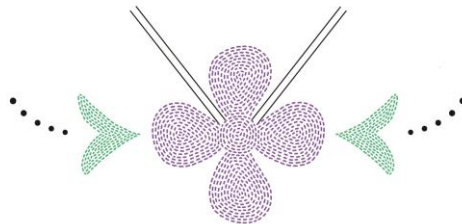


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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 I Statement Gathering
Riverlodge Place
Thompson, Manitoba**



PUBLIC

Wednesday March 21, 2018

Statement - Volume 325

Margaret Scott

Statement gathered by Kerrie Reay

A.S.A.P. Reporting Services Inc. © 2018

II

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statement Volume 325
Margaret Scott
March 21, 2018

PAGE

Statement by Margaret Scott	1
Reporter's certification	32

Statement Gatherer: Kerrie Reay

Documents submitted with testimony: none

1 Thompson, Manitoba
2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday March 21, 2018
3 at 2:12 p.m.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: And we are now recording
5 on the audio tape. So for the record, this is Kerrie Reay.
6 I'm a statement taker with the National Inquiry Into
7 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. And today
8 is March the 21st, 2018, and we are in Thompson, Manitoba,
9 and the time is now 2:02 -- or 2:12. With me today is
10 Margaret Scott. Margaret Scott is with the Cross C-R-O-S-S
11 Lake First Nation and has travelled here to Thompson today
12 to provide her truth as a survivor, and as I said,
13 Margaret, I just want to confirm on the record that you're
14 consenting to the disclosure and it being a public
15 statement?

16 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Mmhmm.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: And the time and the
18 space is yours, so I invite you to start when you feel
19 comfortable.

20 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah.

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: And wherever you want to
22 start?

23 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah. I was -- I was
24 listening to a lady speaking yesterday, and it brought up a
25 lot of my -- it took me back in 1980s, around there, '79 or

1 when I was only 14 years old at that time. And she --
2 she -- she shared a story she was talking, I see myself
3 there and it -- I thought I was had healed, I thought I was
4 on my right healing journey, but in a way, I am -- I am too
5 but -- but it took a lot of me yesterday, it took a lot out
6 of me I had to sit down with that lady after to take make
7 sure they was one of them too to tell her that she's not
8 alone.

9 I'm -- it happened when I was 14 back home
10 and there's just this -- this one man maybe about six years
11 older than I am at that time and I was -- it was 14, I was,
12 you know, just a young woman, you know looking, trying to
13 make myself any possible way that I could look -- you
14 know -- to look pretty. That I am -- I am pretty, inside
15 of me. And then this man, like, he was a very good friend
16 of mine, I used to talk to him before and he always used to
17 tell me that I was pretty and he always used to -- even if
18 I seen him, if there was with a dance, I would see him
19 there, and he would ask me to go dance with him and I
20 would. And then my friend would tell me, oh, so why do you
21 have to dance with him? And then -- and then I said, he
22 wants to dance with me, I said.

23 So one time, one night, I had -- I had a
24 little -- I had a drink too. My friends did, and -- and I
25 came from a good home, a good home. At home, I never used

1 to wake up when there's alcohol or a bottle on the table,
2 nothing -- or I never used to get -- wake up in -- in the
3 middle of the night, there's a party, I never had that
4 because where I was brought up, it was a very strict home
5 and we were -- and there was always food and there was
6 always clean and I understood that today when my grandma
7 went to residential school and then my mom gave me that.

8 After that -- so we went to the stands and
9 this guy -- this man, he was a man, I could say he was a
10 man already, so we danced and then the dance was over, we
11 had a little drink with my friends and then -- but I wasn't
12 really drunk, I know everything. And then my friend told
13 me we'll go home together, and then I said. Yeah, then
14 this man came to me after that and then he said, oh, you
15 had a drink, I said, yeah, I said, but just -- just a
16 little bit, I said, and then he said, come here, he said.
17 It was dark. It was dark at night, and then he said come
18 here, like, it's over, the dance was over, somebody is
19 chasing me he said, I don't want to see this person, he
20 said come here, come hide with me, he said and I ran with
21 him and he ran to the bush and then I chased him there.
22 And we were in the bush, and then we were -- we were
23 standing there, I said, where is this person that's chasing
24 you? And then he didn't say nothing, he just looked
25 around. And he said, I'm going now and then he started

