National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Truth-Gathering Process

Part 1 Statement Gathering

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Jacialyn Sharp,

In relation to Florence Quewezance

Statement gathered by Sheila Mazhari

Coast Reporting Services Inc.
II

NOTE

Where not required by other statute, redactions to this public transcript have been made pursuant to Rule 55 of the Commission’s Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice, which provides for “the discretion to redact private information of a sensitive nature where it is not material to the evidence to be given before distributing the information to the Parties. The National Inquiry will consider the public interest in releasing this type of information against the potential harmful impact on the individual whose personal information is at issue.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE OF CONTENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statement Volume 389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witness: Jacalyn Sharp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Statement of Jacalyn Sharp | 1 |
| Reporter’s Certification | 58 |

Statement gatherer: Sheila Mazhari

Documents submitted with testimony: none.
SHEILA MAZHARI: So good morning, my name is Sheila Mazhari here statement gathering with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Today is April 8th 2018, we're at the Hilton Hotel in room 209 in Richmond, B.C., here to receive the testimony of Jacalyn Sharp, and also joined with us is?

VERONICA IZA: Veronica Iza, support.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Perfect. And I'm just going to read the consent for public statement, so, "The information you share will normally be shared firstly with the governments and the other parties with standing at the inquiry. The parties with standing include such organizations as the Native Women's Association of Canada, Police Services, Assembly of First Nations and many others including some individual First Nations; however, all of these governments and organizations are required to sign confidentiality agreements and are legally bound not to share the information or details you or others speaking to the National Inquiry provide. If your statement is considered public or is given in a public forum, your full name and transcript of
everything you have said on audio and videotape will be transcribed into a statement, which is legally required to be provided to the governments and the parties with standing. A public statement can also be used to write public reports, prepare educational materials, support research or question witnesses such as police witnesses." So, Jacalyn, what have you chosen for your consent?

JACALYN SHARP: Public consent.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Perfect. All right. So let's go to your introduction.

JACALYN SHARP: Okay. So my name, where I'm from?

SHEILA MAZHARI: Yeah.

JACALYN SHARP: Okay. My name is Jacalyn Sharp. That's my adopted name. My given name is Jacqueline Quewezance and --

SHEILA MAZHARI: Can you spell both?

JACALYN SHARP: Both? Okay.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Including Jacalyn, because it's got a --

Jacalyn Sharp
(Florence Quewezance)

is registered with Evely First Nation, C-O-T-E.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And are they both in Saskatchewan?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: How about your birthday?

JACALYN SHARP: My birthday is [birthdate]. So I guess I'm here to make a statement for my mum. My mother's name is Florence Quewezance, and I have to spell that. F-L-O-R-E-N-C-E Q-U-E-W-E-Z-A-N-C-E.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And what's her date of birth?

JACALYN SHARP: I don't know her date of birth. And her nickname is Big Eyes. So I was -- I was adopted when I was three. I have three siblings, [T.] and [R.], and a brother, [N.]. Uh, so these are my mother's four children. And, uh, we were all adopted out, uh, so we were part of the scoop I guess, the adoption era that happened.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you remember what year that was?

JACALYN SHARP: I was born in '73 and so I think I was adopted in -- I was adopted when I was three, so '76 '77, just before I turned four.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And all of you were at that same year, you were all adopted?

JACALYN SHARP: No, it all happened -- it all happened at different periods, and I don't know the exact time
frame when things happened. My sisters were
adopted together and they were adopted first, and I
think what I was told when I was adopted the
information I have is that my brother and I were
still in our parents' care, and then we were -- I
was apprehended and then I was placed for adoption
and then my brother I guess was the last one to be
apprehended and placed for adoption.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And do you know why they apprehended you all?

JACALYN SHARP: I was told -- well, I had been moved around a
lot, I think all of us had been moved around a lot
is my understanding from grandparents to foster
care and back with our parents, from the city to
Regina -- to the res, so there was a lot of moving
around and different care givers I think was
happening. And then another part of the story,
this is from my adopted mother, that -- that's the
only person I've ever had information about my
adoption and before my adoption is through my
mother, my adopted another. Uh, and so what I was
told was that I was out wandering around in the
streets and that's how they found me, and then I
was apprehended. That was the last time I was
apprehended.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you know who it was that found you?
JACALYN SHARP: No. No. Uh, and so we were all adopted out, and the family that I was adopted to, my sisters were adopted into Regina, a family in Regina, and they were placed together. I think their parents told me that when -- when they adopted them they knew about the other two siblings, their siblings, and that they had wanted to adopt those siblings also, but that didn't happen. They never knew -- they never knew that we had been adopted out I guess.

Uh, so -- so it was three families, three adoptions essentially. And the family that I was adopted to was in Saskatoon, and then the family that my brother was adopted to was in Nanaimo. And when my parents adopted me they contacted my siblings' family to see if we could be together or meet, and so my sister's family was in agreement but my brother's family wasn't. And so I know my sisters, they were kind of like cousins growing up where our parents would arrange for us to have like weekends or holidays or, you know, spend time together. But my brother's family didn't want us to meet, so we -- I haven't met my brother. He's two years younger than me, I'm 44 so he's 42, and my sister [R.] is one year older so she's 45,
and my sister [T.] is two years older than me
so she's 46.

Uh, my sisters and I have the same father,
[D.C.], and my brother's
father is someone else and I'm not sure who he is.
So I was adopted, and -- when I was almost four
and, uh, I had always had a really strong
connection to my mum. For some reason it was
always just all through my childhood was sort of
just this image of a woman and happiness I guess is
what it -- and I imagined her, I always had this
connection with her. And when I was 13 and I had
actually -- I had gone back into foster care when I
was 11, and so I had been in foster care for three
years at this point, and I had -- I was in Grade 9
and I had insisted at that age for some reason that
I wanted to meet my mother and, uh -- so I think I
insisted with my adopted mum and then she got in
contact with the Social Services or whoever she
needed to contact or try and find out about my mum.
And so that's when my mum, my adopted mother, found
out that my mother had been murdered two years
before, so when I was 11. So she was gone already.
And, uh, my mum, I think she -- my adopted mum, I
think she told me that she had been shot, and so I
knew -- I had that information, and it had happened
two years before so I was 13 at the time, and uh...

SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you remember what year that was?
JACALYN SHARP: Thirteen.

SHEILA MAZHARI: '86, 1986?
JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you remember the month or the day?
JACALYN SHARP: That I found -- it was like spring or summer,
it was warm out.

