them. And, I thought about it, I paid for it and then they got out. The second occasion was the mother in law,

ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: [S.L.'s father-in-law]'s wife, who was the lawyer. She paid $500 to drug dealers in Grouard, to release them. That's how bad the drugs were. So, she went through a lot there at that time and she couldn't get away from the addiction. Only the time she did get away was when she worked for me. For three months she worked for me. She was getting healthy --

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Sorry, (indiscernible)

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- she was getting healthy, she was starting to remember. She missed her kids, she loved her kids, she wanted her kids. However, they had the order.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I was going to say, we've been
together for all these years. We never allowed alcohol in our house. We don't do any of that. We tried our best to raise our kids without seeing that.

ASHLEY JONG: (sobbing)

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: So, we're raising her youngest daughter right now.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you want to take a break before we continue?

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, maybe.

ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.

(HEARING ADJOURNED)

(HEARING RECONVENED)

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So, it's 5:05 p.m and we're just resuming with David, Ashley, and Cathy speaking about [S.L.], and it's March 19th, 2018, in Grand Prairie, Alberta. One thing that I wanted to ask is when was it that [S.L.] was diagnosed as schizophrenic?

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She was 30.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Well, there was a date here where she was diagnosed with drug induced psychosis by [Doctor 2] of the Alberta--

ASHLEY JONG: That was when she went to the treatment center in Grand Prairie.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- yeah, but she was first diagnosed that year in --

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: She came back (indiscernible) [in 2013].

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: University.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: 2006 is when she'd (indiscernible).

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. Yeah. Would have been that year, 2008.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: 2006 to 2008-ish?

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Somewhere in there.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: (indiscernible).

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: I thought I saw that in here.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And that's when the drug induced came in and shortly after the schizophrenia. So, it was just shortly after 2006.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: In November of -- December ‘07. [S.L.’S ex-husband] stared wrecking me again. He wanted a divorce. Sell the house in the spring, not pay for our bills. I went to my
psychiatrist, explained what was happening.
Being off meds, she later wrote me a letter
saying that I had -- was a drug-induced psychosis
and it was against my human rights. And, this
was on December 7, but she was diagnosed prior
to.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Oh.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: That's [S.L.]'s own writing there.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So, Ashley, what year were you
born?


CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So, I recognize that this has
been quite, quite tough to talk about but I was
hoping maybe you could talk about yourself and
your siblings and, you know, how your experiences
have affected you? And, kind of, where you're
all at today?

ASHLEY JONG: Well, my siblings there all, like, they
didn't see as much as I did because I, like, I
really sheltered them. Like, my parents would be
fighting. I'd go hide them in my room and they'd
be crying, like, stay in here, stay in here and
then I'd be like scared that my dad would like
kill her, like, so I'd go upstairs, like, I'd go
upstairs, they'd be fighting and there was like
one time where she was, like, he was on top of
her choking her, and like, and she couldn't
breathe. Like, I thought he was going to kill
her so I like jumped on him. I'm like 12 years
old and I started fucking hitting him. I'm like,
get off her, get off her. And he threw me
against the wall. I got the blunt -- the --

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: brunt.

