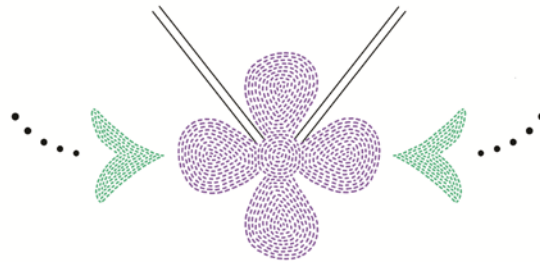


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Sheraton Airport Hotel
Metro Vancouver (Richmond), BC**



PUBLIC

Sunday April 8, 2018

Statement - Volume 389

**Jacalyn 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."

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Reporter's Certification 58

Statement gatherer: Sheila Mazhari

Documents submitted with testimony: none.

Statement - Public
Jacalyn Sharp
(Florence Quewezance)

1

Richmond, B.C.

1

2

8 April 2018, 10:05 a.m.

3

SHEILA MAZHARI: So good morning, my name is Sheila Mazhari

4

here statement gathering with the National Inquiry

5

into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and

6

Girls. Today is April 8th 2018, we're at the

7

Hilton Hotel in room 209 in Richmond, B.C., here to

8

receive the testimony of Jacalyn Sharp, and also

9

joined with us is?

10

VERONICA IZA: Veronica Iza, support.

11

SHEILA MAZHARI: Perfect. And I'm just going to read the

12

consent for public statement, so, "The information

13

you share will normally be shared firstly with the

14

governments and the other parties with standing at

15

the inquiry. The parties with standing include

16

such organizations as the Native Women's

17

Association of Canada, Police Services, Assembly of

18

First Nations and many others including some

19

individual First Nations; however, all of these

20

governments and organizations are required to sign

21

confidentiality agreements and are legally bound

22

not to share the information or details you or

23

others speaking to the National Inquiry provide.

24

If your statement is considered public or is given

25

in a public forum, your full name and transcript of

Statement - Public
Jacalyn Sharp
(Florence Quewezance)

2

1 everything you have said on audio and videotape
2 will be transcribed into a statement, which is
3 legally required to be provided to the governments
4 and the parties with standing. A public statement
5 can also be used to write public reports, prepare
6 educational materials, support research or question
7 witnesses such as police witnesses." So, Jacalyn,
8 what have you chosen for your consent?

9 JACALYN SHARP: Public consent.

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

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

13 SHEILA MAZHARI: Yeah.

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

17 SHEILA MAZHARI: Can you spell both?

18 JACALYN SHARP: Both? Okay.

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

20 JACALYN SHARP: Okay. So my adopted name is Jacalyn Sharp,
21 J-A-C-A-L-Y-N S-H-A-R-P, and my given name is
22 Jacqueline Quewezance, it's J-A-C-Q-U-E-L-I-N-E,
23 Quewezance is Q-U-E-W-E-Z-A-N-C-E. And I come
24 from -- my mother is registered with Keeseekoose
25 First Nation, K-E-E-S-E-E-K-O-O-S-E, and my father

Statement - Public
Jacalyn Sharp
(Florence Quewezance)

3

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

2 SHEILA MAZHARI: And are they both in Saskatchewan?

3 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

4 SHEILA MAZHARI: How about your birthday?

5 JACALYN SHARP: My birthday is [birthdate]. So I guess

6 I'm here to make a statement for my mum. My

7 mother's name is Florence Quewezance, and I have to

8 spell that. F-L-O-R-E-N-C-E Q-U-E-W-E-Z-A-N-C-E.

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

10 JACALYN SHARP: I don't know her date of birth. And her

11 nickname is Big Eyes. So I was -- I was adopted

12 when I was three. I have three siblings, [T.] and [R.],

13 and a brother, [N.]. Uh, so these are

14 my mother's four children. And, uh, we were all

15 adopted out, uh, so we were part of the scoop I

16 guess, the adoption era that happened.

17 SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you remember what year that was?

18 JACALYN SHARP: I was born in '73 and so I think I was adopted

19 in -- I was adopted when I was three, so '76 '77,

20 just before I turned four.

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

22 were all adopted?

23 JACALYN SHARP: No, it all happened -- it all happened at

24 different periods, and I don't know the exact time

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4

1 frame when things happened. My sisters were
2 adopted together and they were adopted first, and I
3 think what I was told when I was adopted the
4 information I have is that my brother and I were
5 still in our parents' care, and then we were -- I
6 was apprehended and then I was placed for adoption
7 and then my brother I guess was the last one to be
8 apprehended and placed for adoption.

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

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

25 SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you know who it was that found you?

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5

1 JACALYN SHARP: No. No. Uh, and so we were all adopted out,
2 and the family that I was adopted to, my sisters
3 were adopted into Regina, a family in Regina, and
4 they were placed together. I think their parents
5 told me that when -- when they adopted them they
6 knew about the other two siblings, their siblings,
7 and that they had wanted to adopt those siblings
8 also, but that didn't happen. They never knew --
9 they never knew that we had been adopted out I
10 guess.

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

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6

1 and my sister [T.] is two years older than me
2 so she's 46.