1 talking to me, he said, did you know that you're pretty.
2 He said that to me. And I said, I don't know, I guess.
3 I felt scared already there, I know it's
4 not right. I felt scared. Then he punched me. He punched
5 me, and I fought back. I tried to fight back, but he was
6 too strong. Then he was putting his hand on my mouth like
7 this, and I tried to fight back, and then he keep punching
8 me, and finally, probably, it was still dark, he was still,
9 he was on top of me, and -- and then when I woke up, it was
10 the sun was coming up. He was still on top of me, and then
11 I said, I start crying there, and then he helped me. He
12 helped me put on my clothes. And then I was just naked.
13 And then I cried. Then he cleaned me up at the back, like,
14 taking those branches from my whatever, grass, he cleaned
15 me up. And then he said, don't -- don't tell anybody. And
16 I was just scared. I couldn't even say anything then --
17 then I heard vehicles, and then I didn't want to run, I was
18 scared. And then he -- he hugged me, and then -- and then
19 I seen some people walking around in the highway, and then
20 I seen my friend there with her boyfriend, and she came
21 running to me. I ran to her and I cried to her. I said
22 what's wrong, I said, nothing, just let's go home now. And
23 I was just shaking. I said what's wrong. I said nothing.
24 I said just let's go and that man follow us, I said, let's
25 go, I said. And then her boyfriend said what's wrong,

1 Margaret, I said, nothing. So we left, I went home.

2 And then after that, my mom was a single
3 mom, just my sister and my three brothers were there, my
4 four brothers were there. But they were just kids and then
5 it was during Indian days, like, when we have these summer
6 festivities. That was the time, then I took off my
7 clothes, and I had -- I hid them, I put them in a plastic
8 pipe and I put on my nightgown, and I was just -- I was
9 just sore. And then I crawled in to bed with my sister and
10 then my mom, my mom woke -- what time did you come home, my
11 mom said? I said, I come home -- I came home anyway, I
12 said. And then my mom told me, said well, since you didn't
13 have enough sleep, I'll let you sleep this time. We're
14 going to go a watch the games, and then I said -- I didn't
15 say nothing. I just lay there. And then my sister said,
16 where are you -- my sister said to me, she said, you should
17 come with us. I said no, I'll just stay. And then as soon
18 as they left, and then I -- before bathtubs, we had these
19 big basins, big pans, and I put water there, I pulled
20 water, put it there, and I was just sore, my body was just
21 sore. I felt there was nothing in me, everything was gone
22 in me and then I put -- I put water there, and then I took
23 it -- and I took it to the room. I carried that basin
24 there, and I put some more water. And I put a -- a knife
25 on the door to lock it, and then I sat there, and I took

1 off my clothes and I had bruises all over me, my breasts,
2 even my neck. Marks, fingerprints and right here too, when
3 I washed myself, I just, all over. And then I start -- I
4 cried and I just cried and I cried. And then there was a
5 knock on the -- on my bedroom and my mom said Margaret and
6 then open the door, I said, we forgot something in the
7 room, she said. And I said, wait, wait mom as I tried to
8 wipe my tears and wash my face so he won't know. And then
9 my mom couldn't wait, and then that push it a bit like
10 this, and my mom saw me, and I was sitting there, my mom
11 saw my bruises. Then he -- she just looked at me. She
12 didn't say nothing. She left. And then my mom left. She
13 knew I had these bruises. And then so I -- so I sat there,
14 and I washed myself and I dumped the water, I did
15 everything on my own and I sat -- and I lay on the bed
16 there, like this cuddling and I cry and I couldn't even
17 more. It was so sore. I was just shaking and I wiped
18 myself, and I was bleeding lots, keep going to the toilet
19 and it was awful. I couldn't even look at myself in the
20 mirror. And after that, I sat there and then my -- my mom
21 never asked me anything, she never did.