ASHLEY JONG: -- brunt of the abuse. Like, my
siblings -- like, he'd hit them too but never
like how he beat the shit out of me. And, it
really fucking affected me, man. I started
getting -- like, [Three lines redacted – Rule
55]. I just felt like I was fucking -- I felt
different from all my other siblings. Like, my
dad was more attentive to them when he started
getting sober but he always, like, was -- always
had a strange relationship with myself so, like,
I always felt, like, neglected. I don't know, it
fucking, like it affects me more than I realize,
like, I don't know.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So, [One line redacted – Rule
ASHLEY JONG: [One line redacted - Rule 55].
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Good for you.
ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. Got to try something different.
Can't do it by myself.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm. Support, support, support.
ASHLEY JONG: Really though.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: You have a little girl.
ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. I have a little daughter too,
and, like, 'cause the last time I talked to my
mom was three weeks before I took my pregnancy
test and then, that was really fucking -- really
-- excuse my language, I'm so sorry.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: It's okay.
ASHLEY JONG: It was really hard for me 'cause, like --
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: All your language is welcome
here.
ASHLEY JONG: All, like.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: You need to express yourself.
ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. I don't know, I just, like,
didn't want her -- I don't ever want her to feel
how I felt growing up. So, like, [one line
redacted - Rule 55] and like, with my mom being
missing, she didn't even know I was pregnant, had
kids. Like, it really destroyed me inside.
Like, I still need to deal with it.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm. So that might be
something that you talk to Rosanne about for your
after care is, is building that plan around your
own healing and well being, and a plan for your
daughter. Are you parenting her right now?
ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. Well, me and her dad split her
50/50. She's with him right now.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. So, do you have good
support from him?
ASHLEY JONG: We're really good co-parents, me and
[Ex-partner]. Like, he's such a chill but, like,
he's an amazing dad. Like, we're good co-
parents.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Good, good. And I really wish
you luck on your healing journey.
ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. Me too.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: It's been hard. It's been hard for
me to see her this way. And, we've been worried
about her since she was little.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And even knowing what she was going through.
ASHLEY JONG: [Two lines redacted – Rule 55]. Like, I --this is like -- when I moved here this last July, here, that's when I like, this is the best I've ever done in my life 'cause I'm working at the casino now and actually working a legitimate job.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
ASHLEY JONG: I don't know. I'm doing better now. But I still need to do better.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm. I think that that self reflection and that, that recognition there is a really strong sign of strength and being able to do that. So, --
ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. Like, I know that I have problems. I recognize it.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: -- mm-hm.
ASHLEY JONG: I definitely know that I need to do a lot of work on myself. It's just its easy for me to recognize it and talk about it, it's harder actually letting do it and go through the motions.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes. But you also know what you experienced as a child and so you know --
ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. I don't want for my daughter.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: -- what you don't want for your daughter.
ASHLEY JONG: I do not want, like, I don't want that life for my kid. Like, how terrible I felt as a child and, like, even, like, [seven lines redacted – Rule 55]. Like, I couldn't stop crying and I'm like, I'm so sorry and then she's just patting my face, smiling and like hugging me, smiling. Like, she doesn't care, man. She loves me, like, she unconditionally loves me. And, like, she deserves so much better, man, and I deserve better too, and like, she just wants to see me happy, man.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
ASHLEY JONG: Like, like I couldn't like -- I've never felt that kind of love before. Like, I'm just, I felt so bad for, like, what I was doing and like, she didn't care man. She was just hugging me and loving me and she was just sad that I was sad. And like that's pretty amazing man.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Kids are super intuitive and
they just want everybody to be happy.

ASHLEY JONG: Mm-hm.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Just keep her close.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: We're only a phone call away. So, what do you think --

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes. So, you live here in Grand Prairie and then --

ASHLEY JONG: Mm-hm. Yeah.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And you think you're alone you actually you aren't.

ASHLEY JONG: I know.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: There's somebody there, always.

ASHLEY JONG: I know.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: How have your siblings been affected?

ASHLEY JONG: Well, I don't think it does affect them, like, they -- like, my little brother [Brother 1], he has some, like, anger problems. Like, yeah, he has real big problems with his anger.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Oh, he gets major angry but he's usually real calm --

ASHLEY JONG: Yeah, but, like, yeah, (indiscernible -- overlapping speakers)

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- like, he's 16 now. And --

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: 17.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- portray a cool dude but

ASHLEY JONG: Yeah, like, we're a lot different.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: When he gets angry people run.

ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: He gets really mad.

ASHLEY JONG: Like, they do amazing in school. Like, they don't struggle with their school work, nothing, like, they do -- like, my -- like, my little sister was in the [University 1]. Like, they're doing amazing but, like, I don't know, I don't think it affected them as much as it affected me 'cause I was the oldest and I was the one that, like, got the most of the abuse when I was going through school. And none of them [two lines redacted -- Rule 55].