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

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Jacalyn Sharp
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7

1 knew -- I had that information, and it had happened
2 two years before so I was 13 at the time, and uh...

3 SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you remember what year that was?

4 JACALYN SHARP: Thirteen.

5 SHEILA MAZHARI: '86, 1986?

6 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

7 SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you remember the month or the day?

8 JACALYN SHARP: That I found -- it was like spring or summer,
9 it was warm out.

10 SHEILA MAZHARI: When you found out?

11 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

12 SHEILA MAZHARI: But do you know what day she actually passed
13 away, the date?

14 JACALYN SHARP: No, I don't actually. I know it was the very
15 end of April. In '84? I don't know the year.
16 It's either '84 or '85. And then, uh, I think it's
17 when you bury, when you're interred it's called,
18 because I went to her grave this year, I think it
19 was May, May 4th or something, yeah.

20 SHEILA MAZHARI: And where is she buried?

21 JACALYN SHARP: In Regina. Yeah, so I found that out and I,
22 uh, I think I just -- I don't remember like having
23 appropriate channels to deal with it. It was just
24 sort of like this news I had, and there was nobody
25 to like sort of help me process that information.

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1 So I had that information for a long time and
2 didn't really know what to do with it or how to
3 comprehend or, you know -- I didn't really know
4 what it meant, what had happened to my mum. It
5 wasn't that she had died, it was how she died too,
6 it was pretty violent. And that was always a
7 message that, uh, through my adoption that was
8 always part of the messaging that I received was
9 that my family was violent and alcoholics and that
10 negative -- those negative -- that negative
11 perception about indigenous people.

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

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

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

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

22 SHEILA MAZHARI: Which means they thought she was --

23 JACALYN SHARP: I guess that was the very first thing I ever
24 heard about what had happened was that it wasn't
25 supposed to be her. And then another story is that

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1 she reached for a pack of cigarettes and this
2 person -- she was at someone's, a man's house I
3 guess, and she helped herself to cigarettes on the
4 table and then that's what happened after that.

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

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

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

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

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

20 JACALYN SHARP: Okay.

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

22 JACALYN SHARP: Okay, finding that information, yeah.

23 SHEILA MAZHARI: Guiding you through that process.

24 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah, totally. Because I don't know what
25 happened. I just know that she was shot in the

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10

1 face and she died a week later, and that they moved
2 her from intensive care to like regular care I
3 guess, and it was the blood poisoning or the bullet
4 poisoning or whatever.

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

6 JACALYN SHARP: No.

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

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

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

12 JACALYN SHARP: [*Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55*]

13 [*Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55*]

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

15 JACALYN SHARP: [*Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55*]

16 [*Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55*]

17 [*Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55*]

18 [*Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55*].

19 SHEILA MAZHARI: [*Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55*]

20 [*Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55*]?

21 JACALYN SHARP: [*Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55*]

22 [*Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55*]

23 [*Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55*]

24 [*Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55*].

25 SHEILA MAZHARI: And then when you got back in touch with your

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11

1 same adopted mother, so you decided to go back with
2 them and --

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

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

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

8 SHEILA MAZHARI: I just need some clarification.

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

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

23 JACALYN SHARP: I was 17.

24 SHEILA MAZHARI: And then you had?

25 JACALYN SHARP: [Daughter 1]. [Son 1] is my oldest, [Son 1].

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1 SHEILA MAZHARI: And that was at 17, right?

2 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

3 SHEILA MAZHARI: And then [Daughter 1] is my next oldest,
4 [Daughter 1], and she -- I was 19 when she was born,
5 and I placed [Daughter 1] for adoption. And then I have
6 [Daughter 2], and [Daughter 2] is 14. And then I
7 have my youngest son is named [Son 2], and
8 he's 9.

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

10 JACALYN SHARP: No, no. The only one that I've raised is
11 [Daughter 2].

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

13 JACALYN SHARP: Twenty-nine.

14 SHEILA MAZHARI: And then [Son 2]?

15 JACALYN SHARP: 2008, so ten years ago. Thirty-four.

16 SHEILA MAZHARI: And was it your choice to put them for
17 adoption?

18 JACALYN SHARP: Uh, yeah, all of them. It wasn't -- [Daughter 1] was
19 the only one that was adopted out, my son [Son 1] I
20 left when he was five, I left him with his dad.
21 And [Son 2], I gave him to his dad when he was two
22 months, and he was abusive, and he still has him.

23 SHEILA MAZHARI: He was abusive towards you or towards [Son 2] as
24 well?

25 JACALYN SHARP: No, towards me and [Daughter 2].

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13

1 SHEILA MAZHARI: And did you ever file any charges against him?

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

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

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

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

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

15 SHEILA MAZHARI: Did you want to elaborate on that?

16 JACALYN SHARP: He didn't assault me.

17 SHEILA MAZHARI: Was it more like verbal and --

18 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah, yeah. Spiritual abuse, emotional abuse,
19 mental abuse. And he controlled my relationship with
20 [Daughter 2], he was trying to control [Daughter 2] and my
21 parenting and -- and so social workers got involved
22 and they said -- actually the hospital, I was
23 having a mental breakdown and I called my adopted
24 mum and she said, "Go to the hospital now." And so
25 I went to the hospital with [Daughter 2] and [Son 2] and

1 [Son 2]'s dad, and the staff there recognized that
2 there was potential for domestic violence.