22 And after that, I was so scared all the
23 time. I couldn't even go anywhere by myself after. I had
24 nightmares. I was sweating a lot. Even if I hear
25 something, I would cry. Even if I go for walks, if I'm

1 alone in bush, I'll have an anxiety attack because I seen
2 that bush if I look down, I will have that -- and I just
3 come up and we would go berry picking with my mom, and I
4 would say, I'll stay home and she wouldn't ask me why. I
5 don't want to go. I'll just say I don't like bees. I'll
6 just say that, she won't ask me. There's lots of things my
7 mom didn't want to ask me after that. I don't -- and then
8 so one time so it went on and on and on and I used to see
9 this -- my perpetrator in the community and he would make
10 fun of me, he would make jokes on me and he would say
11 things to me when he sees me in a public area, making
12 stupid remarks or laughs or -- it was just too much and I
13 start going to school taking -- going to university, taking
14 counselling, sexual abuse courses, and I found myself
15 there. This is not normal for me to live like this to live
16 in fear the rest of my life I said that to myself.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: Do you remember how old
18 you were when you were having that self-talk?

19 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: That -- when I was
20 about probably about 21.

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: 21.

22 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah.

23 MS. KERRIE REAY: So seven years you had
24 lived with that fear and that anxiety?

25 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah.

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: And that secret?

2 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah, that secret,
3 after that, I couldn't even tell my -- I got married when I
4 was 22. I couldn't even tell my husband anything. When I
5 first met my husband, when I first liked him, I could never
6 be alone with him when we were going out. We have to have
7 a friend, have to have a friend with me. Too many times he
8 wanted to break up with me because of my fearness, and I
9 couldn't tell him.

10 MS. KERRIE REAY: Did he ask?

11 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: He asked me one time,
12 and I said, there's nothing wrong with me, it's just that
13 I'm not ready you know, and that was his friend that -- and
14 every time I was with him, if he sees us, he'll come and
15 talk to him. You know, it just used to make me feel like
16 -- said come to a party, bring Margaret, he's a party
17 animal and when we were going -- he said, why does he say
18 that, you know, I don't know. And then it went on and on
19 and on. And finally my husband told me -- I told him, I
20 said, I have to tell you thing, I said I said, it's -- it's
21 in the darkroom. You know, the room was -- I have to keep
22 this room dark. He said why? I said that's the only way I
23 can tell you. He said, okay. And that's when I told him
24 my story and he turned on the light and then I (inaudible)
25 please don't hurt him. He said, no, I won't. I won't hurt

1 him. But yeah, he did, he did hurt him. He -- he beat him
2 up. He went to go look for him. And I told him, I said, I
3 wanted to even though I didn't -- I didn't feel right but
4 the way you told me your story, he said it's just not you
5 that he made fun of, he was my friend and make fun of the
6 other girls too, he said. And then maybe he did the same
7 thing to him, he said, I said maybe. So that was it. And
8 then after that I became a mature woman and then I met him
9 in an elevator at the band office. And -- but he was still
10 doing that to me after when he still got beaten up. He was
11 still doing that to me but my husband carried that.
12 Sometimes when he would get mad, he'll bring that to me,
13 because that was his close friend. Maybe you were asking
14 for it, and then I said, why did you have to make me tell
15 you and now you don't believe me. I told him, I shouldn't
16 have told you my story now that you bring me these back to
17 me. I said you're hurting me again By not believing me and
18 you're giving me this. And then after that -- and the
19 after that this guy he wept on the elevator, and I said,
20 okay, Margaret, go, I said to myself. It was on the second
21 floors, in that elevator, and there he was. I ran and I
22 went to the elevator with him. I said, what. He said -- I
23 said, I'm married now he told me. Yeah, I said, I'm mature
24 enough now I said, I'm not 14 anymore. I said you took
25 everything away from me when I was 14 and I'm still haunted