SHEILA MAZHARI: When you found out?
JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: But do you know what day she actually passed
away, the date?
JACALYN SHARP: No, I don't actually. I know it was the very
end of April. In '84? I don't know the year.
It's either '84 or '85. And then, uh, I think it's
when you bury, when you're interred it's called,
because I went to her grave this year, I think it
was May, May 4th or something, yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And where is she buried?
JACALYN SHARP: In Regina. Yeah, so I found that out and I,

uh, I think I just -- I don't remember like having
appropriate channels to deal with it. It was just
sort of like this news I had, and there was nobody
to like sort of help me process that information.
So I had that information for a long time and
didn't really know what to do with it or how to
comprehend or, you know -- I didn't really know
what it meant, what had happened to my mum. It
wasn't that she had died, it was how she died too,
it was pretty violent. And that was always a
message that, uh, through my adoption that was
always part of the messaging that I received was
that my family was violent and alcoholics and that
negative -- those negative -- that negative
perception about indigenous people.

SHEILA MAZHARI: I have to tell them to -- does it bother you,
this --

JACALYN SHARP: Oh, no, I didn't even notice it.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you know if -- who did this to your mum,
was it family?

JACALYN SHARP: No, and I don't know the correct story. I've
been told different stories. The very first story
that I heard was that it was mistaken identity was
one of the stories I heard, and then another
story --

SHEILA MAZHARI: Which means they thought she was --

JACALYN SHARP: I guess that was the very first thing I ever
heard about what had happened was that it wasn't
supposed to be her. And then another story is that
she reached for a pack of cigarettes and this person -- she was at someone's, a man's house I guess, and she helped herself to cigarettes on the table and then that's what happened after that.

SHEILA MAZHARI: So you don't know if -- so there was never a police report?

JACALYN SHARP: There probably was, but I -- it wasn't something that was ever -- I ever even knew to look into or ask, it was just that was the only information I was given when I met, or when I talked to my mum, my adopted mum, was that and then that was it. That's as much information as I have for years and years.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And presently are you searching for a way to get that report?

JACALYN SHARP: Uh, I want to, I do. I want to know what happened.

SHEILA MAZHARI: When we go downstairs I'll direct you to the FILU.

JACALYN SHARP: Okay.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Because they're really good at --

JACALYN SHARP: Okay, finding that information, yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Guiding you through that process.

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah, totally. Because I don't know what happened. I just know that she was shot in the
face and she died a week later, and that they moved her from intensive care to like regular care I guess, and it was the blood poisoning or the bullet poisoning or whatever.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you know what hospital she was in?

JACALYN SHARP: No.

SHEILA MAZHARI: So do you think it would have been in Regina?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah, yeah. It happened in Regina.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Back to just one thing when you said you went back into foster care at age 11, what was the reason for that?

JACALYN SHARP: [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]

SHEILA MAZHARI: [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]?

JACALYN SHARP: [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]

SHEILA MAZHARI: [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55].

JACALYN SHARP: [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]

SHEILA MAZHARI: [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]?

JACALYN SHARP: [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]

SHEILA MAZHARI: And then when you got back in touch with your
same adopted mother, so you decided to go back with
them and --

JACALYN SHARP: I did, and then I was only there for maybe a
year, and then I left when I was 15.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Mm-hmm. And is your adoptive family
indigenous?

JACALYN SHARP: No, they're Scottish and English.

SHEILA MAZHARI: I just need some clarification.

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah. So, yeah, so I didn't ever have much
information and I felt -- I always was curious
about my family but I didn't quite know, I had lost
any kind of identity, I couldn't see it in myself
that I was native and what that even meant, I had
no idea what that even meant. But I wanted to find
my family, and so I think I was about 19 and I
started looking in the phone book for my family,
and I found my dad's family right away and found a
cousin or something through the phone book, and the
very next day they sent some -- and I had my son by
this time, I had four children.

SHEILA MAZHARI: How old were you when you had your first
child?

JACALYN SHARP: I was 17.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And then you had?

JACALYN SHARP: [Daughter 1]. [Son 1] is my oldest, [Son 1].
SHEILA MAZHARI: And that was at 17, right?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And then [Daughter 1] is my next oldest,

[Daughter 1], and she -- I was 19 when she was born,

and I placed [Daughter 1] for adoption. And then I have

[Daughter 2], and [Daughter 2] is 14. And then I

have my youngest son is named [Son 2], and

he's 9.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And they're with you as well?

JACALYN SHARP: No, no. The only one that I've raised is

[Daughter 2].

SHEILA MAZHARI: And how old were you when you had [Daughter 2]?

JACALYN SHARP: Twenty-nine.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And then [Son 2]?


SHEILA MAZHARI: And was it your choice to put them for

adoption?

JACALYN SHARP: Uh, yeah, all of them. It wasn't -- [Daughter 1] was

the only one that was adopted out, my son [Son 1] I

left when he was five, I left him with his dad.

And [Son 2], I gave him to his dad when he was two

months, and he was abusive, and he still has him.

SHEILA MAZHARI: He was abusive towards you or towards [Son 2] as

well?

JACALYN SHARP: No, towards me and [Daughter 2].
SHEILA MAZHARI: And did you ever file any charges against him?

JACALYN SHARP: No. I tried to get the police involved and social workers involved and they couldn't do anything.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Why did they say that they couldn't do anything?

JACALYN SHARP: Because the police, because he's his father and there was no legal documentation that I was the sole guardian, and so he had rights to him, to have him.

SHEILA MAZHARI: But what about the abuse towards you or [Daughter 2]?

JACALYN SHARP: There was never anything criminal about what he did.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Did you want to elaborate on that?

JACALYN SHARP: He didn't assault me.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Was it more like verbal and --

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah, yeah. Spiritual abuse, emotional abuse, mental abuse. And he controlled my relationship with [Daughter 2], he was trying to control [Daughter 2] and my parenting and -- and so social workers got involved and they said -- actually the hospital, I was having a mental breakdown and I called my adopted mum and she said, "Go to the hospital now." And so I went to the hospital with [Daughter 2] and [Son 2] and
[Son 2]’s dad, and the staff there recognized that there was potential for domestic violence.

And so then the ministry got involved, and what the ministry said was that when we're together it's a volatile situation and they talked about apprehending our kids, my kids, and -- but then when he took [Son 2] and I tried to go to them for help they said that it's only when we're together that this situation is dangerous. If we're separated everything's all good, there's nothing that they can do.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And what year did your break-down happen?
SHEILA MAZHARI: And what hospital did you go to?
JACALYN SHARP: Burnaby General.
SHEILA MAZHARI: And did you get the help you needed?
JACALYN SHARP: No. No, not at all.
SHEILA MAZHARI: What did they -- what didn't they help you with?
JACALYN SHARP: Well, I guess the hospital helped me, but social workers and like -- I don't know. I should have gone, I should have gone to a transition house and I would still have my son. I would have been able to -- I would have been able to hang on with support to my both my kids at the time.
SHEILA MAZHARI: You said transition house?