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

12 SHEILA MAZHARI: And what year did your break-down happen?

13 JACALYN SHARP: 2008.

14 SHEILA MAZHARI: And what hospital did you go to?

15 JACALYN SHARP: Burnaby General.

16 SHEILA MAZHARI: And did you get the help you needed?

17 JACALYN SHARP: No. No, not at all.

18 SHEILA MAZHARI: What did they -- what didn't they help you
19 with?

20 JACALYN SHARP: Well, I guess the hospital helped me, but
21 social workers and like -- I don't know. I should
22 have gone, I should have gone to a transition house
23 and I would still have my son. I would have been
24 able to -- I would have been able to hang on with
25 support to my both my kids at the time.

1 SHEILA MAZHARI: You said transition house?

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

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

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

22 [OFF-THE-RECORD DISCUSSION]

23 SHEILA MAZHARI: Sorry to interrupt you during that time. We
24 were talking about your children. Do you want to
25 go back into that and what happened with their

1 father -- well, your youngest's father?

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

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

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

24 And then my son was born and I never had the
25 intention ever to keep him from his son, and so I

1 allowed him in. And I guess we tried to be a
2 family for those two months that [Son 2] was -- after
3 he was born. And in those two months I had a lot
4 of breakdowns, and then he just devalued my
5 parenting, my relationship with [Daughter 2], my ability
6 to take care of both of our -- my children.

7 And we were on the street one time, we had
8 gone to his place, his apartment downtown
9 Vancouver, we had [Daughter 2] and [Son 2] and I think he
10 had promised [Daughter 2] to go get an ice-cream or
11 something, go to McDonald's or something like that.
12 And so we were leaving the house and then something
13 set him off, and he took that away, said no, and
14 [Daughter 2] was four at the time. So then we were
15 outside walking and we were fighting, and then I
16 was holding -- I had the baby, I was holding the
17 baby and the diaper bag, or he was holding the
18 diaper bag, I don't know, and he took -- he grabbed
19 [Son 2] from me and I was trying to hang onto him.
20 And I didn't want to hurt [Son 2] so I remember
21 hanging onto the diaper bag because that was the
22 only thing I could hold onto tight. And again he
23 just -- eventually I let [Son 2] go and I just stood
24 there shocked. And [Daughter 2] was in the stroller and
25 she watched the whole thing, and I looked at [Daughter 2]

1 and I was just like in shock that that had
2 happened. And [Daughter 2], I remember her, she was
3 four, looking at me and going, "We can't just let
4 him take him." And I was like, "Right, fuck."

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

15 SHEILA MAZHARI: When did this incident happen?

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

19 SHEILA MAZHARI: So what month would that be approximately?

20 JACALYN SHARP: July.

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

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

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1 time, like within a couple of weeks.

2 SHEILA MAZHARI: And do you have this police report?

3 JACALYN SHARP: Pretty sure, yeah.

4 SHEILA MAZHARI: And so no charges, no nothing?

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

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

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

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

9 and then his dad came back with him while the

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

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

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

13 else, so that's what happened. So [Daughter 2] and I and

14 [Son 2] went home to my place and he came that night,

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

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

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

18 him.

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

20 they just --

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

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

23 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah, yeah.

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

25 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

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(Florence Quewezance)

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1 SHEILA MAZHARI: And then what happened?

2 JACALYN SHARP: And then he -- he came upstairs and [Daughter 2] was

3 asleep, and I think I was in [Daughter 2] room and I

4 think I was holding [Son 2] or [Son 2] was on the bed

5 maybe. And he picked him up, was holding him. And

6 I don't know what we talked about or what was said,

7 I don't remember, and then he left, he ran away

8 again, and I just sat there and let him. And then,

9 uh, I called the police, the police came and they

10 were -- it was a female officer, and I had his

11 address but we didn't know where he was, and so

12 that was what she was focussing on because she had

13 wondered if it was an amber, to put out an amber

14 alert, and they didn't.

15 SHEILA MAZHARI: Why not, because --

16 JACALYN SHARP: Because same thing legally.

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

18 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah. And I didn't think [Son 2] was in danger.

19 So they -- his dad had left his address book and so

20 we started looking through that, and I just

21 remember like just being completely in a fog and

22 like looking in his address book and not -- nothing

23 was registering. And so the police-officer took it

24 from me and looked through it because there was a

25 few people's names where I thought he might be,

1 where he might go, and so she was able to locate
2 him using this address book, he was at this
3 person's place.

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

11 SHEILA MAZHARI: Every night?

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

19 And then I think [Daughter 2] had day camp and so
20 she got up, she had no idea what happened during
21 the night, she got up, took her to camp and -- and
22 then I think we spent about two days together
23 and -- and then we had gone to visit some of his
24 friends on Squamish or Tsleil-Waututh, he knew some
25 people who did ceremony there. And so we went over

1 there, and there was an elder and she did us a
2 ceremony, a smudging ceremony, a cleansing, a
3 brushing ceremony with all of us, and she prayed
4 and [Daughter 2] prayed and she cleaned us off with her
5 eagle fan, and then we left.