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Mm.

ASHLEY JONG: But I'm so proud of my siblings, man, like, they're so amazing. And they're doing so well for themselves.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Mm-hm.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And you're caring for the youngest one? Yes. How old are they?
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Half siblings. She's 6 now.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: She's 6.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: We've had her --
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Since she was 2 months.
ASHLEY JONG: 2 months.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: 2 months old.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: 3 months.
ASHLEY JONG: 3 months old.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: So, we've actually adopted her.
She's ours. Nobody can take her away.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And, how's she doing?
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Pardon me?
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: How's she doing?
ASHLEY JONG: She's (indiscernible - overlapping
speakers)
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: (indiscernible - overlapping
speakers) She's a typical 6 year old. She's
mouthy.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Precocious.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She's fabulous. She's a
princess.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: [S.L.] was pregnant and she had in
her mind that she was going to go to California
to see the father of her baby.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She said it was a policeman in Los
Angeles. I don't know to her psychosis but she
was in a restricted area in Lethbridge when she
was just about 8 months pregnant, 8 and half
months pregnant.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: They were forcing her on her hands.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And she was psychotic. She was
found in a restricted area. They incarcerated
her and the little girl born. She went to a --
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Foster home.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- foster home and once we heard
that -- found out, we put out a missing person
for her. That was like the third time we'd put
out for her. They told me that she was in a --
in this hospital and she was incarcerated. She
had a baby, and I said, well, we need to know
where the baby is. She's our blood and we want
her with us.
ASHLEY JONG: Mm-hm.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She was in a foster home. But, due
to the process of getting a crim check, there was
a person in Canada with the same birth date as
mine that had --
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Criminal background.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, with children. So, I had to
provide fingerprints. So, it took 3 months
before that was cleared and we got her.
Actually, they brought her here to Grand Prairie.
We come picked her up here --
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes. It's --
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- at 3 months old.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: -- a tricky system to navigate.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. That was a trip in itself.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: So whenever we tell her where she
come from, she says she comes from the sky. We
don't hold nothing back from her.
ASHLEY JONG: [One line redacted - Rule 55].
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Okay. You were, hey?
ASHELY JONG: Yeah.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: But, anyway, she's ours.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: So, she would --
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She's been with us since.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- so she was fighting the nurses
'cause she didn't want the meds. She was worried
about the baby.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: But the nurses were still giving
her the injections.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She was worried about how the baby
was going to be. She didn't want to harm the
baby.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: So, she became difficult to handle
in the hospital.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Psychotic --
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- also because she wasn't under
medical -- medic -- she wasn't taking her meds,
so her psychosis took over.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So, --
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She just started kindergarten.
She's just been awesome.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yeah, --
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She's a sweetheart.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: -- that's awesome.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
ASHLEY JONG: Yeah, we love her.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you have any, any recommendations for the Commissioners about what you'd like to see come out of this inquiry?

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Well, for me any person that is diagnosed with schizophrenia, they're not gonna be making rash -- rational judgements. Like, how could they prevent people or let people make judgements if they're not following what they should be doing. Like, in this instance, it was my daughter and whatever she was in -- in [wasn’t] being medicated, she was making these rash judgements. There was times that she did, when she was staying with her sister because of psychosis, walked the streets and tried taking off her clothes and stuff like that.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Well, she would take off her clothes.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Okay. Well, that part --

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: (indiscernible)

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: I just ...