1 my story and I said to her my mom knew, my mom knew about
2 my process. My mom knew I was hurt, but she never asked
3 me, I said. I said when my mom used to hug me, I said, she
4 would hold me tight and she would kiss me in my forehead.
5 I always wanted my mom to ask me what happened to me. But
6 she never asked me, I said. I wanted my mom to hold me, I
7 said. The what happened to me, but -- but to hold me and
8 tell me what happened to you, but still she never did, I
9 said. Does that mean she didn't care for me. My auntie
10 looked at me she said no, something happened to us. But it
11 was more to your mom she said. She said don't blame your
12 mom, don't blame yourself, she said. And then I ask her
13 again, I said did something happen to my mom? But I don't
14 want to share with you. She said that's why she didn't
15 want to, she said she's -- she shut downright there I said
16 only me and my sister knew. My mom knew you were like
17 this. I told her, I'm ready to tell me her story I said, I
18 know -- I'll know when you're ready to listen, she said.
19 My oldest aunty is still alive. I went to her grave alone
20 and I told my mom. I said, all this time I blame
21 everything. All this time, I thought you don't even care,
22 but you did care. The wind was blowing in to my face and I
23 have kids of my own today, they're adults now, they have
24 nieces and nephews. If I see a bruise on any of them, I
25 always ask what happened. I don't want them to go through

1 what I went through. Even if they have bruises in their
2 legs where -- I always ask, what happened. Even if they
3 have a little scratch. What happened? I don't want them
4 to go through what I went through. Because I had that pain
5 with me still today it hurts me and when I use the
6 washroom. What damage he had done to me. What that lady
7 said when somebody examined -- when the doctor had examined
8 me, I was just crying. When I go for my women's personal,
9 I just cry and that -- and they always help me, that's how
10 bad it was for me to get raped.

11 It was very hard when I seen these missing
12 and murdered women and girls, imaging them what they --
13 what they go through tortured. That's why I always wanted
14 to be a participant in these because I was raped, and it's
15 not a very good feeling to carry that. And that's why I
16 always say I was brought up in a strict home, it was like
17 shh don't say that you know. And then people are brought
18 up in an alcoholic home, they're the ones that are more
19 open they could tell, but they did not listen, and me, when
20 I brought up in a strict home, it was just because my
21 granny went to the Residential School. Everything has to
22 be perfect, the house. Even the clothes. Even the food.
23 Even just the way we are. The way -- I'm not saying we
24 come from a -- a good or bad family, but we come from a
25 family that, that were there, but we didn't have much of

1 that time to share about our feelings. The true feelings.
2 And I wanted to say that if you carry things too much in
3 you, you know, your body will act up on you.

4 Ever since I start on my healing journey,
5 before I share my story, I always used to have a bloody
6 nose for no reason, and then I noticed myself, I was --
7 this elder, she told me -- I told her, do you still have a
8 bloody nose. I said no, because it was in you when he used
9 to carry that, he said. Right away, and that's why I
10 wanted to encourage all the young women, not just women,
11 but men also, young boys, you know, I didn't go to the
12 police. I felt that I would be laughed at if I go forward.
13 I felt so ashamed. Like I felt it was me that was asking
14 for it. But now, as I become mature woman, I didn't ask
15 for it. I didn't deserve it. And I'm always happy when
16 tell on other people the times they had done to that
17 because I didn't help this guy what he had done to me, I
18 helped him to hurt other women. If I would have that time
19 go forward maybe he would have put to a stop -- maybe it
20 would have stopped. But I didn't help him. But I didn't
21 do that, I help him more to help other girls.

22 And then I had shared my story at one
23 other time, four women came to me that was the same guy who
24 did that to me too, and I encourage anybody too, don't let
25 anybody do that to you, you know, as a woman, you know, be

1 strong. You're not alone. You were weak at one time, but
2 now, we are strong. There's people -- there's a lot of
3 people that are supporting us, resources.

4 As Aboriginal women, as a Cree woman from
5 back home, from Cross Lake, I don't think I'm not going to
6 allow for my sisters, Aboriginal sisters to go through what
7 I went through, that's why I'm sharing my story. Because
8 it's not easy. It's hard to victim, a victim of -- I'm a
9 victim of being a survivor when I got brutally raped, and
10 that's why I encourage all the people, all the women not to
11 feel alone. There's a storm once in my life, the life
12 today, I'm living in this -- I'm in peace because I'm on my
13 healing journey and I'm trying to help other women as much
14 as I can. Whatever happened to you or to me or to anybody,
15 it's not our fault.