6 Oh, but his dad, I know when we came in and he
7 introduced me how he introduced me to them was
8 this -- who I am, and he said, "She's sick," that's
9 what he said to them. Anyways we did the ceremony
10 and then we left and we were in a cab on the way
11 home, this was on the north shore and I lived in
12 North Burnaby, so we were in a cab on the road on
13 the north shore, can't remember that main road by
14 the water, and he started getting into a fight with
15 the cab driver and the cab driver kicked us out of
16 the cab. And so we had to get out of the cab and
17 it was a really dark stretch of road. And then
18 luckily another cab came along right away and
19 picked us up and brought us home. And then I think
20 it was that night that I just gave in and I said,
21 "Take him." And he did, packed up all his little
22 things and he took him and left with him, and I
23 told him he was a piece of shit. He was gone. And
24 then the next day [Daughter 2] got up and her brother was
25 gone. And -- yeah. So -- and I think I tried

1 reaching out, I think -- I don't know if I talked
2 to the police or -- I had a counsellor at the time,
3 an art therapist who I had been seeing for -- she
4 was like a survivors of violence counsellor and I
5 had been seeing her for a couple of years. And so
6 she was one person that was supporting me and then
7 I reached out to the social worker who had gotten
8 involved with us after I had gone to the Burnaby
9 General, and same thing, said, "At this point
10 there's no reason for us to step in." And somehow
11 I found out that he had gone to Prince George like
12 the morning -- the morning after, in that morning,
13 early morning he left with my son to Prince George
14 and he's still in Prince George. And I started
15 seeing a reproductive psychiatrist at Burnaby
16 General and I saw her for a year.

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

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

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

25 JACALYN SHARP: No, he was trying to, uh, almost like

1 indoctrinate me with whatever he believes about
2 native people and our spirituality and the church,
3 because my family was -- my adoptive family is
4 Catholic, and it's really twisted what he believes
5 and how he viewed me through my association through
6 my adoption and my influences and stuff, so he was
7 saying I was mentally -- you know, I had been
8 conditioned. And then spiritually I guess he was
9 trying to tell me that I had done -- that there was
10 things I should be ashamed of basically was what --
11 yeah, there was a lot of that shaming. Yeah. Uh,
12 and so I went to my counsellor, she got me to call
13 the legal line or whatever, legal aid line I guess.

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

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

25 SHEILA MAZHARI: So all this time were you -- you were still

1 denied access to [Son 2]?

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

6 SHEILA MAZHARI: So that was in year --

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

22 SHEILA MAZHARI: You had no lawyer?

23 JACALYN SHARP: I had no lawyer because I had thought my
24 friends were trying to help and trying to find me a
25 lawyer that they recommended, and somewhere in

1 there I got confused with the lawyer I was assigned
2 and the lawyer that they were recommending, and I
3 thought he was taking my case on, and so I told
4 this lawyer who had been given to me through legal
5 aid that I didn't need her any more. And then this
6 lawyer couldn't take me so I had no lawyer and I
7 couldn't go back to legal aid, so I had no lawyer
8 the first time I went to court.

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

16 SHEILA MAZHARI: With your daughter?

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

24 SHEILA MAZHARI: I don't know.

25 JACALYN SHARP: No, it's like a consultation.

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1 SHEILA MAZHARI: Mediation?

2 JACALYN SHARP: Not quite mediation, but nothing legal is

3 determined, it's just a discussion basically. So

4 my daughter came for that one. And yeah, the judge

5 was really good to me, I think he was really

6 sympathetic to me, I felt that from him.

7 SHEILA MAZHARI: And this was a judge in?

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

9 SHEILA MAZHARI: G-R?

10 JACALYN SHARP: A-Y. And he gave me a lot of space to

11 speak, because I didn't know what I was doing, I

12 didn't know what was legal, I don't know what

13 information is relevant, so I was just speaking and

14 he listened.

15 And what I did learn was the main thing is

16 having access to my son, that was -- the lawyer,

17 that was all the lawyer focused on, there was no

18 like story telling, it was just very black and

19 white as far as like what her objective was, what

20 her role in this whole thing was was just to have

21 access to my son. And the abuse, the story, what

22 led up to it, like none of that had any -- at that

23 point anyways it had no relevancy I guess, the

24 whole objective was just for me to have visitation.

25 And so that happened a few times.

1 And then the judge, the last thing the judge
2 had ordered was phone visitation, he was trying
3 to -- because we lived in different cities he was
4 trying to establish a regular visitation pattern,
5 regular contact, but [Son 2] was not even two years so
6 it was really difficult. And so the judge said by
7 telephone, arrange it by telephone, and so that's
8 what we started doing. And it was really awkward
9 because [Son 2] didn't want to be on the phone, and I
10 know a few times I called, several times that I
11 called his dad would say he's sleeping, and so
12 eventually I just stopped, that was the end of it
13 when I stopped trying to have access to him.