ASHLEY JONG: Like, burning Bibles, smashing mirrors, talking about this -- the apocalypse and that these are angels are going to come down.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Trashed our house one time, right? She trashed our house.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She tore all our pictures up except yours.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yep. Physically fought with my wife. So, there's a lot of things that she did and wasn't properly --

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: So, (indiscernible) [they should make it]

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- normally she wouldn't do that.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. They should make more places available for people like her. There are none. I just looked up, I know there's one place in (indiscernible) that cater to schizophrenic people. Maybe if they have more of those and I hear that place is wonderful --

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- and it helps them a lot to be self --

ASHLEY JONG: reliant.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- to live, yeah, to live on their own. Pay their bills --

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Self sufficient.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- pay their rent and become responsible. And, if there were more of those places that would be wonderful.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: There's not. There should be more. There should, more access to information.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Not only that, when she crossed the border, she did have an issue with customs. Now if customs had a record of her --

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: They would --

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- and her situation, maybe they would have handled things differently. Maybe she would have been, say, hey, you can't go out of the --

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- yeah. 'Cause they don't care --

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- country (indiscernible - overlapping speakers)

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- when you tell them their schizophrenic. Because --

ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. It's like you're automatically, like, labelled as nothing.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. But we still [indiscernible - overlapping speakers]

ASHLEY JONG: Like, oh, she's mentally fucked up. We're not going to associate with her, help her to her, like, she's crazy.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And, we know a lot of people and a
lot of people know us, so, like, and I get
(indiscernible-overlapping speakers)

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- it was definitely a conflict of
interest there.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: So, yeah, for mental health, they
should give at least the parents of the mental
health patient more access to their ...

ASHLEY JONG: (indiscernible) right.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And a lot times, like, the like,
the people or the parents of the, well you might
as well say she's the victim 'cause she is of her
own, her drugs. Like, maybe there should be
something set aside financially so that she can
come back to Canada.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She has money here.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, but she has no ID.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: She has no access to it.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Got no access to anything. Now,
you don't know how much money she has, right?

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: We don't know.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Is it just sitting in a bank
account?

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.

ASHLEY JONG: 'Cause she was receiving AISH payments.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: That's ...

ASHLEY JONG: Since she's been gone they've just been
going into her bank account, right.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: They do every year.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Can you clarify what those are?

ASHLEY JONG: The AISH payments?

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes.

ASHLEY JONG: It's --

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Medically or physically handicapped
people.

ASHLEY JONG: -- yeah, if you're mentally or physically
handicap, like, the government will give you an
allowance every month for the rest of your life
because you can't -- like, you're not mentally
stable to go work, go do --

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. Yes.

ASHLEY JONG: -- anything. Like, you can't.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. So it's persons with
disabilities --

ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: -- sorry, it's just in my mind
I'm translating it to what it is in B.C.