16 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

17 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah. But thank you
18 for listening to me.

19 MS. KERRIE REAY: And thank you for
20 sharing. If I -- if you don't mind, one of the things that
21 has struck me is the strength that you have found in your
22 journey.

23 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Mmhmm.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: And for those -- for
25 those young women and those young girls what was it for you

1 that you found that strength to -- or what happened for you
2 to make that decision when you were 21 that you realized
3 that you needed too do something for yourself?

4 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Because I didn't want
5 to feel so scared anymore and I didn't want anybody to put
6 me down for, you know -- especially when I -- it wasn't my
7 fault.

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: Mmhmm.

9 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: And I went to school.

10 MS. KERRIE REAY: Now, did you go to
11 residential school?

12 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: I went to the
13 residential school.

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

15 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: I went there for four
16 to five years.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

18 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah.

19 MS. KERRIE REAY: And how old were you when
20 you went there?

21 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: I was -- when I was
22 13, 14, and I came out when I was 18.

23 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

24 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah. And I seen him
25 one time when I was getting off the bus and he knew I was

1 on the bus and he wrote me a letter, the perpetrator, and I
2 was just shaking, it was a very nasty letter.

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: And so your -- when you
4 said you went to Residential School, was that a day school,
5 did you go there during the day or did you stay there?

6 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: No, I stayed -- I
7 stayed there, like, I only come home Easter and Christmas
8 and summer, yeah. When I went to the Residential School,
9 he wasn't there, he was back home and I felt that freedom,
10 but when I used to come home, I didn't feel like coming
11 home, but I had to come home for my mom.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right, right.

13 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah.

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: And for the commission,
15 coming back to your community realizing that the
16 perpetrator was still part of your community, how many
17 people live in Cross Lake, how many people in your reserve?

18 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: At that time,
19 probably, right now, or before then?

20 MS. KERRIE REAY: Back then when you
21 were --

22 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Oh, maybe about 3,000.

23 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

24 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah, the population
25 is getting higher, yeah.

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: So the difficulties
2 coming back to the community for you?

3 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah. It was
4 difficult for me when I used to come back and I couldn't
5 share it with anybody.

6 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right, right.

7 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: And sometimes I didn't
8 feel like coming home.

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: And then you started your
10 healing journey, you were saying at 21 --

11 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- about. Did you leave
13 your community or were you able to do that within the
14 community, did -- were there services in Cross Lake that
15 helped you?

16 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: When I went -- when I
17 went to university, like, I used to work and go to school
18 one week, and we had a lot of healing where we were going
19 to school because they always used to tell us to work in
20 the field, like, as a -- to help -- to help people in our
21 community that we had to heal ourselves before we could --

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

23 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: So that's how I became
24 to do my -- to work on myself and when I was going to
25 school and that's where we were told you won't be able to

1 help anybody if you -- you have to help yourself first.

2 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. What about
3 services for -- and I do recognize this is the '70s that we
4 were speaking of?

5 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah.

6 MS. KERRIE REAY: What kind of services
7 were on the reserve to help young women at that time?

8 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: No, I didn't see
9 anything that time.

10 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. And was the
11 policing on the reserve or was the detachment somewhere
12 else?

13 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yes, yes, there was a
14 policeman -- yeah, policing there already.

15 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. And you didn't
16 feel comfortable going?

17 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: No, I didn't want to
18 go. I wanted to, but I didn't want to go.

19 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

20 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: I really wanted to go.

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: And it's hard when you're
22 so young?

23 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah, it was so hard.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: And not feeling -- and I
25 sense from what you've shared today, it was isolating and

1 for whatever reasons your mom had --

2 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Mmhmm.

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- from what you've
4 learned from your auntie --

5 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Mmhmm.

6 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- she wasn't able to be
7 there for you?

8 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah.

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: And it sounds like that
10 was quite isolating for you that you really felt that you
11 were on your own?