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

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

24 But the visits were supervised, and so one of
25 the agencies that had done the supervised visit,

1 Kikino, they out of the blue called me like six
2 years later, and I got this phone call at home and
3 she told me she was from Kikino and I know it's
4 about my son, it's the only reason for them to
5 contact me and I had maintained my contact
6 information so that they could contact me. And
7 they did, and they said, "Do you know about this
8 letter your son's father's written?" And I said
9 no, so she said, "Well, let me read it to you."
10 And it was like this two-page written story that
11 his dad had typed out and was circulating in the
12 community. And what it was was a campaign, a bike
13 ride campaign in search of [Daughter 2], and he had -- so
14 what was in this written story that he's
15 circulating is the story about how [Son 2] had come to
16 him and talked about his sister, and his dad said,
17 "Well, son, how are we going to find your sister?"
18 And then [Son 2] says, "We'll go on a bike ride, dad."
19 And then his dad said, "Okay, son, let's go find
20 your sister." And then he started this fucking
21 public campaign, and there's pictures of my son
22 holding those like coloured poster boards in search
23 of [Daughter 2].

24 And so he went public, he was trying to raise
25 funds, he had contacted media, he was on Facebook,

1 he was getting attention, and so Kikino contacted
2 me and said, "This is what's happening and he's
3 planning to leave on a search day and travel by
4 bike with" -- how old was [Son 2], he's nine, six,
5 seven. And I mean realistically it would never
6 happen, but the fact that that's what he -- he
7 could even suggest that or think that that's
8 possible to do. So I contacted -- oh, he had tried
9 contacting me once before this in search of [Daughter 2]
10 stuff another time, the very first time that he
11 tried to make contact with us again was a few
12 months before this in search of [Daughter 2] campaign.

13 My son was receiving -- he was doing an
14 assessment at Children's Hospital in the
15 psychiatric, an in-patient psychiatric assessment,
16 and so his dad had called my brother at my
17 brother -- my adopted brother is a doctor, a family
18 physician, and he contacted my brother at his
19 clinic to let him know they were in town, the phone
20 number where they were staying and the reason that
21 they were here, and so I got upset and told my
22 brother, "Don't tell him anything, don't say
23 anything, don't give him any information." And I
24 said, "I'm not contacting him." And then my
25 brother said, "That's fine, up to you." And so

1 what I did was I contacted the hospital, contacted
2 the social worker, and I gave them my history with
3 this person, how he got to have my son, a little
4 bit of background hoping that that would -- they
5 need that part of the picture when it comes to
6 assessing my son, and I don't know the results of
7 that assessment, I don't know what the treatment
8 is, I don't know if he's on medication, I don't
9 know if he's getting support, I don't know what's
10 going on for them. But his behaviour was serious
11 enough that, you know, he's doing these assessments
12 at B.C. Children's.

13 And so then that sort of fizzled out and then
14 a couple of months later Kikino called me and told
15 me about this in search of [Daughter 2] campaign. And so
16 again I think I contacted the hospital and I was
17 like this is what he's doing now with my son, what
18 he's proposing, you need to know that, you know.
19 And I called the police and -- because the day, it
20 was like the day before he was supposed to leave,
21 and I contacted the police and I was like my -- I
22 also went to legal aid, I wasn't eligible for legal
23 aid in this situation, because I wanted a no
24 contact order because I didn't want him contacting
25 [Daughter 2]. [Daughter 2] was my concern. He wasn't focused

1 on me, he was using [Daughter 2] as an excuse to be
2 crazy.

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

5 JACALYN SHARP: Because there's an interim order in place
6 saying I have access to my son, and I guess -- I
7 don't know, that's all I remember that legally
8 things are already in place and this didn't
9 qualify. So I didn't have -- I couldn't get a no
10 contact order so I called the police. The guy, the
11 police-officer was really helpful, he was an RCMP
12 officer, he came in. I explained the situation, he
13 said same with like -- much like the officer who
14 when he took him from me on the street, almost
15 exact same words, legally a father can go for a
16 bike ride with his son. And he was -- he goes,
17 this is where he was helpful, he said, "But here's
18 where it gets illegal. The second he goes on the
19 highway and puts that child at risk, that's it."
20 So I said, "Okay, I understand now at what point it
21 gets -- it escalates," right? Up until here it was
22 just a sort of this weird fantasy, but as soon as
23 he gets on that highway the ministry -- and I
24 talked to the ministry involved with him too, the
25 social workers, and they said, "We're well aware of

1 the situation and we have people watching to see
2 what happens, what he's going to do, and we'll step
3 in."