ASHLEY JONG: Okay.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Okay.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Okay.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: I'm sorry, it's just I'm clarifying for also the commissioners --
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yes, for sure.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: -- because I don't think any of them are from Alberta so they might not know.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. It's called AISH, a-i-s-h. I don't know what its meaning.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: It's got be, Michelle would know.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: But she was receiving $1500 a month and when she left then that was being sent to her account. However, they do it annually, they gotta sign for it annually, so it might have been three or four months of it.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I can't see.
ASHLEY JONG: Alberta Income for the Severely Handicapped.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Oh, there you go.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Thank you. Well, that's what it means. So she might have four or five thousand dollars in there, who knows.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: But the bank won't divulge that information.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: No. So, yes, the Commissioner definitely needs to do a little more on mental health part anyway. 'Cause we ran into so many road blocks because of her mental disability.
ASHLEY JONG: For you know, like, when they said that she has a right to her own privacy, like, maybe, like there's, like, even talk to her and then, like, she's, like, no, I don't like, I don't know these people, la la la. Like, I don't want to talk to them but whatever --
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And because [she’s schizophrenic]
( indiscernible- overlapping speakers)
ASHLEY JONG: -- and that's why they would
( indiscernible- overlapping speakers) us.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I believe she does not have a right to privacy because I'm her parent and I want to know where she's at.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
ASHLEY JONG: I mean if she's dead or alive, they
won't even tell us that.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, especially being dead. And
Canada --
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, we were at the point where we
thought that was it, that we were never going to
hear from her again.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- Canada Revenue.
ASHLEY JONG: Yeah, there was one time I got a letter
in the mail from the CRA, like, this was before
she had contact us and it said that I had a right
because I was the child of --
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: The oldest child.
ASHLEY JONG: -- of, of a mentally disabled person, I
had, like, oh, it was so weird, I had some like,
not rights, but like access that they would,
like, pay for my schooling or stuff like that.
Like, I had access to like scholarships and shit,
stuff like that because I was. And, like, so I
had called them because we hadn't heard from
(indiscernible) [she must have been] missing for
2 years when I got that letter. And, I had like
called them and I'm like, well, have you talked
to her, like, asking them all this, like, what's
going on here, like, have you talked to her cause
this is the first named thing that that I've got
from her, her name (indiscernible) [that had]
popped up in years. And, they wouldn't, like,
tell me anything. And, I'm like, so, like, we'll
did she apply for something? Like, why would I
get this letter if, like, if she didn't go apply
for, like, financial help or something. And,
they couldn't, they wouldn't give nothing.
They're like, I'm sorry we can't disclose her
information to you because are you like in
university or anything, you can apply for this
program. I'm like, well, if you'll at least tell
me if she's dead or alive. And they're like,
we're sorry we can't disclose information for
you. Like, you cannot tell me if my mother
called you and is alive? Like, are you kidding
me? Like, at the least, its friggin ridiculous.
I was like, blows my mind.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Is there anything that you can
think of that you'd like to see from the National
Inquiry to honour our missing and murdered
Indigenous women and girls?

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: It's whatever you (indiscernible—
overlapping speakers) [you're doing, it's
probably going to be awesome]. This is the first
time anybody's ever approached us.

ASHLEY JONG: Like, (indiscernible) take initiative
over some things, it's pretty chapped. Nobody
seems to care.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: I would like to see at least an
attempt

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: to make contact with her. And at
least let us know if she's alive.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: ‘Cause anything can happen within
since November. I mean, you say, like, she may
not even be missing but she is missing to us.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: ‘Cause she is missing to her
children also. And, it was -- if we were
notified at least that, well, that would give us
some rest or peace of mind --

ASHLEY JONG: Assurance.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- that she's still alive. 'Cause
when a person's alive, there's still a chance.
When one is dead, we'd like to also like to bury
her --