12 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: I was on my own.

13 MS. KERRIE REAY: And your sisters?

14 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: My sister.

15 MS. KERRIE REAY: Your sister, right,
16 because you had three brothers?

17 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah.

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: Your sister knew, you
19 never shared?

20 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: No, that was my
21 second -- I'm the oldest, and she was the second sister,
22 and then, no, I couldn't -- no, I couldn't tell her. I
23 didn't want to, but -- but I looked after her real good,
24 you know, if we go to the dance together, I make sure that
25 I'm with her.

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: So it sounded like your
2 life became always about safety --

3 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah.

4 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- for her?

5 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Still today.

6 MS. KERRIE REAY: Still today?

7 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah.

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: Still trying to make sure
9 people are safe?

10 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: I'm trying to look
11 after my nieces and nephews and my brothers for them to be
12 saved.

13 MS. KERRIE REAY: Have you shared your
14 story with your family now, you've talked about sharing and
15 others --

16 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah, I saw -- like,
17 I'm telling my nieces and my brothers, I think that they're
18 ready to listen to me, I share it with them.

19 MS. KERRIE REAY: And how have you felt
20 being able to share with your siblings?

21 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: It felt good and they
22 came to me and tell me this is what happened to me too.

23 MS. KERRIE REAY: So they have some secrets
24 as well?

25 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah, they have

1 secrets too, and they tell me, I need to tell you this,
2 this is what happened, and like they're I don't want -- I
3 never want to tell them, you know, keep quiet, you know I
4 always tell them, you know what, I said we've never going
5 to tell our kids to shut up. I said we're never -- we're
6 going to listen to what they have to tell us.

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: So the experience from
8 your grandmother's experience in residential school, did
9 your mother go to residential school?

10 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Day school.

11 MS. KERRIE REAY: Day school. So could have
12 had similar experiences as your grandma as well?

13 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Oh, yeah.

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: What about your dad, did
15 he go --

16 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: My mom was a single
17 mom.

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

19 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: And I don't really
20 want to go further on -- my I never wanted to find out who
21 my dad is.

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

23 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: That's why I don't --

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: No.

25 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Mmhmm.

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: So back to your healing
2 journey because part of the commission is the legacy for
3 future generations, and to learn from experience such as
4 yourself as an Indigenous woman who is a survivor, who is
5 really become a bit of a warrior for your family and
6 ensuring the safety and the care of your family, for other
7 families, when we were talking about that journey, and you
8 were saying you were learning about self-care and sharing
9 when you were university, how -- how did you continue that
10 being married, raising a family, because at first you
11 didn't share with your husband, any insight as to because
12 it sounds like you struggled.

13 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah, I struggled.

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: Because when you finally
15 did share with your husband, he brought it up at times when
16 you were in disagreement or in argument, and then -- and
17 then it -- then it felt from what I heard you say is that
18 it became your fault that you were hearing from him?

19 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah.

20 MS. KERRIE REAY: So thoughts for the
21 commissioners in terms of -- in every situation is
22 different, but in terms of your own, were you and your
23 husband able to reconcile that, you know, this isn't
24 something that should be said to a woman who has suffered
25 such violence?

1 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah, like when he
2 used to say to me after, he always used to -- he always
3 used to suck me down almost, almost -- almost, and then I
4 would just, okay. Then, nobody doesn't believe me, you
5 know, and then I would go up again, and said, no, I'm not
6 going to let him do that, no more, I said, no more am I
7 going to let anybody do this to me, you know, I would stand
8 up.

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: But it took a lot to
10 stand up?

11 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Oh, it took a lot, and
12 it took a lot argument, but I wouldn't keep quiet.
13 Until --

14 MS. KERRIE REAY: So maybe that's part of
15 your story?

16 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: That's what makes me
17 strong.

18 MS. KERRIE REAY: Is making sure you stand
19 up for yourself?

20 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: I stand up for
21 myself.

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: And find the confidence
23 and the strength to do that because that does take a lot.

24 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Oh, yeah.

25 MS. KERRIE REAY: You know, especially when

1 you're young?

