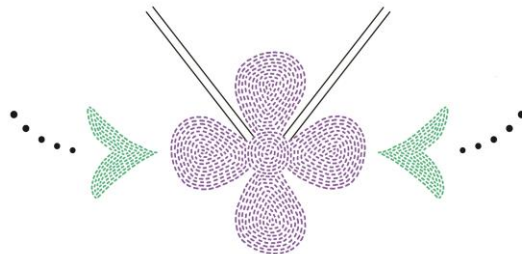


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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  
Richmond, British Columbia  
Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel**



**PUBLIC**

**Thursday April 5, 2018**

**Statement - Volume 348**

**Priscillia Tait,  
In relation to Stella Tait,  
Patricia Lee Evoy & Susan Tait**

**Statement gathered by Sheila Mazhari**

Verbatim Words West Ltd.

II

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Statement - Volume 348</b>	
<b>April 5, 2018</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Witness: Priscillia Tait</b>	
Testimony of Priscillia Tait. . . . .	1
Reporter's certification. . . . .	4
<b>Statement gatherer: Sheila Mazhari</b>	
<b>Documents submitted with testimony: none.</b>	

**Statement - Public**  
**Priscillia Tait**  
**(Stella Tait, Patricia**  
**Lee Evoy & Susan Tait)**

1

Richmond, British Columbia  
April 5, 2018

1  
2  
3  
4 SHEILA MAZHARI: Yes, perfect. Thanks, Priscillia.

5 So, let's go into your full introduction.

6 PRISCILLIA TAIT: Okay.

7 SHEILA MAZHARI: Yeah.

8 PRISCILLIA TAIT: I'm a devoted Gitxsan Wet'suwet'en  
9 mom. I have a son who's 22. I volunteer my time  
10 in the Downtown Eastside and I've been  
11 volunteering with the Downtown Eastside Missing  
12 and Murdered Women's Memorial March. It's been  
13 27 years. And I found out that my two late  
14 cousins, Stella and Susan Tait, who were last  
15 seen -- who passed on in the Downtown Eastside.  
16 Susan, my late cousin, it's her birthday today,  
17 April 5th. So, she would have been 59. They  
18 were part of the -- and Stella's about, I think  
19 two or three years younger. Anyways, five of  
20 them were part of the '60s scoop and two who have  
21 passed on.

22 And I'm here in support of my late --  
23 [Cousin's daughter], who is here to testify. And  
24 my -- what I known -- what I know about my  
25 cousins, I've met them when I was like a little  
26 girl, I think 10 or 11 when they were visiting us  
27 in Moricetown. And -- yeah, that's -- I think  
28 that's the first time and I remember their  
29 beautiful smile, their laughter. Especially  
30 Stella, she just had this infectious laugh. And  
31 I thought it was so cool 'cause she hitchhiked  
32 from Vancouver to Moricetown. But now that it's  
33 like wow, an 18-year-old hitchhiking? And she was  
34 -- after 18 I think the foster parents they have  
35 to let them go 'cause of the -- legal age is 18.  
36 So, I thought that was pretty young. So, my  
37 community, which is Moricetown, they didn't  
38 support my cousins at all. So, there was like no  
39 support at all, no resources for my two late  
40 cousins and they ended up in the Downtown  
41 Eastside.

42 And I guess my compassion is to -- to  
43 hopefully have this violence against women to be  
44 stopped. And we do need resources, especially  
45 for our youngsters 'cause I don't want them in --

**Statement - Public**  
**Priscillia Tait**  
**(Stella Tait, Patricia**  
**Lee Evoy & Susan Tait)**

2

1 ending up, you know, like my late cousins. And  
2 what I'm asking is the Province of B.C. needs to  
3 raise the age for aging out of foster care to 25  
4 years old. Aboriginal communities need programs  
5 to assist youth in continuing with their  
6 education or transitioning into satisfying  
7 employment. So, that's what the federal  
8 government and with the -- with our Aboriginal  
9 communities. Third, I would like the cities, for  
10 example, Vancouver, it would be nice to see more  
11 support for inner city programs oriented toward  
12 Aboriginal youth and families 'cause a lot of our  
13 Aboriginal kids are in foster care and a lot of  
14 them are with non-Aboriginal families. So,  
15 definitely we need more resources, so this  
16 wouldn't escalate to fostering them out to non-  
17 Aboriginal families. So, that's my testimony.  
18 Misiyh.

