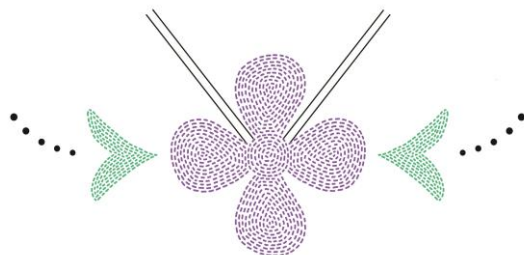


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Encore Services Plus Hotel
Grande Prairie, Alberta**



PUBLIC

Sunday March 19, 2018

**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)

Statement - Public 1
David & Cathy Cunningham
& Ashley Jong
(S.L.)

Grand Prairie, Alberta
March 19, 2018

1
2
3
4 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So, we'll get started and when
5 you speak I'll just have you introduce yourselves
6 and what you'd like to speak about today and what
7 you'd like the Commissioners to know. So,
8 whoever would like to start first?

9 ASHLEY JONG: He's the man.

10 CAITLIN HENRICKSON: You've been volunteered.

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

21 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

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

24 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: It was Great Falls.

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

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

44 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- yeah. I can't recall the name
45 of the name she was under, her alias. But, as
46 she was administered medication for her
47 schizophrenia, she started to remember the phone

1 numbers, that's why she called me. Within that
2 three years we thought she was dead. Didn't know
3 what to think.
4 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Tyson Arew (Phonetic)
5 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Tyson Arew. Yes, was her alias.
6 She --
7 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Tyson, sorry, what was the last
8 name?
9 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- Arew. A-r-e-w.
10 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.
11 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: (indiscernible)
12 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And she was also registered that
13 she was 24 years old. But, she definitely isn't.
14 She's like 40.
15 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Can I get you to also introduce
16 yourselves please?
17 ASHLEY JONG: My name is Ashley Jong. This is my
18 mother that we're talking about.
19 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And I'm Cathy Cunningham. That's
20 my daughter, David's my husband.
21 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Thank you. So, she's -- she was
22 diagnosed with schizophrenia.
23 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yes.
24 ASHLEY JONG: Mm-hm.
25 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And you heard from her last
26 year?
27 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.
28 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yes.
29 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.
30 ASHLEY JONG: For the first time in three years.
31 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. And has she since been
32 released?
33 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She was released in September,
34 early September. And she was hitchhiking north.
35 She got up to San Francisco and then next thing
36 you know she calls, she was in San Diego and she
37 was in a tent camp in San Diego somewhere for
38 homeless people. They put them somewhere,
39 designated area.
40 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
41 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And, she was going to a -- where
42 they feed people.
43 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Homeless shelter.
44 ASHLEY JONG: Shelters.
45 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, but she wasn't sheltered
46 there at all but she'd eat there. And because she
47 wasn't medicated again, well, you can tell

1 anytime she phoned that she became more
2 psychotic. And then we haven't heard from her
3 since late October. So we don't know where she
4 is and anytime that we did put in a --
5 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Missing person.
6 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- missing person, we came to a
7 road block. On Facebook I even had -- it states
8 there where Justin Trudeau was --
9 ASHLEY JONG: (indiscernible)
10 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- (indiscernible) no, I've got to
11 talk about it because it did happen.
12 ASHLEY JONG: He can't help you.
13 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: That he was, like, looking for
14 friends or whatever, his posting. So I friended
15 him and I also asked him if he would deport my
16 daughter from the States. They asked what I
17 would do. As a matter of fact I've still got it
18 on my phone and right away they said it would
19 cost \$17,000 to deport her from the States to
20 Canada. And, I said, well, I don't have any
21 money with me right now but I can send you \$200,
22 and they said okay, send the money and then send
23 it -- send the rest later, up to \$535. And, we
24 will get the ball rolling to deport her. But,
25 they kept on asking for money and it turned out
26 that it wasn't -- it was a scam. So, but anyway,
27 prior to that I did get a call from a -- Revenue
28 Canada Agency and they were looking for her.
29 And, I told them the story that we hadn't heard
30 from her for a long time and that she's gone
31 missing and that sort of thing. And then I asked
32 them, well, if you do get a hold of her could you
33 tell her she has family members that want to
34 speak to her. She has six children and they told
35 me, she said, no we can't give you that
36 information. I said, so, if she dies could you
37 give me that information? Canada Revenue Agency
38 said, no, we can't even divulge that information.
39 I said, so she's gonna to be a Jane Doe somewhere
40 in the States if she passes away and that we
41 won't be notified. Cause that's the hardest part
42 is not knowing --
43 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
44 ASHLEY JONG: Mm-hm.
45 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- whether she's --
46 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: It's very important that we know.
47 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- yeah.

1 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Have her have somewhere. It's just
2 in us that we need to know if something bad like
3 that happened.
4 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: So with all the --
5 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: There'd be something missing
6 (indiscernible) [forever].
7 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
8 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- like, she lost, she told me she
9 lost all her identification, she was beaten up,
10 robbed of all her ID. She didn't have no treaty
11 card, no money, no bank card, that -- we couldn't
12 help her at the time. We sent money while she
13 was incarcerated but because it wasn't from a --
14 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: US post office.
15 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- US post office and that it was
16 from Canada, even though it was in US funds, they
17 sent back the money. So now we had to get the
18 money to the States from a US post office to send
19 to her 'cause she was saying, "Dad, I'm getting
20 hungry"
21 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: But now we don't even know where
22 she is.
23 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: I read things, now we don't know
24 where she is.
25 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And no way of knowing.
26 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Since October.
27 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Have you been in touch with any
28 authorities down in the United States?
29 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She was in touch with ...
30 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Well, the one that I phoned they
31 were all friendly and nice and what have you but
32 they all came up with the same thing, that I'm
33 sorry but we can't divulge that information.
34 She's an adult and she has a right to her
35 privacy. And I say, well you know, she
36 schizophrenic and sometimes we know she's not
37 responsible for her actions, and they said yes,
38 even then. So that kind of deterred me from ...
39 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Listening to them.
40 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yes.
41 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: To any type of authority. Because
42 even the Canada Revenue Agency. Like, they don't
43 divulge no information. At one point in time my
44 daughter told me, "Dad, I want you to be my power
45 of attorney." Even when she was incarcerated
46 there was a lady was, that was her worker but she
47 wasn't there, like, I found out from that lady