2 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: But one thing I wanted
3 to make sure that when we used to have this disagreements
4 and I'm glad he never did, he wouldn't hit me. He would
5 never hit me.

6 MS. KERRIE REAY: So a healthy
7 relationship.

8 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Healthy relationship.

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: No violence?

10 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: We would argue, but he
11 wouldn't hit me, that's one thing, he -- like, he wouldn't
12 do to me, and he would be the first one to walk out the
13 door, he said you always have to win, and you know, and I
14 said, he'll come back, I know he'll come home. Don't start
15 anything, I just want to come and sleep. So I'll just
16 leave in peace.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: And how many children?

18 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Three.

19 MS. KERRIE REAY: You have three.

20 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Mmhmm. I have three.
21 My oldest is 34, 29 and 27, and I'm a foster parent of
22 three.

23 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh, okay.

24 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah. I'm a -- I lost
25 my husband eight years ago.

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh, I'm sorry.

2 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah. And ever since
3 I lost him, I opened my house for other kids because my
4 kids are all adults and they have their own lives.

5 MS. KERRIE REAY: Lovely.

6 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: And I always tell the
7 kids that I'm having in my home, foster kids, I said always
8 feel safe here. If you don't feel safe, don't take it
9 somewhere else, let's deal with it here.

10 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right, right.

11 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: They're very lucky to
13 have you.

14 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Mmhmm.

15 MS. KERRIE REAY: And on your community, in
16 terms of the services, are they any better? Like, for
17 young girls?

18 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Oh, yeah, they have
19 lots of resources now. I always tell them that when I get
20 calls in the nursing station or RCMP when somebody gets
21 raped, I always tell them, you're very strong that you come
22 forward. You're a strong woman or young man because when I
23 was your age, I said, I wasn't strong enough like you. I
24 gave them that power.

25 MS. KERRIE REAY: So you're sharing your

1 strengths now in your community?

2 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah.

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: And that's a part of your
4 legacy to your to your community for the future, for future
5 generations?

6 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah.

7 MS. KERRIE REAY: Helping to teach is what
8 I'm hearing, helping to teach? Would you have any
9 recommendations for the commission in terms of how to --
10 what -- what ways could we help Indigenous women and girls
11 to be safe in their communities, and outside of their
12 communities?

13 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: For living in the
14 reserve for so many years, what I would like to see, when I
15 listen to the news all over, all over the nation, there's
16 always housing problems in every reserve, maybe if they
17 have -- like, get more houses in our communities, maybe the
18 young women will not move out from the reserve. I think
19 that's the reason most of them moved out because there's
20 lack of housing in our communities.

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

22 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: And then some of them
23 get stuck there, and they raise their kids there, you know,
24 that's when they lost this things (inaudible) in the
25 reserve because in the city they just live in a life that

1 that they only see lights and lots of things that are
2 happening in the city.

3 MS. KERRIE REAY: The excitement.

4 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: The excitement, more
5 excitement, and then when they were raised here, the kids
6 on the reserve, it's more like land, there's a difference
7 between -- it's about housing.

8 MS. KERRIE REAY: Safe housing.

9 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Safe houses, and also,
10 you know, get their own place, apartments, and independent
11 living.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: So --

13 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Parenting skills, more
14 parenting skills. More sex education, sex education
15 classes because there's kids that are having kids at an
16 early age.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. Do you continue
18 where you live in Cross River?

19 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Cross Lake.

20 MS. KERRIE REAY: Cross Lake, do you still
21 see the residential -- the systemic issues that continue
22 from the residential school experience?

23 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Oh, yeah. Oh, it will
24 always be carried on. It will never be cured, yeah. It
25 will always be there. Yeah, pass on and pass on, yeah.

1 MS. KERRIE REAY: Do you have any thoughts
2 about what could be -- what could help to stem that ongoing
3 flow of systemic racism?

4 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: It depends -- it
5 depends, like, I guess there's this one time, like, it --
6 if there's an ongoing thing in a family, like, domestic
7 violence and only one person has to come out to tell
8 there's a lot of violence going on for that violence to be
9 stopped. It only takes one person. But if it doesn't --
10 if it doesn't stop, it will pass on to generation to
11 generation. Yeah, that's the way for me as worker in my
12 community, that's the way I see it.