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- within our area because that's
where she originated.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm. You want to bring her
home.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Exactly. ‘Cause a lot can happen
in a week or a day or -- I mean you hear of all
the atrocities that are going on in the world now
in different parts of the country or even in the
States and you don't know what's happening.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: You worry. On Facebook I saw,
well, that's the only the thing that I get in
Facebook is that they were going to clean the
streets of San Diego and that's the last place I
heard where she was.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm. Yes.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And, if she didn't -- and if they
didn't go to this designated area they were going
to be incarcerated. And it stated there, there
was a bunch of -- there are many people there
that are mentally challenged or mental or having
mental problems
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: that are in the streets
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And it showed where there was tents
and tents and tents. But she did tell me she
went to a tent camp and then that was the last we
heard.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And she is good at being homeless.
She's been homeless for this long now.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She's very good at it.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: She's probably got a lot of
survival skills
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: It's her survival (indiscernible-
overlapping speakers)
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: and resourcefulness. And you
were saying, like, just how intelligent she is,
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Mm-hm.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: how she was in school.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She also told me that she got beat
up by women. She couldn't hardly move. And, I
remember when she could hardly move when she was
in that accident.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Mm-hm. She had glass in her hair
and glass in her skull. I had to take her to the
hospital.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She couldn't feed her kids.
Couldn't move. Yet, the husband was still
yelling at her.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Screaming at her.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And wanting things from her. And,
like, she went through a lot.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: This could be happening to her
again.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: We don't know. So in my mind she
still is missing.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And every authority that we tried
to get a hold of in the past, so you kind of lose
faith in them. I mean even the local level.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Provincial level.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Provincial level.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM:  Canadian (indiscernible-overlapping speakers)
ASHLEY JONG:  [Whole frickin’ world level] It's ridiculous.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM:  Intercontinental level.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM:  And you do feel like a small fish in a big pond.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM:  It's just road blocks.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM:  And say, we'll what can you do?
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:  Mm-hm.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM:  Just have to live with it. And that's what we've been doing, living with it.
It's not easy.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:  Do you have any photos that you have of her that you'd like to share?
DAVID CUNNINGHAM:  I have a bunch here. I got some. She had ripped, broke all her, all of her ...
CATHY CUNNINGHAM:  She got a hold of them in her state one time and cut all the pictures out of the dad.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:  Mm-hm.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM:  -- she would put black felt marker on the photos before she ran. And, she also told me she felt like she wasn't wanted.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM:  She said that to, to me to.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON:  She is very beautiful.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM:  Mm-hm.
ASHLEY JONG:  Mm-hm. You could always tell when she was in a good mood when she had her hair down. She had really nice curly hair.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM:  She's a beautiful lady.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM:  She'd be 40 years old now, in September.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM:  Couldn't ask for a better mum before all this stuff.
ASHLEY JONG:  She was my savior, man, like, when I was -- like my dad would beat me so much. She was the only one that ever like, tried to like shield us from it.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM:  Mm-hm.
ASHLEY JONG:  Stop him.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM:  And she made fun for you guys. She tried to make the guys have fun.
DAVID CUNNINGHAM:  At our place we have an open door policy. Whoever's part of our family -- whoever
our blood is they're welcome to our door. And, then we even had other people from different families come when they were having trouble, come and stay at our place. That's something we got from my mother. My mother had 18 children. She had 12 girls, 6, 6 kids and she still had a door open for foster kids.

ASHLEY JONG: Anybody.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. So, it's something that ...

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: We foster.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: It's here. Your tea. Wow, even in pictures seeing her with black eyes.

ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Maybe after we're done recording I think it would be really great if -- I don't have access to a scanner here but what I'm wondering is if, would you allow me to take these back to Vancouver and I mail them back to you after I scan them?

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Sure.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, that would be fine.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And, I'll get some information about who's who in the photos as well because I think that there are a lot of great pictures here that I think should be included with your testimony.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Okay.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Is there anything else that you'd like to share with us today that I haven't already asked you? Something that you think that the Commissioners should know?

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I don't know. Maybe. We could say all we want but hopefully he'll do them. Or attempt to do them. Even that would be a lot.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Well, she had a lot of suffering and I don't want to go there again. We just hope that they can make at least make an attempt to find her.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: That would be awesome for us.

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM: If he can help with that that would be ...

CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: I do want to thank you all for being here today and sharing with me and, Ashley, I want to say particularly to you, thank you for all of your honesty and with what you've shared
Statement – Public
David & Cathy Cunningham
& Ashley Jong
(S.L.)

with me today, I think that you're a very strong
woman and I think you're going to do a lot for
your daughter.
ASHLEY JONG: I will. Just got to get through it.
One day at a time.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes. Exactly.
ASHLEY JONG: Frick, actually it's like minutes at a
time, and like, it's not even like one day, it's
like minutes --
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Minutes or seconds.
ASHLEY JONG: -- get through this hour, get through
this hour.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes. But it will get longer,
right. It won't be hour by hour forever. It
will get day by day and then it will get month by
month.
ASHLEY JONG: Week by week. Month by month, then year
by year. I can do it.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: You can.
CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I know you can.
ASHLEY JONG: (indiscernible) [It just still] hurts.
CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So, it's 5:33, we're going to
shut off the recording now.
I hereby certify that this is a true and accurate transcript of these proceedings recorded on sound recording apparatus, transcribed to the best of my skill and ability in accordance with applicable standards.

D. Work
Court Transcriber