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

19 SHEILA MAZHARI: Was that in Vancouver or Prince George?

20 JACALYN SHARP: Prince George. So I said, "Good. Yeah, don't
21 give this guy any air time." And so I was on this
22 Facebook page, this public Prince George Facebook
23 page of some sort and he was giving his updates on
24 there, so it was the next -- oh, that night one of
25 his updates was like we're ready, blah blah, and I

1 was like -- and I freaked out, I was like, "He's
2 fucking doing it, he's fucking doing it." And I
3 freaked out and I was just upset, and I called
4 Veronica and -- another friend of mine dropped me
5 off, brought me to Veronica's place and I just was
6 like distraught that he couldn't be stopped. That
7 was the biggest thing was like I can't believe he
8 can do this and not be stopped, how can he -- how
9 is it even possible but -- so then, yeah, I hung
10 out with Veronica that night and I went home, and
11 then it was in the morning time he wrote a post,
12 and I guess somebody had come to him and said don't
13 do this, someone that he respected, and so he
14 didn't do it, and it was just like this huge
15 relief. And that was the end of it, and that's the
16 last I've heard anything from them about them and
17 that was a couple of years ago, few years ago. I
18 [*line redacted pursuant to Rule 55*],
19 three, four years ago that happened.

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

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

24 SHEILA MAZHARI: 2015?

25 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

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1 SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you know what month approximately?

2 JACALYN SHARP: Uh, it was summertime, yeah.

3 SHEILA MAZHARI: And how do you spell Kikino?

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

5 SHEILA MAZHARI: And so they're an organization?

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

8 SHEILA MAZHARI: And here in Vancouver??

9 JACALYN SHARP: In Prince George.

10 SHEILA MAZHARI: Oh, okay.

11 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

12 SHEILA MAZHARI: Okay.

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

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

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

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

19 JACALYN SHARP: No.

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

22 JACALYN SHARP: In-patient psychiatric.

23 SHEILA MAZHARI: In Prince George?

24 JACALYN SHARP: In Vancouver.

25 SHEILA MAZHARI: Okay, that's what I thought. Do you know

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

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

25 SHEILA MAZHARI: So are you doing anything legally now to get

1 more access to [Son 2] or it's the same story?

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

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

17 JACALYN SHARP: Totally right, yeah, for sure. I don't know --
18 the social worker, their social worker, she
19 basically -- she consulted with the doctor who was
20 assessing my son and called me back after listening
21 to the story and then relaying the story to the
22 doctor. The doctor basically said at this time she
23 doesn't recommend access because it would add to
24 [Son 2]'s behavioural issues and emotional, they just
25 wanted to -- at least when they were here doing the

1 assessment the doctor recommended just not to try
2 and add something like that while he's being
3 assessed. And so --

4 SHEILA MAZHARI: But they never even evaluated the father?

5 JACALYN SHARP: I don't know, uh, I don't know. I don't know
6 what happened, I don't know. Yeah, I mean I've
7 gone on his Facebook a couple of times, I know he
8 still has him. I don't know what the involvement
9 the ministry is or doctors, I don't know any of his
10 health, what's going on with him medically. I
11 could probably find out, I think those are my
12 rights, to have that information. And that was why
13 I felt pretty confident talking to the hospital. I
14 have some awareness of what my rights are, it's
15 just acting and asserting those, that's hard
16 sometimes. Yeah.

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

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

23 SHEILA MAZHARI: And did you ever talk to somebody about the
24 circumstances around your mum's death because you
25 couldn't get help at that time?

1 JACALYN SHARP: No. No. Uh, yeah, no. I just asked family.
2 Again because I was in Regina in my mind I think
3 it's in Saskatchewan that all that information is,
4 and so I feel like I have to be there physically to
5 access it. However you do that I don't know.

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

9 JACALYN SHARP: Yes, 13, 14.

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

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

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

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

18 SHEILA MAZHARI: Was it helpful?

19 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah, yeah. Yeah. Huge. And now I have
20 like -- yeah, I have a relationship with my mother,
21 like and my father. You know, my father just
22 passed away too. But I have a relationship with my
23 parents. Like when they were alive or, you know, I
24 couldn't have, but somehow now I have that
25 relationship with them, and I feel them, I talk to

1 them. I talk to them about their children and
2 their grandchildren and -- yeah, and ask them for
3 guidance and help and -- you know.

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

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

1 always had a perm so her hair was curly and it was
2 jet black, and it looked wet.

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

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

20 JACALYN SHARP: No.

21 SHEILA MAZHARI: Just that she passed away?

22 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah. And it mentioned her children, yeah,
23 yeah. Yeah, so I met my grandma and she gave me
24 these things, and at the time I was having contact
25 with my father, [one line redacted - Rule 55]

1 [one line redacted - Rule 55], and so
2 then I stopped contact because it was just way too
3 far out of my comfort zone. So -- no, catch you
4 later.

5 And so that was, I don't know, in my early
6 20's and that was the last time I saw my dad. And
7 then I didn't see -- I went on Facebook like a few
8 years ago and pretty easy to find family there, and
9 so I was about my mum, I was trying to find people
10 because I wanted to find out about my mum finally,
11 and so I found -- was told try contact these
12 people, they're your relatives, and so that's kind
13 of how it started. I just started messaging
14 people, introducing myself, letting them know who
15 my parents were and hoping that they could tell me
16 something about my family.