1 after, pressing her that she would just stay -- I
2 forget what the term they used.
3 ASHLEY JONG: Counselling home.
4 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: It wasn't a counsellor. They used
5 the term where they just made sure that she
6 continued to do her time spent in jail. It
7 wasn't about counselling or anything like that.
8 She did not have a counsellor. And that was in
9 the Los Angeles penal system. She got out, she
10 had no money, tried to come home. For some
11 reason or other she got turned around and I
12 believe she was on drugs and I don't know where
13 she is right now.
14 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you know what she was
15 incarcerated for?
16 ASHLEY JONG: Allegedly she said that she -- for
17 assaulting a police officer and breaking and
18 entering, armed robbery or something.
19 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: It wasn't armed robbery.
20 ASHLEY JONG: (indiscernible -overlapping speakers)
21 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Just entering.
22 ASHLEY JONG: Okay.
23 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And do you know which facility
24 she was incarcerated at?
25 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I think I have it on my iPad at
26 home.
27 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.
28 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Los Angeles.
29 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I looked it up so I have it in my
30 iPad.
31 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes. You can always email it to
32 me later. I'll give you my information. I don't
33 know what -- again, because it would be a
34 jurisdictional thing. We do under our Act in
35 terms of doing an inquiry, we could be asking
36 for, you know, records.
37 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
38 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: I don't know how that extends
39 into the United States and if we would get road
40 blocked by that. But, it's something that, like,
41 if you got me the names of institutions and any
42 professionals you maybe talked with, I might be
43 able to bring that to our legal team and they
44 could assess whether or not they could do
45 anything with that.
46 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Mm-hm.
47 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: The only way that she could be

1 identified was by tattoos.
2 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
3 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She had one on her neck and one
4 across her back is a dragon?
5 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah, it would be a dragon.
6 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And she had on her left leg a
7 tattoo of a bear paw. And that's the only way
8 that they could for sure identify her because she
9 had lost all her ID.
10 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
11 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: When all the avenues came to a road
12 block, I don't know, I was reading the paper one
13 day and I was looking in the South East news and
14 a ladies name, matter of fact her name's Melissa,
15 her face came up and she had a phone number on
16 there and so I got a hold of her. That's how I
17 came to know the, the missing women.
18 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: But I believe prior to her being
19 missing and everything that we'd have got more
20 help from our town.
21 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
22 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: A lot of this wouldn't have
23 happened. Our town, like, my daughter married a
24 lawyer's son. And when they got in trouble --
25 you're going to have to pee a lot again --
26 ASHLEY JONG: Well, he frickin' bailed them out all
27 the time.
28 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And, I know. Just like, we'd go to
29 doors and say, can you help us, our daughter's
30 schizophrenic, we need help. And they'd say no,
31 we work with [S.L.'s father-in-law], that's his
32 name, we can't help you and the door would close.
33 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
34 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: So, we had about two or three times
35 that happened to us so we gave up.
36 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Because he represented child
37 welfare and at that time there was a child battle
38 going on for our grandkids.
39 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: There was, yeah. The kids were
40 taken away at one time by the police and brought
41 over to our house. And the process -- they were
42 in the process of giving them over to us --
43 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
44 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- to keep. And, within a month
45 they were taken out from the house and gone to
46 the dad's.
47 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So ...

1 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She was attended by a [Doctor 1]
2 (phonetic), here in Grand Prairie.
3 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: [Repeats name]?
4 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: [Doctor 1].
5 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: [Doctor 1].
6 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yep. It's spelt a little
7 different.
8 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
9 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: I believe that's the way it's
10 spelt. I phoned their office and see if they
11 would help by giving any information. But
12 because she had been gone for three years they
13 considered her not a client anymore. So, I, I
14 was trying to find any records of her that would
15 help get her back to this -- to Canada.
16 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
17 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Because she did say, "Dad, I want
18 to get deported again. I want to go home." But
19 when she got lost in her psychosis because she
20 wasn't given any drugs anymore, then she -- and
21 we started losing her. She started making rash
22 judgements.
23 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you have a medical number for
24 her? Like a provincial medical registration
25 number?
26 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I could have a look. Like a health
27 care number?
28 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes.
29 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Somewhere.
30 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes. Because if you have
31 something like that, that might make it easier
32 for say, like, us to try and locate some --
33 locate documents, maybe FILU could also use that
34 to help locate documents of, you know, diagnoses
35 and other identifying information that could be
36 helpful.
37 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: (indiscernible)
38 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
39 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes. So, that's what I would
40 suggest that if you were to track down that
41 number --
42 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Mm-hm.
43 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Mm-hm.
44 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: -- you could give it to FILU or
45 give it to us and we can see if there's any
46 information there that we can help with.
47 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Better write that down.