JACALYN SHARP: Or something, a shelter, something, instead of being alone at home with a newborn and an abusive father, two children. I couldn't, I just didn't have it in me, and so then in the end I told him to take -- I surrendered [Son 2] to him and I said, "Go, leave us alone." It seemed the safest thing to do to get balance again for [Daughter 2] and I was to just let him go. That's who his father wanted was his son. So he took him to Prince George the next day.

But he had taken him from me twice before that, ran away with him, took him from me twice already, once on the street in front of [Daughter 2], and then a second time he ran out of the house with him wrapped in a blanket into the night. And again the police couldn't do anything because that's his father and there's no legal -- anything saying that I have sole custody. He didn't do anything illegal by doing what he did.

SHEILA MAZHARI: I'm just going to take a break for a moment and tell them to keep it down.

[OFF-THE-RECORD DISCUSSION]

SHEILA MAZHARI: Sorry to interrupt you during that time. We were talking about your children. Do you want to go back into that and what happened with their
father -- well, your youngest's father?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, so in July of 2008 [Son 2] was two months old and I was breast-feeding him, and the relationship with his dad, it had been minimal I would say. It had only lasted -- the time period was short I would say, it was like a year, it was just before I got pregnant, the pregnancy and then the two months that I did have my son. And his dad never lived with me and he was not in my life for a big chunk of that time period, but when he was around it was pretty volatile.

And I remember the word that I suddenly had understood was oppression at the end of it after he had my son, had taken him, that was the word that became prominent in my mind was identifying what I had just experienced. Yeah, it was oppressive.

He's indigenous, his father, and he was super militant and he disliked white people a lot, and the fact I was adopted and had white friends was a trigger for him. Yeah, and he would tell me I was insane and that I was possessed, that I had bad medicine, spirits, all that bullshit. He would abuse our cat, our animal. He had isolated me.

And then my son was born and I never had the intention ever to keep him from his son, and so I
allowed him in. And I guess we tried to be a family for those two months that [Son 2] was -- after he was born. And in those two months I had a lot of breakdowns, and then he just devalued my parenting, my relationship with [Daughter 2], my ability to take care of both of our -- my children.

And we were on the street one time, we had gone to his place, his apartment downtown Vancouver, we had [Daughter 2] and [Son 2] and I think he had promised [Daughter 2] to go get an ice-cream or something, go to McDonald's or something like that. And so we were leaving the house and then something set him off, and he took that away, said no, and [Daughter 2] was four at the time. So then we were outside walking and we were fighting, and then I was holding -- I had the baby, I was holding the baby and the diaper bag, or he was holding the diaper bag, I don't know, and he took -- he grabbed [Son 2] from me and I was trying to hang onto him. And I didn't want to hurt [Son 2] so I remember hanging onto the diaper bag because that was the only thing I could hold onto tight. And again he just -- eventually I let [Son 2] go and I just stood there shocked. And [Daughter 2] was in the stroller and she watched the whole thing, and I looked at [Daughter 2]
and I was just like in shock that that had
happened. And [Daughter 2], I remember her, she was
four, looking at me and going, "We can't just let
him take him." And I was like, "Right, fuck."

And then there was a man sitting, he saw
everything, and he was on the phone. And so after
[Daughter 2] had said this to me I looked for help, and
that man was there and he had already called the
police. So the police came, and I have the police
report, and what that police-officer said to me was
there's nothing illegal about a father going for a
walk with his son. And that was -- what could I
do? How can that happen? That's not right but
it's legal.

SHEILA MAZHARI: When did this incident happen?

JACALYN SHARP: Uh, I think it was during the Festival of
Lights, I think that's where we were going because
it was evening.

SHEILA MAZHARI: So what month would that be approximately?

JACALYN SHARP: July.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And do you remember -- so he was two months,
so what year was that?

JACALYN SHARP: 2008. So the two times where he took him from
me happened within -- and when he finally left with
him, it all happened within like a short period of
time, like within a couple of weeks.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And do you have this police report?

JACALYN SHARP: Pretty sure, yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And so no charges, no nothing?

JACALYN SHARP: Nothing. Nothing. I had to go home all -- I

think -- how did it -- I don't remember what

happened next. Uh, the police came. Oh, he came

back, okay, that's what happened. The police came

and then his dad came back with him while the

police were there, and he gave me [Son 2] back, and

the police said, "Okay, you go home, you take your

kids and you go home," and told him to go somewhere

else, so that's what happened. So [Daughter 2] and I and
[Son 2] went home to my place and he came that night,

he had keys, he let himself in, came in, and that's

the second time he ran away with him, that night.

Came into our house, [Daughter 2] was asleep, and he took

him.

SHEILA MAZHARI: The police had told him not to come back or

they just --

JACALYN SHARP: I don't know, I don't think so.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Did you feel unsafe when he came back?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah, yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: For the reason he would take [Son 2]?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.
SHEILA MAZHARI: And then what happened?

JACALYN SHARP: And then he -- he came upstairs and [Daughter 2] was asleep, and I think I was in [Daughter 2] room and I think I was holding [Son 2] or [Son 2] was on the bed maybe. And he picked him up, was holding him. And I don't know what we talked about or what was said, I don't remember, and then he left, he ran away again, and I just sat there and let him. And then, uh, I called the police, the police came and they were -- it was a female officer, and I had his address but we didn't know where he was, and so that was what she was focussing on because she had wondered if it was an amber, to put out an amber alert, and they didn't.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Why not, because --

JACALYN SHARP: Because same thing legally.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Because it's his father, right?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah. And I didn't think [Son 2] was in danger. So they -- his dad had left his address book and so we started looking through that, and I just remember like just being completely in a fog and like looking in his address book and not -- nothing was registering. And so the police-officer took it from me and looked through it because there was a few people's names where I thought he might be,
where he might go, and so she was able to locate
him using this address book, he was at this
person's place.

And so then I think another police-officer
went to that address and talked to him, checked on
[Son 2], and then they reported back to the officer
that was with me and said that he's safe. And how
it was left was that he would come back in the
morning with [Son 2] and so -- yeah, I waited, I
waited till the morning.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Every night?

JACALYN SHARP: No, just that one night, yeah. So I waited
till the morning for him to come back and he came
back at like 8:00 a.m. or something. And he
started telling me how sick I was and that his
friends were really worried about the care that my
son was getting from me, you know, that I was
the -- I was the problem here.