19 SHEILA MAZHARI: Thank you.

20  
21 (HEARING ADJOURNED)

22 (HEARING RECONVENED)

23  
24 PRISCILLIA TAIT: Okay, I would like -- oh my --  
25 SHEILA MAZHARI: To add Stella into --  
26 PRISCILLIA TAIT: -- oh yeah. I would like to add my  
27 late cousin Stella, who's -- I'm not sure her  
28 birthdate, but I'm pretty sure she's a few years  
29 younger than late Stella -- Susan Tait, whose  
30 birthday is today, she would have been 59 years  
31 old. And -- and I guess what I wanted to add is  
32 that -- I wanted to see if there's more support  
33 for our youth because I know from my son is  
34 having a hard time looking for work. And, yeah  
35 -- it's like he keeps applying and applying and  
36 they won't hire him. And it's like what is this?  
37 I know -- yeah, that's all I have concern is like  
38 -- 'cause I see so many of our youth -- some of  
39 our youth on the streets selling cigarettes in  
40 the Downtown Eastside. So, I really hope there's  
41 more programs for youth and families, so we can  
42 keep them together. Especially with our  
43 education so they can strive their goals, their  
44 dreams, you know?

45 SHEILA MAZHARI: And how old is your son?

**Statement - Public**  
**Priscillia Tait**  
**(Stella Tait, Patricia**  
**Lee Evoy & Susan Tait)**

3

1 PRISCILLIA TAIT: Twenty-two. He's part Kwakwaka'wakw  
2 and Gitxsan Wet'suwet'en. So, yeah, I'm proud of  
3 him 'cause he doesn't drink, smoke or do drugs so  
4 he's -- so proud of him.  
5 SHEILA MAZHARI: And did you want to say anything  
6 about the other death of a youth that you were...  
7 PRISCILLIA TAIT: Oh yeah. It was outside on Jackson  
8 Avenue, not too far from Oppenheimer Park. It  
9 was a 19-year-old youth, Aboriginal girl that  
10 passed away. And it seemed like there was no  
11 support for her at all 'cause she was, I guess,  
12 out -- out of -- what is it called? Age...  
13 SHEILA MAZHARI: Aging out.  
14 PRISCILLIA TAIT: Aging out in the foster care. It  
15 was pretty sad. And we lost another youth two  
16 years ago. So, this is just so many of our youth  
17 passing on and I know across Canada too because  
18 of the lack of water and housing, health care and  
19 education. So, I wouldn't mind seeing the money  
20 that's given to the Aboriginal people given to  
21 us, rather than the -- I don't know, what are  
22 they called? Ministry of Indigenous Affairs,  
23 which is the top and then it goes to the  
24 managers, supervisors. I wouldn't mind seeing  
25 that money from their salaries to -- to us, to  
26 our youth. So, that's my pet peeve I guess. So,  
27 misiyh.  
28 SHEILA MAZHARI: Thank you. And the name of the  
29 youths that passed away, the young girl across  
30 Oppenheimer Park --  
31 PRISCILLIA TAIT: I forgot her name.  
32 SHEILA MAZHARI: And this was in -- in what year was  
33 that?  
34 PRISCILLIA TAIT: I think it was four or five years  
35 ago.  
36 SHEILA MAZHARI: Okay. And the other -- did -- did  
37 you remember the other girls name?  
38 PRISCILLIA TAIT: Yeah, what was her name? I know her  
39 mom used to work for YWCA Crabtree -- [G.E.].  
40 SHEILA MAZHARI: That's her -- her mom, of the --  
41 PRISCILLIA TAIT: Yeah.  
42 SHEILA MAZHARI: How do you spell --  
43 PRISCILLIA TAIT: [G.E.].  
44 SHEILA MAZHARI: Mm-hm.  
45 PRISCILLIA TAIT: [G.E.].

**Statement - Public**  
**Priscillia Tait**  
**(Stella Tait, Patricia**  
**Lee Evoy & Susan Tait)**

4

1 SHEILA MAZHARI: And that's the mother of -- and how  
2 old was -- was this --

3 PRISCILLIA TAIT: Nineteen.

4 SHEILA MAZHARI: -- this is the girl outside  
5 Oppenheimer Park?

6 PRISCILLIA TAIT: No, this is --

7 SHEILA MAZHARI: Or this is a different one?

8 PRISCILLIA TAIT: -- yeah.

9 SHEILA MAZHARI: They were both 19?

10 PRISCILLIA TAIT: Yeah.

11 SHEILA MAZHARI: Okay. And what year was this, the  
12 other one?

13 PRISCILLIA TAIT: It might've been three years ago.

14 SHEILA MAZHARI: Okay.

15  
16 (STATEMENT CONCLUDED)

17  
18  
19  
20  
21 I hereby certify that this is a true and  
22 accurate transcript of these proceedings  
23 recorded on sound recording apparatus,  
24 transcribed to the best of my skill and  
25 ability in accordance with applicable  
26 standards.

27 

28 E. Nulty  
29 Court Transcriber  
30  
31