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
12 did have trouble. I asked her about it and she
13 said she was told from customs she can't come
14 back to Canada for three to five years. She
15 maintained that. So I don't know what happened
16 and that would have been back in 2014. So that
17 was one of the deterring factors of her coming
18 back over here. She wasn't quite sure is what
19 she told me. And now it's only three years,
20 but --
21 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: That what she said though to me
22 (indiscernible-overlapping speakers)
23 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. That's all I can say, right,
24 it's what she told me.
25 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. That's right.
26 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: There is one thing that I would
27 like to kind of get a picture for the
28 commissioners of, kind of her timeline? Like,
29 when she born and her childhood, what was that
30 like for her?
31 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Okay. She was born [birthdate],
32 1977. We weren't rich. She had an okay
33 childhood. We both worked. She was the oldest.
34 So...
35 ASHLEY JONG: From what I understand it was pretty
36 good for her growing up, like, she was getting
37 into modelling and stuff like that. She was
38 really good with school. Like, she still holds
39 records at the high school that I went to for
40 like track and field. She was an amazing
41 athlete, really (indiscernible), until her and my
42 dad started getting together.
43 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She was a very good artist.
44 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah, amazing artist.
45 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: He just took her from us, that's
46 what he did.
47 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: But her marks were in the 90s.

1 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.
2 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She was smart.
3 ASHLEY JONG: Really phenomenal student. My teachers
4 when I went to - 'cause I went to the same school
5 and saw some of the same teachers, they talked
6 about her a lot.
7 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. She had sports since she was
8 young. Good in school. She enjoyed, had lots of
9 friends, social.
10 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Did she have any hopes or dreams
11 about what she wanted to achieve?
12 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She wanted to be a model before she
13 met her husband. And I did take her to modelling
14 school and we were on the process of getting her
15 to go again but that summer is when she was
16 working when she met [S.L.'s ex-husband].
17 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
18 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And I didn't -- we didn't have
19 enough time.
20 ASHLEY JONG: No.
21 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She was just gone.
22 ASHLEY JONG: She got pregnant with me right away.
23 She was only what, 16?
24 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
25 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She was a very good mother, no
26 doubt about it. But once they started getting
27 into drugs.
28 ASHLEY JONG: Yes, my dad is a severe alcoholic.
29 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She couldn't beat it.
30 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah, (indiscernible)
31 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Then all of a sudden, yeah. I'd go
32 to the house and she'd -- bottle was in her
33 garbage thing. I said, "where's all this coming
34 from?" I'd tell her and she said, Oh, it's, you
35 know
36 ASHLEY JONG: (indiscernible - overlapping speakers)
37 they were really bad into it
38 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: (indiscernible - overlapping
39 speakers) they were doing a lot of drinking.
40 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: They did separate for a while. She
41 did work with me 'cause I was a contractor at the
42 time. And, she was doing really well. She was
43 over her drugs and that her husband --
44 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: (indiscernible -overlapping
45 speakers)
46 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- ex-husband came back and he fell
47 off the wagon and got her going again.

1 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She went back.
2 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And she went on the other side, I
3 guess. But before he, he, he separated with her
4 again, he put the -- he had a company also
5 because I helped him for a while work the
6 company. He put the company in her name when --
7 while she was under her psychosis, in her name.
8 And his mother who has the same first name as
9 her, they're both [S.L.] now, went to Edmonton.
10 She sat in the vehicle and this is what she
11 divulged to me that the mother in law put the
12 company in her name and they were in a hole of
13 \$100,000, they claimed bankruptcy. All the bills
14 for furniture and anything like that, they put in
15 her name and they separated. She stayed in the
16 house for a while, because she couldn't make the
17 bills they told her to leave. They got rid of
18 the house. So she was out in the street and I
19 told her, you, she stayed with us for a while.
20 We told her, like, you gotta stay away from
21 drugs. However, he -- I told her, he's going to
22 send somebody over to give you drugs and she said
23 he has already done that. So, and the fight was
24 on for the children. The father in law is, is a
25 lawyer in High Prairie.
26 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
27 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: He has all the connections with the
28 judges, with the judge and the police.
29 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And welfare.
30 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: So they practically buried her
31 financially, emotionally, and she was still under
32 the influence of drugs. We have statements at
33 home for all that. She even made some statements
34 on her own. We are missing three pages out of
35 eighteen that she wrote down, what happened to
36 her. She was abused physically. I got a picture
37 here with a -- with a black -- with her and a
38 black eye. She told me, dad, [S.L.'s ex-husband]
39 has a gun under the mattress. If I do anything,
40 he said he's going to shoot me. And, --
41 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And he was [paranoid when he was on
42 drugs] ~~very~~ (indiscernible).
43 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
44 ASHLEY JONG: Oh, that guy is fuckin' retarded. Oh,
45 excuse my language. He was bad.
46 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I've heard stories about him
47 holding people hostage in rooms 'cause he was so

1 high and paranoid.
2 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah, like, and I've seen all this stuff
3 growing up. Like, I've witnessed it all. Like,
4 tried to shield my own, like, sisters -- brothers
5 and sisters. Like, I would lock them up in my
6 bedroom. And then, like, I was scared, like,
7 that they were going to, like, kill each other,
8 like, I've watched them take bats to each other,
9 like.
10 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: They've called us from the closet
11 saying, "Kokum, can you guys come and get us."
12 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
13 ASHLEY JONG: And then I would start, like, I'd get
14 beat up because they didn't want anybody knowing
15 what was going on at home.
16 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And she was told to lie.
17 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.
18 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: When she was 8 years old, she'd
19 phone and us and, to come and get 'em.
20 ASHLEY JONG: 'Cause I was scared and then I got in
21 like, really big trouble about that and then I
22 got scared to ask for help and then, like, my
23 parents would be gone for like 4 or 5 days at a
24 time. I missed a lot of school 'cause I'd have
25 to take care of my baby brother. And, then
26 finally, like, there was, like, this one time --
27 that was when we got, like, we finally got taken
28 away by, like, Child Welfare and stuff. I called
29 (indiscernible) 'cause I hadn't seen my parents
30 in 5 days. My little infant brother was really
31 sick, he was puking. I didn't know what to do,
32 I'm only like 13 years old, so I was pretty
33 (indiscernible) [freaked out] and I finally
34 called them, so they came and got us. And then I
35 think that's when Child Welfare got involved and
36 that's when we got taken away.
37 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: So there was, like, quite a few
38 years of an abusive relationship there because of
39 the drugs.
40 ASHLEY JONG: Mm-hm.
41 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Prior to the drugs, you couldn't
42 ask for a better couple but they started getting
43 into the drugs and then --
44 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
45 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.
46 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- it became violent and abusive.
47 They were gone for 2 or 3 days sometimes