17 And then I got a hold of a cousin eventually
18 who was taking care of my dad financially. She was
19 talking care of his finances, and kind of his care
20 giver, his guardian I guess or something like that,
21 and so she told -- she kind of updated me about my
22 dad, and this was two years ago, she gave me an
23 update. My dad had had several strokes and my dad
24 [one line redacted pursuant to Rule 55],
25 so -- and as far as I know he lived

1 on the res and -- between Regina and the res, and
2 that was about it. Uh, but he had had some strokes
3 and was now in a care home being provided 24-7
4 care. And then not long after that he had some
5 medical issues start happening, I think he had had
6 another stroke and so my cousin called me and was
7 like here's, you know, here's what's going on with
8 your dad, and I was like okay, thank you. And she
9 asked -- she was taking care of my dad's finances,
10 so she asked my dad if it would be okay to fly me
11 and [Daughter 2] to Regina, and he said yes. He couldn't
12 speak but he said yes. Uh, and so my dad paid for
13 two tickets for [Daughter 2] and I to go see him, and we
14 went and saw him and he was in the hospital in
15 Kamsack. And then because of his medical issues
16 and because I had just been reunited with my father
17 I couldn't leave, I couldn't leave him, so I stayed
18 for three months. And [Daughter 2] went and stayed with
19 another friend of mine for those three months while
20 I was with my dad, and I stayed in the hospital
21 room with my dad beside his bed and slept there for
22 three months with him. So I got to spend a lot of
23 time. Yeah. And because of his strokes he
24 couldn't speak, and so it was just silence
25 basically and a lot of expression and smiling and

1 laughing and -- yeah, there was a lot of
2 communication. Yeah. Uh, and that was in October
3 of 2016 that I saw him again.

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

18 And my grandparents, after my dad passed away
19 and we were leaving, [Daughter 2] and I were flying out
20 of Regina, my grandparents drove us to Regina to
21 take us to the airport, and I asked them if we
22 could go to my mother's grave and so we did, they
23 took us there. And my mother's grave is unmarked,
24 and -- but she has a huge blue spruce tree, it's
25 like at the foot of her plot, and yeah, so we --

1 when I did go there I gave some tobacco and I said
2 some prayers and put the tobacco under that tree
3 because that's where my mother is and she's a part
4 of that tree now. And then [Daughter 2] and I each took
5 a pine cone or spruce cone from the tree and
6 brought it with us home. Yeah, so I don't know if
7 anyone goes to see my mum, I don't know, I don't
8 know who -- who feels attached to her still, I'm
9 not sure.

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

1 I took of it, but...

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

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

22 So yeah, that was pretty big. Yeah.

23 [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]

24 [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]

25 [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]

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1 [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
2 [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
3 [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
4 [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
5 [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
6 [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
7 [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
8 SHEILA MAZHARI: In B.C.?
9 JACALYN SHARP: In Alberta. And they even offered to put me
10 through to her. No, not right now. I just wanted
11 to make sure she was okay, and that's what it was.
12 There is nobody had heard from her and so it was,
13 you know, there's possibilities, there's always
14 that possibility that maybe she wasn't alive.
15 SHEILA MAZHARI: Did they communicate your dad's passing to
16 her?
17 JACALYN SHARP: Well, that's why I said I was calling and that
18 I was trying to track her down.
19 SHEILA MAZHARI: And they just relayed that to her?
20 JACALYN SHARP: I think they did, but then again through
21 Facebook I was able to get a hold of her daughter,
22 who I've never talked to before, but I found her
23 and I said who I was, and I said, "Here's what's
24 happened." Because I know [R.] loves our dad a lot,
25 both of my sisters love our dad a huge amount, and

1 so, yeah, it was through her daughter that I was
2 able to pass on the news about our father.
3 SHEILA MAZHARI: [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55]
4 [line redacted pursuant to Rule 55].
5 JACALYN SHARP: [Line redacted pursuant to Rule 55].
6 SHEILA MAZHARI: And what's the name of the reservation that
7 your dad --
8 JACALYN SHARP: He's from Cote.
9 SHEILA MAZHARI: Oh, Cote. Right, okay.
10 JACALYN SHARP: Cote First Nation.
11 SHEILA MAZHARI: In Saskatchewan?
12 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.
13 SHEILA MAZHARI: And how about did you know any other family
14 members or friends that had been missing or
15 murdered?
16 JACALYN SHARP: Uh, yeah, yeah. Yeah. Yeah, I had a friend
17 contact me saying she was looking for her niece,
18 and so then I put it out there, and then within an
19 hour she replied back saying that they had found
20 her and that she had been killed. Yeah. And then
21 another time -- it's just putting that word out
22 there, people coming and saying this person's
23 missing, we haven't seen her, can you put the word
24 out, can you talk to people, who do we talk to,
25 things like that, asking what do we do, who do we

1 talk to, what about this. How do we find them.

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

3 JACALYN SHARP: No.

4 SHEILA MAZHARI: Was she young?

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

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

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

8 SHEILA MAZHARI: And was that in Vancouver?

9 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

10 SHEILA MAZHARI: And did they ever charge the person

11 responsible?

12 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

13 SHEILA MAZHARI: No one else in your family?

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

15 sister, something about another sister.

16 SHEILA MAZHARI: One of her sisters?

17 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah, so one of my -- I'm not sure if it's my

18 mum's sister or just my auntie's sister through

19 maybe her -- a different part of her family, but

20 she talked about it, about that also when she was

21 talking to me about my mum, she brought that up

22 also.