And then I think [Daughter 2] had day camp and so
she got up, she had no idea what happened during
the night, she got up, took her to camp and -- and
then I think we spent about two days together
and -- and then we had gone to visit some of his
friends on Squamish or Tsleil-Waututh, he knew some
people who did ceremony there. And so we went over
there, and there was an elder and she did us a
ceremony, a smudging ceremony, a cleansing, a
brushing ceremony with all of us, and she prayed
and [Daughter 2] prayed and she cleaned us off with her
eagle fan, and then we left.

Oh, but his dad, I know when we came in and he
introduced me how he introduced me to them was
this -- who I am, and he said, "She's sick," that's
what he said to them. Anyways we did the ceremony
and then we left and we were in a cab on the way
home, this was on the north shore and I lived in
North Burnaby, so we were in a cab on the road on
the north shore, can't remember that main road by
the water, and he started getting into a fight with
the cab driver and the cab driver kicked us out of
the cab. And so we had to get out of the cab and
it was a really dark stretch of road. And then
luckily another cab came along right away and
picked us up and brought us home. And then I think
it was that night that I just gave in and I said,
"Take him." And he did, packed up all his little
things and he took him and left with him, and I
told him he was a piece of shit. He was gone. And
then the next day [Daughter 2] got up and her brother was
gone. And -- yeah. So -- and I think I tried
reaching out, I think -- I don't know if I talked
to the police or -- I had a counsellor at the time,
an art therapist who I had been seeing for -- she
was like a survivors of violence counsellor and I
had been seeing her for a couple of years. And so
she was one person that was supporting me and then
I reached out to the social worker who had gotten
involved with us after I had gone to the Burnaby
General, and same thing, said, "At this point
there's no reason for us to step in." And somehow
I found out that he had gone to Prince George like
the morning -- the morning after, in that morning,
early morning he left with my son to Prince George
and he's still in Prince George. And I started
seeing a reproductive psychiatrist at Burnaby
General and I saw her for a year.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And what does it mean to be like a
reproductive psychiatrist, she helps with --

JACALYN SHARP: I think women who have experienced post-partum
depression I guess was -- I had experienced that,
and so I guess that's how I was able to get in to
see her.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And is that what he was referring to when he
was calling you sick?

JACALYN SHARP: No, he was trying to, uh, almost like
indoctrinate me with whatever he believes about
native people and our spirituality and the church,
because my family was -- my adoptive family is
Catholic, and it's really twisted what he believes
and how he viewed me through my association through
my adoption and my influences and stuff, so he was
saying I was mentally -- you know, I had been
conditioned. And then spiritually I guess he was
trying to tell me that I had done -- that there was
things I should be ashamed of basically was what --
yeah, there was a lot of that shaming. Yeah. Uh,
and so I went to my counsellor, she got me to call
the legal line or whatever, legal aid line I guess.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Is this the psychiatrist or a different
counsellor?

JACALYN SHARP: The counsellor, the art therapist. And that
was the first kind of step I was able to take to
try and have access to my son. And the
psychiatrist, I saw her for a year and I didn't
like her much but I went to her because I wanted it
sort of on record that I wasn't crazy, and if it
did go to court that I would have this person's
medical opinion, someone's opinion who mattered in
the courts.

SHEILA MAZHARI: So all this time were you -- you were still
denied access to [Son 2]?  

JACALYN SHARP: I hadn't tried to gain it, yeah. I was sort of -- the first time I saw my son again was when he was -- before he turned two, maybe eighteen months, I don't remember exactly.

SHEILA MAZHARI: So that was in year --  

JACALYN SHARP: 2010 I guess. Yeah. Near the end of 2009, because it was winter the first time I saw him, I got to see him. And so I got legal aid but it was really confusing, I didn't -- I think, yeah, I just didn't understand legal aid and lawyers and what -- and because [Son 2] was in Prince George everything had to go through there, all of the documents, all the filing, all of the legal stuff had to be done there, court had to happen there, so -- yeah, I just -- I remember being really confused about that whole process, understanding what the lawyers, what they could do, what I was even trying to do, how do I do it from here. And -- but eventually I went there and we went to court, and so somehow I had no lawyer in the end.

SHEILA MAZHARI: You had no lawyer?  

JACALYN SHARP: I had no lawyer because I had thought my friends were trying to help and trying to find me a lawyer that they recommended, and somewhere in
there I got confused with the lawyer I was assigned
and the lawyer that they were recommending, and I
thought he was taking my case on, and so I told
this lawyer who had been given to me through legal
aid that I didn't need her any more. And then this
lawyer couldn't take me so I had no lawyer and I
couldn't go back to legal aid, so I had no lawyer
the first time I went to court.

But in the meantime my lawyer when I did have
a lawyer had managed to file some documents, so
that was good. So I got to court and the judge
ordered a visit that afternoon and so I got to see
my son, and I stayed in transition houses, that's
when I would go to Prince George that's where I
stayed.

SHEILA MAZHARI: With your daughter?

JACALYN SHARP: The first time I went alone. I went a few
times, but I did go with my daughter once. And
yeah, I think I saw my son three times, three, four
times. And they were court ordered and we had a
family -- I don't know what it's called, a
family -- where you meet, it's outside of court and
you meet with a judge.

SHEILA MAZHARI: I don't know.

JACALYN SHARP: No, it's like a consultation.
SHEILA MAZHARI: Mediation?

JACALYN SHARP: Not quite mediation, but nothing legal is determined, it's just a discussion basically. So my daughter came for that one. And yeah, the judge was really good to me, I think he was really sympathetic to me, I felt that from him.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And this was a judge in?

JACALYN SHARP: Prince George, yeah. Gray, Judge Gray.

SHEILA MAZHARI: G-R?

JACALYN SHARP: A-Y. And he gave me a lot of space to speak, because I didn't know what I was doing, I didn't know what was legal, I don't know what information is relevant, so I was just speaking and he listened.

And what I did learn was the main thing is having access to my son, that was -- the lawyer, that was all the lawyer focused on, there was no like story telling, it was just very black and white as far as like what her objective was, what her role in this whole thing was was just to have access to my son. And the abuse, the story, what led up to it, like none of that had any -- at that point anyways it had no relevancy I guess, the whole objective was just for me to have visitation. And so that happened a few times.
And then the judge, the last thing the judge had ordered was phone visitation, he was trying to -- because we lived in different cities he was trying to establish a regular visitation pattern, regular contact, but [Son 2] was not even two years so it was really difficult. And so the judge said by telephone, arrange it by telephone, and so that's what we started doing. And it was really awkward because [Son 2] didn't want to be on the phone, and I know a few times I called, several times that I called his dad would say he's sleeping, and so eventually I just stopped, that was the end of it when I stopped trying to have access to him.

SHEILA MAZHARI: So it was never part of the deal for them to bring [Son 2] to you?