1 (indiscernible). But that's where we stepped in
2 'cause they called us. So now because the son
3 was in this state the father felt he had to do
4 something to try to protect his son.
5 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.
6 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: They got into a car accident one
7 time. And it was with a -- with a vehicle
8 accident. My daughter drove --
9 ASHLEY JONG: My dad (indiscernible - overlapping
10 speakers)
11 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- from there house because they
12 were going to a drug run.
13 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.
14 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: A drug run into Grouard.
15 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. My dad sent her.
16 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And she was driving and she rolled
17 the vehicle back. So, now they were trying to
18 get away from the insurance claim and say that
19 she stole it. They were trying to accuse her of
20 stealing it.
21 ASHLEY JONG: When he's the one that sent her to go
22 get it.
23 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. I would -- in two occasions
24 there was drug dealers that held over them at
25 hostage. One day I went up there, when I got a
26 phone call. She called me. She said, "Dad,
27 we're being held hostage for \$280 for drug money.
28 Could you help me? Could you give me the money?"
29 My first impulse was to grab my gun and I was
30 gonna go get them. And, I thought about it, I
31 paid for it and then they got out. The second
32 occasion was the mother in law,
33 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.
34 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: [S.L.'s father-in-law]'s wife, who
35 was the lawyer. She paid \$500 to drug dealers in
36 Grouard, to release them. That's how bad the
37 drugs were. So, she went through a lot there at
38 that time and she couldn't get away from the
39 addiction. Only the time she did get away was
40 when she worked for me. For three months she
41 worked for me. She was getting healthy --
42 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Sorry, (indiscernible)
43 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- she was getting healthy, she was
44 starting to remember. She missed her kids, she
45 loved her kids, she wanted her kids. However,
46 they had the order.
47 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I was going to say, we've been

1 together for all these years. We never allowed
2 alcohol in our house. We don't do any of that.
3 We tried our best to raise our kids without
4 seeing that.

5 ASHLEY JONG: (sobbing)

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

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

10 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, maybe.

11 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.

12

13 (HEARING ADJOURNED)

14 (HEARING RECONVENED)

15

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

22 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She was 30.

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

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

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

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

32 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: University.

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

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

36 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: 2006 to 2008-ish?

37 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Somewhere in there.

38 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: (~~indiscernible~~).

39 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: I thought I saw that in here.

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

43 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay.

44 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: In November of -- December '07.

45 [S.L.'S ex-husband] started wrecking me again. He
46 wanted a divorce. Sell the house in the spring,
47 not pay for our bills. I went to my

1 psychiatrist, explained what was happening.
2 Being off meds, she later wrote me a letter
3 saying that I had -- was a drug-induced psychosis
4 and it was against my human rights. And, this
5 was on December 7, but she was diagnosed prior
6 to.

7 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Oh.

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

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

11 ASHLEY JONG: 1995.

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

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

33 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: brunt.

34 ASHLEY JONG: -- brunt of the abuse. Like, my
35 siblings -- like, he'd hit them too but never
36 like how he beat the shit out of me. And, it
37 really fucking affected me, man. I started
38 getting -- like, [*Three lines redacted - Rule*
39 55]. I just felt like I was fucking -- I felt
40 different from all my other siblings. Like, my
41 dad was more attentive to them when he started
42 getting sober but he always, like, was -- always
43 had a strange relationship with myself so, like,
44 I always felt, like, neglected. I don't know, it
45 fucking, like it affects me more than I realize,
46 like, I don't know.

47 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So, [*One line redacted - Rule*

1 55]?

2 ASHLEY JONG: [*One line redacted - Rule 55*].

3 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Good for you.

4 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. Got to try something different.

5 Can't do it by myself.

6 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm. Support, support, support.

7 ASHLEY JONG: Really though.

8 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: You have a little girl.

9 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. I have a little daughter too,

10 and, like, 'cause the last time I talked to my

11 mom was three weeks before I took my pregnancy

12 test and then, that was really fucking -- really

13 -- excuse my language, I'm so sorry.

14 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: It's okay.

15 ASHLEY JONG: It was really hard for me 'cause, like -

16 -

17 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: All your language is welcome

18 here.

19 ASHLEY JONG: All, like.

20 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: You need to express yourself.

21 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. I don't know, I just, like,

22 didn't want her -- I don't ever want her to feel

23 how I felt growing up. So, like, [*one line*

24 *redacted - Rule 55*] and like, with my mom being

25 missing, she didn't even know I was pregnant, had

26 kids. Like, it really destroyed me inside.

27 Like, I still need to deal with it.

28 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm. So that might be

29 something that you talk to Rosanne about for your

30 after care is, is building that plan around your

31 own healing and well being, and a plan for your

32 daughter. Are you parenting her right now?

33 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. Well, me and her dad split her

34 50/50. She's with him right now.

35 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. So, do you have good

36 support from him?

37 ASHLEY JONG: We're really good co-parents, me and

38 [Ex-partner]. Like, he's such a child but, like,

39 he's an amazing dad. Like, we're good co-

40 parents.

