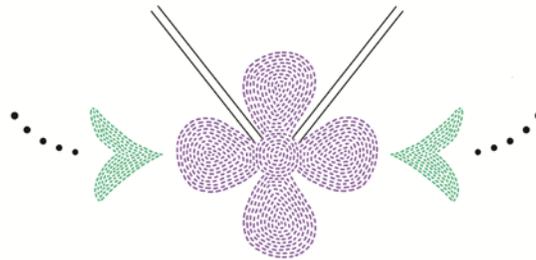


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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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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

Statement - Public  
Jacalyn Sharp  
(Florence Quewezance)

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?

Statement - Public  
Jacalyn Sharp  
(Florence Quewezance)

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,

**Statement - Public**  
**Jacalyn Sharp**  
**(Florence Quewezance)**

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

**Statement - Public**  
**Jacalyn Sharp**  
**(Florence Quewezance)**

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.

**Statement - Public**  
**Jacalyn Sharp**  
**(Florence Quewezance)**

8

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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**Jacalyn Sharp**  
**(Florence Quewezance)**

9

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

Statement - Public  
Jacalyn Sharp  
(Florence Quewezance)

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

**Statement - Public**  
**Jacalyn Sharp**  
**(Florence Quewezance)**

**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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**Jacalyn Sharp**  
**(Florence Quewezance)**

12

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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**Jacalyn Sharp**  
**(Florence Quewezance)**

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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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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**(Florence Quewezance)**

35

- 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

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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

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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?

**Statement - Public**  
**Jacalyn Sharp**  
**(Florence Quewezance)**

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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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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.

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