JACALYN SHARP: No. And that's when that access ended was the telephone, and then I didn't go to court, I didn't -- I just left it. And then when I came to your place that day -- so one of the visitations were supervised because his dad had said that I was at risk of running away with him and so -- which was fine with me, I wanted them supervised as well to have it documented.

But the visits were supervised, and so one of the agencies that had done the supervised visit,
Kikino, they out of the blue called me like six years later, and I got this phone call at home and she told me she was from Kikino and I know it's about my son, it's the only reason for them to contact me and I had maintained my contact information so that they could contact me. And they did, and they said, "Do you know about this letter your son's father's written?" And I said no, so she said, "Well, let me read it to you." And it was like this two-page written story that his dad had typed out and was circulating in the community. And what it was was a campaign, a bike ride campaign in search of [Daughter 2], and he had -- so what was in this written story that he's circulating is the story about how [Son 2] had come to him and talked about his sister, and his dad said, "Well, son, how are we going to find your sister?" And then [Son 2] says, "We'll go on a bike ride, dad." And then his dad said, "Okay, son, let's go find your sister." And then he started this fucking public campaign, and there's pictures of my son holding those like coloured poster boards in search of [Daughter 2].

And so he went public, he was trying to raise funds, he had contacted media, he was on Facebook,
he was getting attention, and so Kikino contacted me and said, "This is what's happening and he's planning to leave on a search day and travel by bike with" -- how old was [Son 2], he's nine, six, seven. And I mean realistically it would never happen, but the fact that that's what he -- he could even suggest that or think that that's possible to do. So I contacted -- oh, he had tried contacting me once before this in search of [Daughter 2] stuff another time, the very first time that he tried to make contact with us again was a few months before this in search of [Daughter 2] campaign. My son was receiving -- he was doing an assessment at Children's Hospital in the psychiatric, an in-patient psychiatric assessment, and so his dad had called my brother at my brother -- my adopted brother is a doctor, a family physician, and he contacted my brother at his clinic to let him know they were in town, the phone number where they were staying and the reason that they were here, and so I got upset and told my brother, "Don't tell him anything, don't say anything, don't give him any information." And I said, "I'm not contacting him." And then my brother said, "That's fine, up to you." And so
what I did was I contacted the hospital, contacted
the social worker, and I gave them my history with
this person, how he got to have my son, a little
bit of background hoping that that would -- they
need that part of the picture when it comes to
assessing my son, and I don't know the results of
that assessment, I don't know what the treatment
is, I don't know if he's on medication, I don't
know if he's getting support, I don't know what's
going on for them. But his behaviour was serious
enough that, you know, he's doing these assessments
at B.C. Children's.

And so then that sort of fizzled out and then
a couple of months later Kikino called me and told
me about this in search of [Daughter 2] campaign. And so
again I think I contacted the hospital and I was
like this is what he's doing now with my son, what
he's proposing, you need to know that, you know.
And I called the police and -- because the day, it
was like the day before he was supposed to leave,
and I contacted the police and I was like my -- I
also went to legal aid, I wasn't eligible for legal
aid in this situation, because I wanted a no
contact order because I didn't want him contacting
[Daughter 2]. [Daughter 2] was my concern. He wasn't focused
on me, he was using [Daughter 2] as an excuse to be crazy.

SHEILA MAZHARI: So why couldn't you get help from legal aid for that?

JACALYN SHARP: Because there's an interim order in place saying I have access to my son, and I guess -- I don't know, that's all I remember that legally things are already in place and this didn't qualify. So I didn't have -- I couldn't get a no contact order so I called the police. The guy, the police-officer was really helpful, he was an RCMP officer, he came in. I explained the situation, he said same with like -- much like the officer who when he took him from me on the street, almost exact same words, legally a father can go for a bike ride with his son. And he was -- he goes, this is where he was helpful, he said, "But here's where it gets illegal. The second he goes on the highway and puts that child at risk, that's it."

So I said, "Okay, I understand now at what point it gets -- it escalates," right? Up until here it was just a sort of this weird fantasy, but as soon as he gets on that highway the ministry -- and I talked to the ministry involved with him too, the social workers, and they said, "We're well aware of
the situation and we have people watching to see
what happens, what he's going to do, and we'll step
in."

So -- so Kikino, the person at Kikino had put
me on this Facebook page, this Prince George
Facebook page where -- a public page where he was
promoting and talking about this stuff, and I put
it under a different name, I opened up an account
under a different name, and I was reading
everything that he was saying, writing. And that's
where I found out the next -- it was the next
morning he was supposed to leave and I had media
too, I remember I called the media guy, some media
guy, radio station or something, and I was like,
"Do you know who this guy is? Do you know what
he's done?" And the guy was like, "Holy shit,
yeah, no, I didn't know. There's no way we'll
cover that."

SHEILA MAZHARI: Was that in Vancouver or Prince George?
JACALYN SHARP: Prince George. So I said, "Good. Yeah, don't
give this guy any air time." And so I was on this
Facebook page, this public Prince George Facebook
page of some sort and he was giving his updates on
there, so it was the next -- oh, that night one of
his updates was like we're ready, blah blah, and I
was like -- and I freaked out, I was like, "He's fucking doing it, he's fucking doing it." And I freaked out and I was just upset, and I called Veronica and -- another friend of mine dropped me off, brought me to Veronica's place and I just was like distraught that he couldn't be stopped. That was the biggest thing was like I can't believe he can do this and not be stopped, how can he -- how is it even possible but -- so then, yeah, I hung out with Veronica that night and I went home, and then it was in the morning time he wrote a post, and I guess somebody had come to him and said don't do this, someone that he respected, and so he didn't do it, and it was just like this huge relief. And that was the end of it, and that's the last I've heard anything from them about them and that was a couple of years ago, few years ago. I [line redacted pursuant to Rule 55], three, four years ago that happened.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And what year was [Son 2] assessed psychiatrically?

JACALYN SHARP: Probably -- 18 -- 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. Yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: 2015?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.
SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you know what month approximately?

JACALYN SHARP: Uh, it was summertime, yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And how do you spell Kikino?

JACALYN SHARP: K-I-K-I-N-O.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And so they're an organization?

JACALYN SHARP: They're a Metis child and family service provider.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And here in Vancouver?

JACALYN SHARP: In Prince George.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Oh, okay.

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Okay.

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah, I don't know where to go from there.

SHEILA MAZHARI: So you haven't seen [Son 2] since?

JACALYN SHARP: Since he was two, yeah, May. Just after he turned two.

SHEILA MAZHARI: So you didn't even see him that time when he was nine and he came, he did that?

JACALYN SHARP: No.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And his assessment was the B.C. Children's Hospital --

JACALYN SHARP: In-patient psychiatric.

SHEILA MAZHARI: In Prince George?