13 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Is there anything
14 else you would like the commission to know, anything else
15 you would like to share, or recommendations?

16 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: No.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Well, I would
18 really like to thank you Margaret, it took a phenomenal
19 amount of courage and strength to come and share such a
20 personal story.

21 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Mmhmm.

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: Such a personal truth.

23 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Mmhmm.

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: And would like to thank
25 you on behalf of the commission for coming and taking the

1 time, you've travelled some distance to be here, about
2 three hours you said, so I would just like to again thank
3 you for that.

4 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah.

5 MS. KERRIE REAY: Thank you. Okay. So
6 it's -- it looks like, I'm sorry, 3:05, we're going to
7 conclude.

8 (Off the record)

9 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. We are going back
10 on the record, it is 3:08 and Margaret has a few things
11 that she would like to share, and Margaret, please.

12 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: After, after -- I'm on
13 my healing journey, but before on my heal journey, I used
14 to smell him, how he really traumatized me. I smell that
15 cologne or I could smell the grass and it wasn't a very
16 good smell that -- the smell of -- the grass of outside
17 or -- I don't know, but after, when I heal myself, on my
18 healing, that -- I noticed myself, I don't smell it no
19 more.

20 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Okay. And then now,
21 on my -- I was thinking about this a lot, and I think I'm
22 ready to go for -- 36 years ago, where he 56 minus 14, I
23 don't know, how many years is that?

24 MS. KERRIE REAY: 42.

25 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: 42, 42 years, I wanted

1 to go back where he did -- where I got -- where I was --
2 where I got raped and I want to ask my chief, Kathy Marik
3 (phonetic) to come with me, just me and her to do some
4 with -- because I know my chief is a believer in
5 traditional way.

6 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right.

7 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: And I really want her
8 to come with me. She's a very strong believer, things like
9 that and I want to ask her to come with me.

10 MS. KERRIE REAY: And that's one of the
11 things actually that we didn't speak to when we were
12 speaking earlier, and that was about your culture and your
13 traditions and how has that played a role in the strength
14 that you've had on your journey?

15 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: What do you mean?

16 MS. KERRIE REAY: Just like are you using
17 traditional means, smudging, are you using the traditions
18 in your culture --

19 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yes, I am.

20 MS. KERRIE REAY: -- to help you move, to
21 help you move on your journey, your healing journey and
22 what would those be?

23 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah. Even though I'm
24 a strong Catholic, but I still believe in what they believe
25 in because there's only one man upstairs, and when I was

1 growing up that, I hardly seen that, but when I was on
2 my -- on my healing journey, I used -- I seen them doing it
3 a lot and I watched and I start doing it too and it really
4 helped me a lot.

5 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay. Good.

6 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: It just makes me feel
7 after when I do my smudging and all that, it makes me feel,
8 like, more, more powerful as an Aboriginal, as Cree woman,
9 as a Muskeg women, and that's why I wanted to ask Chief
10 Merik to come with me. I know where it is, I seen it every
11 day, and I'm ready to go there.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right. I would like to
13 invite you to speak in your Cree language, if you would
14 like to your end your testimony today in your own language.
15 I invite you to share or say something or --

16 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Yeah, okay.

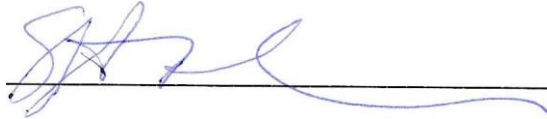
17 MS. KERRIE REAY: If you would like.

18 MS. MARGARET SCOTT: (Speaking Cree) I'm
19 about three hours away from where I live. (Speaking Cree)

20 MS. KERRIE REAY: Thank you: it is now
21 3:15.

22 --- Whereupon the statement concluded at 3:15 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I have, to the best
of my skill and ability,
accurately transcribed from a pre-existing recording
the foregoing proceeding.



Stephanie Menard, CSR(A)