41 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Good, good. And I really wish

42 you luck on your healing journey.

43 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. Me too.

44 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: It's been hard. It's been hard for

45 me to see her this way. And, we've been worried

46 about her since she was little.

47 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.

1 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And even knowing what she was going
2 through.
3 ASHLEY JONG: [*Two lines redacted - Rule 55*]. Like, I
4 --this is like -- when I moved here this last
5 July, here, that's when I like, this is the best
6 I've ever done in my life 'cause I'm working at
7 the casino now and actually working a legitimate
8 job.
9 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
10 ASHLEY JONG: I don't know. I'm doing better now.
11 But I still need to do better.
12 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm. I think that that self
13 reflection and that, that recognition there is a
14 really strong sign of strength and being able to
15 do that. So, --
16 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. Like, I know that I have
17 problems. I recognize it.
18 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: -- mm-hm.
19 ASHLEY JONG: I definitely know that I need to do a
20 lot of work on myself. It's just its easy for me
21 to recognize it and talk about it, it's harder
22 actually letting do it and go through the
23 motions.
24 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes. But you also know what you
25 experienced as a child and so you know --
26 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. I don't want for my daughter.
27 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: -- what you don't want for your
28 daughter.
29 ASHLEY JONG: I do not want, like, I don't want that
30 life for my kid. Like, how terrible I felt as a
31 child and, like, even, like, [*seven lines*
32 *redacted - Rule 55*]. Like, I couldn't stop crying
33 and I'm like, I'm so sorry and then she's just
34 patting my face, smiling and like hugging me,
35 smiling. Like, she doesn't care, man. She loves
36 me, like, she unconditionally loves me. And,
37 like, she deserves so much better, man, and I
38 deserve better too, and like, she just wants to
39 see me happy, man.
40 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
41 ASHLEY JONG: Like, like I couldn't like -- I've never
42 felt that kind of love before. Like, I'm just, I
43 felt so bad for, like, what I was doing and like,
44 she didn't care man. She was just hugging me and
45 loving me and she was just sad that I was sad.
46 And like that's pretty amazing man.
47 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Kids are super intuitive and

1 they just want everybody to be happy.
2 ASHLEY JONG: Mm-hm.
3 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Just keep her close.
4 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: We're only a phone call away. So,
5 what do you think --
6 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes. So, you live here in Grand
7 Prairie and then --
8 ASHLEY JONG: Mm-hm. Yeah.
9 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And you think you're alone you
10 actually you aren't.
11 ASHLEY JONG: I know.
12 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: There's somebody there, always.
13 ASHLEY JONG: I know.
14 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: How have your siblings been
15 affected?
16 ASHLEY JONG: Well, I don't think it does affect them,
17 like, they -- like, my little brother [Brother
18 1], he has some, like, anger problems. Like,
19 yeah, he has real big problems with his anger.
20 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Oh, he gets major angry but he's
21 usually real calm --
22 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah, but, like, yeah, (indiscernible -
23 overlapping speakers)
24 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- like, he's 16 now. And --
25 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: 17.
26 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- portray a cool dude but
27 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah, like, we're a lot different.
28 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: When he gets angry people run.
29 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.
30 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: He gets really mad.
31 ASHLEY JONG: Like, they do amazing in school. Like,
32 they don't struggle with their school work,
33 nothing, like, they do -- like, my -- like, my
34 little sister was in the [University 1]. Like,
35 they're doing amazing but, like, I don't know, I
36 don't think it affected them as much as it
37 affected me 'cause I was the oldest and I was the
38 one that, like, got the most of the abuse when I
39 was going through school. And none of them [*two*
40 *lines redacted - Rule 55*].
41 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Mm.
42 ASHLEY JONG: But I'm so proud of my siblings, man,
43 like, they're so amazing. And they're doing so
44 well for themselves.
45 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Mm-hm.
46 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And you're caring for the
47 youngest one? Yes. How old are they?

1 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Half siblings. She's 6 now.
2 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: She's 6.
3 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: We've had her --
4 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Since she was 2 months.
5 ASHLEY JONG: 2 months.
6 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: 2 months old.
7 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: 3 months.
8 ASHLEY JONG: 3 months old.
9 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: So, we've actually adopted her.
10 She's ours. Nobody can take her away.
11 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And, how's she doing?
12 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Pardon me?
13 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: How's she doing?
14 ASHLEY JONG: She's (indiscernible - overlapping
15 speakers)
16 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: (indiscernible - overlapping
17 speakers) She's a typical 6 year old. She's
18 mouthy.
19 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Precocious.
20 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She's fabulous. She's a
21 princess.
22 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: [S.L.] was pregnant and she had in
23 her mind that she was going to go to California
24 to see the father of her baby.
25 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
26 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She said it was a policeman in Los
27 Angeles. I don't know to her psychosis but she
28 was in a restricted area in Lethbridge when she
29 was just about 8 months pregnant, 8 and half
30 months pregnant.
31 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: They were forcing her on her hands.
32 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And she was psychotic. She was
33 found in a restricted area. They incarcerated
34 her and the little girl born. She went to a --
35 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Foster home.
36 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- foster home and once we heard
37 that -- found out, we put out a missing person
38 for her. That was like the third time we'd put
39 out for her. They told me that she was in a --
40 in this hospital and she was incarcerated. She
41 had a baby, and I said, well, we need to know
42 where the baby is. She's our blood and we want
43 her with us.
44 ASHLEY JONG: Mm-hm.
45 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She was in a foster home. But, due
46 to the process of getting a crim check, there was
47 a person in Canada with the same birth date as