23 SHEILA MAZHARI: That she was also murdered?

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

25 SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you know any other details surrounding

1 that?

2 JACALYN SHARP: No.

3 SHEILA MAZHARI: And that was in Saskatchewan?

4 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah. Yeah.

5 SHEILA MAZHARI: Why do you think so many aboriginal women are

6 put in that position?

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

8 learned.

9 SHEILA MAZHARI: About?

10 JACALYN SHARP: How we've learned to interact and get our needs

11 met. For me it wasn't -- I didn't understand what

12 healthy was, what appropriate was, inappropriate.

13 I didn't have that awareness to be careful, when to

14 trust myself, when to -- so I was just -- yeah, I

15 put myself out at risk often.

16 SHEILA MAZHARI: Did you ever talk to family, help teach you

17 those things as well, or how did you change your

18 attitudes towards them?

19 JACALYN SHARP: Uh, I learned the hard way. Yeah, I always --

20 someone was telling me a story the other day about

21 getting a transit ticket, a grown woman, you know,

22 50 years old, but got nailed with a transit \$170

23 fine. And she, you know, was honest and said, "You

24 know, I was trying to be sneaky but I got caught."

25 And it was kind of like that, you know, I've gotten

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

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

1 Yeah.

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

8 JACALYN SHARP: Old people.

9 SHEILA MAZHARI: Older people?

10 JACALYN SHARP: Having those generations of people, because
11 there's so much wisdom and experience and like
12 recovery and like getting through it and knowing
13 what matters with old people, like that's the
14 bottom line with them. And so I think for young
15 people it's tumultuous, that's how I remember my
16 childhood was just -- and my teenage years and
17 making decisions with that turmoil in your life.
18 And for me I didn't have many other trusting
19 influences. And then I had one and that was --
20 that changed everything for me having that older
21 person come into my life and just take me under
22 their wing and believe in me and open my eyes up to
23 things that weren't just in front of me, my
24 schoolwork or teachers or a boyfriend or not
25 handing this assignment in or whatever craziness is

1 going on in the immediate circumstances. She
2 broadened my horizons, and I think that that still,
3 that's what my aunties and my grandmothers do
4 just -- and my parents, my father, how they've
5 gotten through it and in the end the reinforcing,
6 loving ourselves for sure, I think that's the
7 message that I don't ever remember hearing ever
8 until I met this one person, and she was a teacher.

9 SHEILA MAZHARI: And how did you meet this elder?

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

20 SHEILA MAZHARI: So she was like a mentor?

21 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

22 SHEILA MAZHARI: Was she indigenous herself?

23 JACALYN SHARP: No. No. No.

24 SHEILA MAZHARI: And so she just helped you with those skills
25 of learning?

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1 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. And to see myself,
2 see areas of myself that I didn't know existed.
3 Someone telling me, you know, that -- it started
4 with my writing, her taking an interest in my
5 writing, and that's what sparked that like
6 awareness of my gifts was that, someone looking at
7 them and -- yeah.

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 SHEILA MAZHARI: On your father's side?

20 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah. My grandparents.

21 SHEILA MAZHARI: On his side still?

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

24 SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you know which school?

25 JACALYN SHARP: I think it was St. Phillip's I heard that one a

1 lot. I'm not sure if that's the one everybody went
2 to, all of those people, but I think that's the one
3 that was most common in that area.

4 SHEILA MAZHARI: In Saskatchewan?

5 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah.

6 SHEILA MAZHARI: And so S-T dot?

7 JACALYN SHARP: Phillip's.

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

9 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah. Yeah.

10 SHEILA MAZHARI: You've shared a lot.

11 JACALYN SHARP: Thank you.

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

16 JACALYN SHARP: I think it's hard to express to people, uh,
17 in -- [*line redacted pursuant to Rule 55*]
18 [*line redacted pursuant to Rule 55*]
19 too, is that that comprehension of the extremes of
20 what colonization has done and getting that across.
21 Because it's a big thing to get across. And so
22 this piece of art that I made, a memorial T-shirt
23 for my mum, it was at the time I was creating this
24 that I realized the magnitude of that, you know,
25 this time period, how it's shaken us up, because my

1 mother -- so it's a turtle, and then there's -- the
2 four legs of the turtle are my mother's children
3 and then there's 13 purple flowers that are my
4 mother's grandchildren, and then there's seven
5 great-grandchildren now, and then -- and that's
6 only my sister's. Because we don't know my brother
7 there could be more, there probably are more, but
8 that's all that I know of. And so all of those
9 people are represented in this piece of art.

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

24 But yeah, I think that's what the piece of art
25 does is it just gives a visual for people to -- you

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1 know, because I can't tell this story all the time,
2 right? And so that piece of art just very quickly
3 to demonstrate to people, this is the devastation,
4 an example of one, one person's offspring and what
5 happened.

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

8 JACALYN SHARP: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

9 SHEILA MAZHARI: Anything else you can think of?

10 JACALYN SHARP: No.

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

12 JACALYN SHARP: Thank you. Thank you.

13 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED 12:07 p.m.)

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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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