JACALYN SHARP: In Vancouver.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Okay, that's what I thought. Do you know
anything about your other children that are --

JACALYN SHARP: My son, my oldest son [Son 1] is 25 and my
daughter [Daughter 1] is 23 I think. Uh, anyways my son
[Son 1], I left him when he was five with his father
and I was drinking at the time and just like
becoming an adult, and I had a five-year-old son
and socializing made my life go out of control, and
I just felt really guilty parenting that way. So
out of the guilt I made the choice to leave him
with his father and I left him with his dad, and so
his dad raised him from five years old on, and then
I didn't see [Son 1] until he was 18 again. And
now he's -- yeah, 25, so we've had a relationship
for seven, eight years. He's doing good, he's
doing good, he's married.

And my daughter [Daughter 1] placed for adoption
when she was a baby, and she was adopted out into
Yellow Knife to a family there, and so she is --
she's doing really well. She and I have a really
good relationship. Yeah. So I talk to her, we
have pretty regular contact, [Daughter 1] and I, and she
and [Daughter 2] are really close, yeah. So I'm really
blest in that way to have relationships with my
older children, very, very blest.

SHEILA MAZHARI: So are you doing anything legally now to get
more access to [Son 2] or it's the same story?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah. Yeah, I just feel defeated, and like his
dad seems -- like I've made him out -- the
experience that I had was so devastating that when
I think about trying to tackle that again I just
remember all the defeat that I felt the first time
around, how alone and like confused and I didn't --
it was so slow too, the legal system, like my --
I've never had to encounter it. And so, yeah, and
the lawyers and it just is so -- I don't know, it's
an area that I don't understand, and so to try and
do that and then face this person who in my mind is
like this mean, ugly dude, yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And they never took into consideration that he
needed psychiatric assessment in his life at a
young age like obviously something at home or --

JACALYN SHARP: Totally right, yeah, for sure. I don't know --
the social worker, their social worker, she
basically -- she consulted with the doctor who was
assessing my son and called me back after listening
to the story and then relaying the story to the
doctor. The doctor basically said at this time she
doesn't recommend access because it would add to
[Son 2]’s behavioural issues and emotional, they just
wanted to -- at least when they were here doing the
JACALYN SHARP: I don't know, uh, I don't know. I don't know what happened, I don't know. Yeah, I mean I've gone on his Facebook a couple of times, I know he still has him. I don't know what the involvement the ministry is or doctors, I don't know any of his health, what's going on with him medically. I could probably find out, I think those are my rights, to have that information. And that was why I felt pretty confident talking to the hospital. I have some awareness of what my rights are, it's just acting and asserting those, that's hard sometimes. Yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And how about mental support now, do you have supports that you can access and rely on?

JACALYN SHARP: I do. I'm pretty resourceful, yeah. I mean if I want to, I feel I need it, yeah, I know where to go, I know who to talk to and how to get it and -- yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And did you ever talk to somebody about the circumstances around your mum's death because you couldn't get help at that time?
JACALYN SHARP: No. No. Uh, yeah, no. I just asked family. Again because I was in Regina in my mind I think it's in Saskatchewan that all that information is, and so I feel like I have to be there physically to access it. However you do that I don't know.

SHEILA MAZHARI: But even independent of the information surrounding it, just the grief of losing her, because you said when you were 14, right?

JACALYN SHARP: Yes, 13, 14.

SHEILA MAZHARI: You didn't have any supports to guide you through that. Did you ever find that later in life?

JACALYN SHARP: Uh, well, yeah, yeah. Yeah, I did.

SHEILA MAZHARI: So you brought it up with different counsellors?

JACALYN SHARP: An elder, yeah. Yeah. I brought it up with an elder.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Was it helpful?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah, yeah. Yeah. Huge. And now I have like -- yeah, I have a relationship with my mother, like and my father. You know, my father just passed away too. But I have a relationship with my parents. Like when they were alive or, you know, I couldn't have, but somehow now I have that relationship with them, and I feel them, I talk to
them. I talk to them about their children and
their grandchildren and -- yeah, and ask them for
guidance and help and -- you know.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And so when did you get contact again with
your biological father?

JACALYN SHARP: Uh, well, so when I was 19 and I found him in
the phone book, his family in the phone book, they
came and got me the very next day to take me out to
the reserve, and my son, at the time I still had my
oldest son [Son 1] with me, and so it was [Son 1]
and I, they came and picked us up and took us out
to the reserve, and I met my dad for the first
time. And it was a wake, and so I knew my dad then
for a few years, and we visited and I met my
mother's mother, I showed up on her doorstep. My
dad gave me the address and so I showed up on her
doorstep in Regina, and I knocked on the door and
her partner Mickey answered the door and I was
like, "Hi, I'm Jacalyn, I'm Big Eyes's daughter."
And so he was like oh, told me to come in, and then
my grandmother came out, Emma. She came out and
that was the first time I saw my face was in my
grandmother, I was like whoa, cool. And she had
black -- I think she had been in the shower and
just washed her hair, because her hair -- she
always had a perm so her hair was curly and it was
jet black, and it looked wet.

And yeah, so I met her, I only met her that
one time, and then she gave me -- we didn't talk --
we talked about my mum but we didn't talk about her
death at all. But she gave me her obituary and her
only photograph that she has. Because I don't
know, this seems like so cliche but there was a
fire, all the photos burned or something, so this
was what she had left and she gave it to me. And
so I still have those, those things. And that was
the first real physical piece of my mother that I
had was this photograph of her. And on the
obituary it has the date and everything, but I
actually gave the obituary to another friend of
mine for safekeeping, so that's why I don't have
the dates in my head.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Did it mention anything in the obituary how
she died or --

JACALYN SHARP: No.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Just that she passed away?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah. And it mentioned her children, yeah,
yeah. Yeah, so I met my grandma and she gave me
these things, and at the time I was having contact
with my father, [one line redacted – Rule 55]
then I stopped contact because it was just way too far out of my comfort zone. So -- no, catch you later.

And so that was, I don't know, in my early 20's and that was the last time I saw my dad. And then I didn't see -- I went on Facebook like a few years ago and pretty easy to find family there, and so I was about my mum, I was trying to find people because I wanted to find out about my mum finally, and so I found -- was told try contact these people, they're your relatives, and so that's kind of how it started. I just started messaging people, introducing myself, letting them know who my parents were and hoping that they could tell me something about my family.