1 mine that had --
2 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Criminal background.
3 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, with children. So, I had to
4 provide fingerprints. So, it took 3 months
5 before that was cleared and we got her.
6 Actually, they brought her here to Grand Prairie.
7 We come picked her up here --
8 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes. It's --
9 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- at 3 months old.
10 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: -- a tricky system to navigate.
11 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
12 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. That was a trip in itself.
13 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: So whenever we tell her where she
14 come from, she says she comes from the sky. We
15 don't hold nothing back from her.
16 ASHLEY JONG: [One line redacted - Rule 55].
17 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Okay. You were, hey?
18 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.
19 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: But, anyway, she's ours.
20 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: So, she would --
21 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She's been with us since.
22 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- so she was fighting the nurses
23 'cause she didn't want the meds. She was worried
24 about the baby.
25 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
26 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: But the nurses were still giving
27 her the injections.
28 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
29 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She was worried about how the baby
30 was going to be. She didn't want to harm the
31 baby.
32 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
33 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: So, she became difficult to handle
34 in the hospital.
35 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Psychotic --
36 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
37 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- also because she wasn't under
38 medical -- medic -- she wasn't taking her meds,
39 so her psychosis took over.
40 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
41 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So, --
42 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She just started kindergarten.
43 She's just been awesome.
44 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yeah, --
45 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She's a sweetheart.
46 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: -- that's awesome.
47 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.

1 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah, we love her.
2 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you have any, any
3 recommendations for the Commissioners about what
4 you'd like to see come out of this inquiry?
5 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Well, for me any person that is
6 diagnosed with schizophrenia, they're not gonna
7 be making rash -- rational judgements. Like, how
8 could they prevent people or let people make
9 judgements if they're not following what they
10 should be doing. Like, in this instance, it was
11 my daughter and whatever she ~~was in~~ in
12 [wasn't] being medicated, she was making these
13 rash judgements. There was times that she did,
14 when she was staying with her sister because of
15 psychosis, walked the streets and tried taking
16 off her clothes and stuff like that.
17 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Well, she would take off her
18 clothes.
19 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Okay. Well, that part --
20 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: (indiscernible)
21 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: I just ...
22 ASHLEY JONG: Like, burning Bibles, smashing mirrors,
23 talking about this -- the apocalypse and that
24 these angels are going to come down.
25 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Trashed our house one time, right?
26 She trashed our house.
27 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She tore all our pictures up except
28 yours.
29 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yep. Physically fought with my
30 wife. So, there's a lot of things that she did
31 and wasn't properly --
32 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: So, (indiscernible) [they should
33 make it]
34 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- normally she wouldn't do that.
35 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. They should make more places
36 available for people like her. There are none.
37 I just looked up, I know there's one place in
38 (indiscernible) that cater to schizophrenic
39 people. Maybe if they have more of those and I
40 hear that place is wonderful --
41 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
42 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- and it helps them a lot to be
43 self --
44 ASHLEY JONG: reliant.
45 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- to live, yeah, to live on their
46 own. Pay their bills --
47 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Self sufficient.

1 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- pay their rent and become
2 responsible. And, if there were more of those
3 places that would be wonderful.
4 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
5 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: There's not. There should be more.
6 There should, more access to information.
7 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Not only that, when she crossed the
8 border, she did have an issue with customs. Now
9 if customs had a record of her --
10 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: They would --
11 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- and her situation, maybe they
12 would have handled things differently. Maybe she
13 would have been, say, hey, you can't go out of
14 the --
15 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- yeah. 'Cause they don't care --
16 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- country (indiscernible -
17 overlapping speakers)
18 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: -- when you tell them their
19 schizophrenic. Because --
20 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah. It's like you're automatically,
21 like, labelled as nothing.
22 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. But we still [indiscernible
23 -overlapping speakers]
24 ASHLEY JONG: Like, oh, she's mentally fucked up.
25 We're not going to associate with her, help her
26 to her, like, she's crazy.
27 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
28 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Or they just don't know if that big
29 of a problem. They don't understand it.
30 ASHLEY JONG: (indiscernible - overlapping speakers)
31 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
32 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Well, it's obvious that the local
33 authorities, didn't help her at all when she was
34 diagnosed with schizophrenia or at that time when
35 it was self induced -- drug induced psychosis.
36 There was a connection with the father in law and
37 all the authorities there like the judges, the
38 RCMP, the lawyers, and then their like, he
39 brought them to lunch and they changed favours
40 and that type of thing.
41 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
42 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And the local authority to, like,
43 it should be really, not a one sided affair.
44 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. 'Cause we've been there
45 forever in that town.
46 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, it was --
47 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And, we know a lot of people and a

1 lot of people know us, so, like, and I get
2 (indiscernible-overlapping speakers)
3 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- it was definitely a conflict of
4 interest there.
5 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: So, yeah, for mental health, they
6 should give at least the parents of the mental
7 health patient more access to their ...
8 ASHLEY JONG: (indiscernible) right.
9 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And a lot times, like, the like,
10 the people or the parents of the, well you might
11 as well say she's the victim 'cause she is of her
12 own, her drugs. Like, maybe there should be
13 something set aside financially so that she can
14 come back to Canada.
15 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She has money here.
16 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, but she has no ID.
17 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: She has no access to it.
18 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Got no access to anything. Now,
19 you don't know how much money she has, right?
20 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
21 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: We don't know.
22 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Is it just sitting in a bank
23 account?
24 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
25 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
26 ASHLEY JONG: 'Cause she was receiving AISH payments.
27 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: That's ...
28 ASHLEY JONG: Since she's been gone they've just been
29 going into her bank account, right.
30 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: They do every year.
31 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Can you clarify what those are?
32 ASHLEY JONG: The AISH payments?
33 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes.
34 ASHLEY JONG: It's --
35 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Medically or physically handicapped
36 people.
37 ASHLEY JONG: -- yeah, if you're mentally or physically
38 handicap, like, the government will give you an
39 allowance every month for the rest of your life
40 because you can't -- like, you're not mentally
41 stable to go work, go do --
42 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. Yes.
43 ASHLEY JONG: -- anything. Like, you can't.
44 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Okay. So it's persons with
45 disabilities --
46 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.
47 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: -- sorry, it's just in my mind

1 I'm translating it to what it is in B.C.
2 ASHLEY JONG: Okay.
3 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Okay.
4 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Okay.
5 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: I'm sorry, it's just I'm
6 clarifying for also the commissioners --
7 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yes, for sure.
8 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: -- because I don't think any of
9 them are from Alberta so they might not know.
10 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
11 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. It's called AISH, a-i-s-h.
12 I don't know what its meaning.
13 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: It's got be, Michelle would know.
14 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
15 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: But she was receiving \$1500 a month
16 and when she left then that was being sent to her
17 account. However, they do it annually, they
18 gotta sign for it annually, so it might have been
19 three or four months of it.
20 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I can't see.
21 ASHLEY JONG: Alberta Income for the Severely
22 Handicapped.
23 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Oh, there you go.
24 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Thank you. Well, that's what it
25 means. So she might have four or five thousand
26 dollars in there, who knows.
27 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah.
28 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: But the bank won't divulge that
29 information.
30 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: No. So, yes, the Commissioner
31 definitely needs to do a little more on mental
32 health part anyway. 'Cause we ran into so may
33 road blocks because of her mental disability.
34 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
35 ASHLEY JONG: For you know, like, when they said that
36 she has a right to her own privacy, like, maybe,
37 like there's, like, even talk to her and then,
38 like, she's, like, no, I don't like, I don't know
39 these people, la la la. Like, I don't want to
40 talk to them but whatever --
41 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And because [she's schizophrenic]
42 (indiscernible- overlapping speakers)
43 ASHLEY JONG: -- and that's why they would
44 (indiscernible- overlapping speakers) us.
45 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I believe she does not have a right
46 to privacy because I'm her parent and I want to
47 know where she's at.

1 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
2 ASHLEY JONG: I mean if she's dead or alive, they
3 won't even tell us that.
4 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, especially being dead. And
5 Canada --
6 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, we were at the point where we
7 thought that was it, that we were never going to
8 hear from her again.
9 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- Canada Revenue.
10 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah, there was one time I got a letter
11 in the mail from the CRA, like, this was before
12 she had contact us and it said that I had a right
13 because I was the child of --
14 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: The oldest child.
15 ASHLEY JONG: -- of, of a mentally disabled person, I
16 had, like, oh, it was so weird, I had some like,
17 not rights, but like access that they would,
18 like, pay for my schooling or stuff like that.
19 Like, I had access to like scholarships and shit,
20 stuff like that because I was. And, like, so I
21 had called them because we hadn't heard from
22 (indiscernible) [she must have been] missing for
23 2 years when I got that letter. And, I had like
24 called them and I'm like, well, have you talked
25 to her, like, asking them all this, like, what's
26 going on here, like, have you talked to her cause
27 this is the first named thing that that I've got
28 from her, her name (indiscernible) [that had]
29 popped up in years. And, they wouldn't, like,
30 tell me anything. And, I'm like, so, like, we'll
31 did she apply for something? Like, why would I
32 get this letter if, like, if she didn't go apply
33 for, like, financial help or something. And,
34 they couldn't, they wouldn't give nothing.
35 They're like, I'm sorry we can't disclose her
36 information to you because are you like in
37 university or anything, you can apply for this
38 program. I'm like, well, if you'll at least tell
39 me if she's dead or alive. And they're like,
40 we're sorry we can't disclose information for
41 you. Like, you cannot tell me if my mother
42 called you and is alive? Like, are you kidding
43 me? Like, at the least, its friggin ridiculous.
44 I was like, blows my mind.
45 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Is there anything that you can
46 think of that you'd like to see from the National
47 Inquiry to honour our missing and murdered

1 Indigenous women and girls?
2 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: It's whatever you (~~indiscernible--~~
3 ~~overlapping speakers~~) [you're doing, it's
4 probably going to be awesome]. This is the first
5 time anybody's ever approached us.
6 ASHLEY JONG: Like, (indiscernible) take initiative
7 over some things, it's pretty chapped. Nobody
8 seems to care.
9 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: I would like to see at least an
10 attempt
11 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
12 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: to make contact with her. And at
13 least let us know if she's alive.
14 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
15 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: 'Cause anything can happen within
16 since November. I mean, you say, like, she may
17 not even be missing but she is missing to us.
18 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
19 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: 'Cause she is missing to her
20 children also. And, it was -- if we were
21 notified at least that, well, that would give us
22 some rest or peace of mind --
23 ASHLEY JONG: Assurance.
24 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- that she's still alive. 'Cause
25 when a person's alive, there's still a chance.
26 When one is dead, we'd like to also like to bury
27 her --
28 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
29 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- within our area because that's
30 where she originated.
31 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm. You want to bring her
32 home.
33 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Exactly. 'Cause a lot can happen
34 in a week or a day or -- I mean you hear of all
35 the atrocities that are going on in the world now
36 in different parts of the country or even in the
37 States and you don't know what's happening.
38 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
39 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: You worry. On Facebook I saw,
40 well, that's the only the thing that I get in
41 Facebook is that they were going to clean the
42 streets of San Diego and that's the last place I
43 heard where she was.
44 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm. Yes.
45 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And, if she didn't -- and if they
46 didn't go to this designated area they were going
47 to be incarcerated. And it stated there, there