And then I got a hold of a cousin eventually who was taking care of my dad financially. She was talking care of his finances, and kind of his care giver, his guardian I guess or something like that, and so she told -- she kind of updated me about my dad, and this was two years ago, she gave me an update. My dad had had several strokes and my dad [one line redacted pursuant to Rule 55], so -- and as far as I know he lived
on the res and -- between Regina and the res, and
that was about it. Uh, but he had had some strokes
and was now in a care home being provided 24-7
care. And then not long after that he had some
medical issues start happening, I think he had had
another stroke and so my cousin called me and was
like here's, you know, here's what's going on with
your dad, and I was like okay, thank you. And she
asked -- she was taking care of my dad's finances,
so she asked my dad if it would be okay to fly me
and [Daughter 2] to Regina, and he said yes. He couldn't
speak but he said yes. Uh, and so my dad paid for
two tickets for [Daughter 2] and I to go see him, and we
went and saw him and he was in the hospital in
Kamsack. And then because of his medical issues
and because I had just been reunited with my father
I couldn't leave, I couldn't leave him, so I stayed
for three months. And [Daughter 2] went and stayed with
another friend of mine for those three months while
I was with my dad, and I stayed in the hospital
room with my dad beside his bed and slept there for
three months with him. So I got to spend a lot of
time. Yeah. And because of his strokes he
couldn't speak, and so it was just silence
basically and a lot of expression and smiling and
laughing and -- yeah, there was a lot of
communication. Yeah. Uh, and that was in October
of 2016 that I saw him again.

And then he stabilized after about three
months and [line redacted pursuant to Rule 55],
and then in September -- no, August 2017 my
cousin -- I waited for that call, my cousin called
and said, "He's taken a turn, I think you should
come." And so I went and -- yeah, and then I was
there for about a month and he passed away
September 1st. I got -- because of my dad I got to
meet my family, I got to meet my mother's family, I
got to spend time at home, I got to meet my
relatives, [Daughter 2] got to meet her grandfather, and
I got to meet my mum's -- my mum's family and talk
to them about her and ask them about her, what
happened, what do you know.

And my grandparents, after my dad passed away
and we were leaving, [Daughter 2] and I were flying out
of Regina, my grandparents drove us to Regina to
take us to the airport, and I asked them if we
could go to my mother's grave and so we did, they
took us there. And my mother's grave is unmarked,
and -- but she has a huge blue spruce tree, it's
like at the foot of her plot, and yeah, so we --
when I did go there I gave some tobacco and I said
some prayers and put the tobacco under that tree
because that's where my mother is and she's a part
of that tree now. And then [Daughter 2] and I each took
a pine cone or spruce cone from the tree and
brought it with us home. Yeah, so I don't know if
anyone goes to see my mum, I don't know, I don't
know who -- who feels attached to her still, I'm
not sure.

My auntie, I met an aunt, I met two of my
mother's sisters. My one auntie, because there's
like no pictures of my mum, and my one auntie I got
introduced to her and then I ran into her another
time at a dinner, and she said, "Oh, I have a
picture of your mum with me." And so she opened up
her address book and there was this beautiful
photograph of my mum. It was like she looked
stunning in this picture, and my mum was 29 when
she died, so in this pictures she was, you know, in
her 20's for sure and she was beautiful. And I
could tell -- I was holding this photograph like,
and I could tell my auntie was like torn between
giving it to me and keeping it, and so I said,
"I'll just take a picture of it, you can keep it."
So I have printed those pictures from that picture
I took of it, but...

SHEILA MAZHARI: Is that also something you would want to attach to your statement?

JACALYN SHARP: A picture of my mum? Yeah, a copy. Yeah, definitely, yeah. Yeah. And so my sister [T.], my older sister, she, uh -- the first -- when my dad was stable and I left Regina the first time I got to see my sister for the first time in twenty years for about six hours before my flight left, so we got to hang out, reunite for about six hours, and I showed her a picture of my mum, not the one that my auntie gave me but the one that my grandma gave me, I had that with me and I showed her and my -- this was like a year ago, a year and a half ago, and my sister's two years older than me so that was the first time she had ever seen a picture of her mother was the one I had. She's never seen a picture of her, and I was like shocked because I've had that for so long now, and then I know what she looks like. And I didn't know, I didn't know that [T.] didn't know what she looked like. So yeah, that was pretty big. Yeah.

[Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
[Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
[Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
SHEILA MAZHARI:  In B.C.?

JACALYN SHARP:  In Alberta.  And they even offered to put me through to her.  No, not right now.  I just wanted to make sure she was okay, and that's what it was.  There is nobody had heard from her and so it was, you know, there's possibilities, there's always that possibility that maybe she wasn't alive.

SHEILA MAZHARI:  Did they communicate your dad's passing to her?

JACALYN SHARP:  Well, that's why I said I was calling and that I was trying to track her down.

SHEILA MAZHARI:  And they just relayed that to her?

JACALYN SHARP:  I think they did, but then again through Facebook I was able to get a hold of her daughter, who I've never talked to before, but I found her and I said who I was, and I said, "Here's what's happened."  Because I know [R.] loves our dad a lot, both of my sisters love our dad a huge amount, and
so, yeah, it was through her daughter that I was able to pass on the news about our father.

SHEILA MAZHARI: [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]

JACALYN SHARP: [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55].

SHEILA MAZHARI: And what's the name of the reservation that your dad --

JACALYN SHARP: He's from Cote.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Oh, Cote. Right, okay.

JACALYN SHARP: Cote First Nation.

SHEILA MAZHARI: In Saskatchewan?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And how about did you know any other family members or friends that had been missing or murdered?

JACALYN SHARP: Uh, yeah, yeah. Yeah. Yeah, I had a friend contact me saying she was looking for her niece, and so then I put it out there, and then within an hour she replied back saying that they had found her and that she had been killed. Yeah. And then another time -- it's just putting that word out there, people coming and saying this person's missing, we haven't seen her, can you put the word out, can you talk to people, who do we talk to, things like that, asking what do we do, who do we
talk to, what about this. How do we find them.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Did you want to say her niece's name?

JACALYN SHARP: No.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Was she young?

JACALYN SHARP: She was a mother of six I think, seven.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you know what year it was that --

JACALYN SHARP: It was just a few years ago, yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And was that in Vancouver?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And did they ever charge the person responsible?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: No one else in your family?

JACALYN SHARP: Uh, my auntie told me something about another sister, something about another sister.

SHEILA MAZHARI: One of her sisters?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah, so one of my -- I'm not sure if it's my mum's sister or just my auntie's sister through maybe her -- a different part of her family, but she talked about it, about that also when she was talking to me about my mum, she brought that up also.

SHEILA MAZHARI: That she was also murdered?

JACALYN SHARP: That it was suspicious how her sister had died.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you know any other details surrounding
that?

JACALYN SHARP: No.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And that was in Saskatchewan?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah. Yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Why do you think so many aboriginal women are put in that position?

JACALYN SHARP: I think trauma, uh, I think that what we've learned.

SHEILA MAZHARI: About?