1 was a bunch of -- there are many people there
2 that are mentally challenged or mental or having
3 mental problems
4 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
5 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: that are in the streets
6 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
7 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And it showed where there was tents
8 and tents and tents. But she did tell me she
9 went to a tent camp and then that was the last we
10 heard.
11 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And she is good at being homeless.
12 She's been homeless for this long now.
13 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
14 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She's very good at it.
15 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: She's probably got a lot of
16 survival skills
17 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: It's her survival (indiscernible-
18 overlapping speakers)
19 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: and resourcefulness. And you
20 were saying, like, just how intelligent she is,
21 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Mm-hm.
22 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: how she was in school.
23 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She also told me that she got beat
24 up by women. She couldn't hardly move. And, I
25 remember when she could hardly move when she was
26 in that accident.
27 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Mm-hm. She had glass in her hair
28 and glass in her skull. I had to take her to the
29 hospital.
30 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She couldn't feed her kids.
31 Couldn't move. Yet, the husband was still
32 yelling at her.
33 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Screaming at her.
34 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And wanting things from her. And,
35 like, she went through a lot.
36 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
37 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: This could be happening to her
38 again.
39 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
40 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: We don't know. So in my mind she
41 still is missing.
42 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
43 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: And every authority that we tried
44 to get a hold of in the past, so you kind of lose
45 faith in them. I mean even the local level.
46 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Provincial level.
47 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Provincial level.

1 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Canadian (indiscernible-overlapping
2 speakers)
3 ASHLEY JONG: [Whole frickin' world level] It's
4 ridiculous.
5 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Intercontinental level.
6 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And you do feel like a small fish
7 in a big pond.
8 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: It's just road blocks.
9 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And say, we'll what can you do?
10 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
11 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Just have to live with it. And
12 that's what we've been doing, living with it.
13 It's not easy.
14 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Do you have any photos that you
15 have of her that you'd like to share?
16 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: I have a bunch here. I got some.
17 She had ripped, broke all her, all of her ...
18 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She got a hold of them in her state
19 one time and cut all the pictures out of the dad.
20 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
21 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. Or she would put --
22 ASHLEY JONG: She cutted his head in (indiscernible-
23 overlapping speakers)
24 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: -- she would put black felt marker
25 on the photos before she ran. And, she also told
26 me she felt like she wasn't wanted.
27 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She said that to, to me to.
28 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: She is very beautiful.
29 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Mm-hm.
30 ASHLEY JONG: Mm-hm. You could always tell when she
31 was in a good mood when she had her hair down.
32 She had really nice curly hair.
33 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: She's a beautiful lady.
34 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: She'd be 40 years old now, in
35 September.
36 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Couldn't ask for a better mum
37 before all this stuff.
38 ASHLEY JONG: She was my savior, man, like, when I was
39 -- like my dad would beat me so much. She was
40 the only one that ever like, tried to like shield
41 us from it.
42 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Mm-hm.
43 ASHLEY JONG: Stop him.
44 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: And she made fun for you guys. She
45 tried to make the guys have fun.
46 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: At our place we have an open door
47 policy. Whoever's part of our family -- whoever

1 our blood is they're welcome to our door. And,
2 then we even had other people from different
3 families come when they were having trouble, come
4 and stay at our place. That's something we got
5 from my mother. My mother had 18 children. She
6 had 12 girls, 6, 6 kids and she still had a door
7 open for foster kids.
8 ASHLEY JONG: Anybody.
9 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. So, it's something that ...
10 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: We foster.
11 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: It's here. Your tea. Wow, even
12 in pictures seeing her with black eyes.
13 ASHLEY JONG: Yeah.
14 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Maybe after we're done recording
15 I think it would be really great if -- I don't
16 have access to a scanner here but what I'm
17 wondering is if, would you allow me to take these
18 back to Vancouver and I mail them back to you
19 after I scan them?
20 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Sure.
21 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, that would be fine.
22 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: And, I'll get some information
23 about who's who in the photos as well because I
24 think that there are a lot of great pictures here
25 that I think should be included with your
26 testimony.
27 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: Okay.
28 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Is there anything else that
29 you'd like to share with us today that I haven't
30 already asked you? Something that you think that
31 the Commissioners should know?
32 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I don't know. Maybe. We could say
33 all we want but hopefully he'll do them. Or
34 attempt to do them. Even that would be a lot.
35 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Mm-hm.
36 DAVID CUNNINGHAM: Well, she had a lot of suffering
37 and I don't want to go there again. We just hope
38 that they can make at least make an attempt to
39 find her.
40 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: That would be awesome for us.
41 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes.
42 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: If he can help with that that would
43 be ...
44 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: I do want to thank you all for
45 being here today and sharing with me and, Ashley,
46 I want to say particularly to you, thank you for
47 all of your honesty and with what you've shared

1 with me today, I think that you're a very strong
2 woman and I think you're going to do a lot for
3 your daughter.
4 ASHLEY JONG: I will. Just got to get through it.
5 One day at a time.
6 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes. Exactly.
7 ASHLEY JONG: Frick, actually it's like minutes at a
8 time, and like, it's not even like one day, it's
9 like minutes --
10 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Minutes or seconds.
11 ASHLEY JONG: -- get through this hour, get through
12 this hour.
13 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: Yes. But it will get longer,
14 right. It won't be hour by hour forever. It
15 will get day by day and then it will get month by
16 month.
17 ASHLEY JONG: Week by week. Month by month, then year
18 by year. I can do it.
19 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: You can.
20 CATHY CUNNINGHAM: I know you can.
21 ASHLEY JONG: (indiscernible) [It just still] hurts.
22 CAITLIN HENDRICKSON: So, it's 5:33, we're going to
23 shut off the recording now.
24

(STATEMENT CONCLUDED)

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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Work", is written above a horizontal line.

D. Work
Court Transcriber