JACALYN SHARP: How we've learned to interact and get our needs met. For me it wasn't -- I didn't understand what healthy was, what appropriate was, inappropriate. I didn't have that awareness to be careful, when to trust myself, when to -- so I was just -- yeah, I put myself out at risk often.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Did you ever talk to family, help teach you those things as well, or how did you change your attitudes towards them?

JACALYN SHARP: Uh, I learned the hard way. Yeah, I always -- someone was telling me a story the other day about getting a transit ticket, a grown woman, you know, 50 years old, but got nailed with a transit $170 fine. And she, you know, was honest and said, "You know, I was trying to be sneaky but I got caught."

And it was kind of like that, you know, I've gotten
caught and I've learned through that, those lessons. Some lessons I repeated, you know, several times, needed repeating several times. But yeah, I think I learn quicker now and I want -- I've had examples in my life, I've had spiritual teachers also come in and heal a lot of stuff that I didn't know, had no idea could be healed, and so a lot of that hurt and pain was removed from me, and so I was able to kind of feel me genuinely, who I am, without the conditioning, without -- it was just unconditional, I was shown unconditional love. And I know what that feels like and I know it's possible, and I know that I have it.

And that's kind of what it's about when it comes to, you know, family, dealing with stuff, relationships now. All of that's really important to me and that's what keeps me going to always trying to grow and be better and -- for my kids, for my grandchildren that aren't here yet, totally I think what I'd do for myself, I think it helps them, I know it helps them, I know it helps my children, and I know my children will have children and that they'll have nieces and nephews who they'll impart that peace and that calm and that experience of healing and love that is possible.
Yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Thanks. I'll let you drink your water, I want to ask you something. I'd like to know your insight on how you think we can keep children out of foster care or put them -- like what's the root issue that needs to be healed so so many children don't end up in care?

JACALYN SHARP: Old people.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Older people?

JACALYN SHARP: Having those generations of people, because there's so much wisdom and experience and like recovery and like getting through it and knowing what matters with old people, like that's the bottom line with them. And so I think for young people it's tumultuous, that's how I remember my childhood was just -- and my teenage years and making decisions with that turmoil in your life. And for me I didn't have many other trusting influences. And then I had one and that was -- that changed everything for me having that older person come into my life and just take me under their wing and believe in me and open my eyes up to things that weren't just in front of me, my schoolwork or teachers or a boyfriend or not handing this assignment in or whatever craziness is
going on in the immediate circumstances. She
broadened my horizons, and I think that that still,
that's what my aunties and my grandmothers do
just -- and my parents, my father, how they've
gotten through it and in the end the reinforcing,
loving ourselves for sure, I think that's the
message that I don't ever remember hearing ever
until I met this one person, and she was a teacher.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And how did you meet this elder?

JACALYN SHARP: She wasn't an elder, she was just like a young
woman in her 30's, and she -- it was through my
adopted mum when I was 15, she needed a resource to
help manage me I guess. I was becoming
unmanageable, and so she founds a service in the
community and then that's how we got hooked up, and
then she -- this woman just -- we really connected
and so then it became a lifelong relationship and
she got me through school, that one person got me
through high school.

SHEILA MAZHARI: So she was like a mentor?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Was she indigenous herself?

JACALYN SHARP: No. No. No.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And so she just helped you with those skills
of learning?
JACALYN SHARP: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. And to see myself, see areas of myself that I didn't know existed. Someone telling me, you know, that -- it started with my writing, her taking an interest in my writing, and that's what sparked that like awareness of my gifts was that, someone looking at them and -- yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: So she wasn't a teacher at your school?

JACALYN SHARP: No, she was just a teacher, that was her occupation.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And what was the organization she was a part of, do you remember?

JACALYN SHARP: I don't know, social services of some kind, yeah. She was like a parent helper or -- kind of like a big sister type of thing.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And did anybody in your family go to residential school?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah, my father, my auntie, my uncle.

SHEILA MAZHARI: On your father's side?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah. My grandparents.

SHEILA MAZHARI: On his side still?

JACALYN SHARP: On my mother's. I was told my mother went. Yeah, lots of people.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you know which school?

JACALYN SHARP: I think it was St. Phillip's I heard that one a
I'm not sure if that's the one everybody went to, all of those people, but I think that's the one that was most common in that area.

SHEILA MAZHARI: In Saskatchewan?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And so S-T dot?

JACALYN SHARP: Phillip's.

SHEILA MAZHARI: P-H-I-L-L-I-P-S?

JACALYN SHARP: Yeah. Yeah.

SHEILA MAZHARI: You've shared a lot.

JACALYN SHARP: Thank you.

SHEILA MAZHARI: And I just wanted to give you the opportunity if you think of anything else you want to share, or if you have any suggestions or recommendations for the inquiry or commissioners.

JACALYN SHARP: I think it's hard to express to people, uh, in -- [line redacted pursuant to Rule 55] [line redacted pursuant to Rule 55] too, is that that comprehension of the extremes of what colonization has done and getting that across. Because it's a big thing to get across. And so this piece of art that I made, a memorial T-shirt for my mum, it was at the time I was creating this that I realized the magnitude of that, you know, this time period, how it's shaken us up, because my
mother -- so it's a turtle, and then there's -- the
four legs of the turtle are my mother's children
and then there's 13 purple flowers that are my
mother's grandchildren, and then there's seven
great-grandchildren now, and then -- and that's
only my sister's. Because we don't know my brother
there could be more, there probably are more, but
that's all that I know of. And so all of those
people are represented in this piece of art.

And then there's some words, words about my
mum on the T-shirt as well. Uh, but as I was
making this T-shirt for one woman there's like 27
people who have been impacted by this one woman,
and that the multiplication is like -- it just hit
me when I was making that T-shirt how the number of
people just from that one woman, and there's so
many women who lost children, and their children
have had children. And it devastated our family
and those relationships and those ties to one
another and our wellness and our health and our
ability to connect and have relationships. And
some are doing well and some -- some have more
struggles.

But yeah, I think that's what the piece of art
does is it just gives a visual for people to -- you
know, because I can't tell this story all the time, right? And so that piece of art just very quickly to demonstrate to people, this is the devastation, an example of one, one person's offspring and what happened.

SHEILA MAZHARI: So do you think we need more educational tools like art that show, depict --


SHEILA MAZHARI: Anything else you can think of?

JACALYN SHARP: No.

SHEILA MAZHARI: Okay. Thank you so much for sharing.

JACALYN SHARP: Thank you. Thank you.

(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED 12:07 p.m.)
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Andrzej Kabata, Official Reporter in the Province of British Columbia, Canada, BCSRA No. 368, do 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.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and seal this 8th of May, 2018.

Official Reporter

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