National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
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N. A.

Statement gathered by Jayme Menzies

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Pursuant to Rule 7 of *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*, Chief Commissioner Marion Buller ordered that all names in this transcript and any related documents be rendered anonymous. The order was made November 2nd, 2018.
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Statement Gatherer: Jayme Menzies  
Language: English

Documents submitted during testimony: none.
--- Upon commencing on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 2:18 p.m.

**MS. [N. A.]:** What do I start with? My name or what?

**MS. JAYME MENZIES:** I'll introduce myself, and then I will ask you to introduce yourself, your name, your community, and then we can start wherever you like. Okay?

**MS. [N. A.]:** Okay.

**MS. JAYME MENZIES:** So first of all, my name is Jayme. I'm from Manitoba. And just for the record, it's March 15th, and it's 2:18.

So now you can introduce yourself.

**MS. [N. A.]:** Hello, I'm [N. A.] from [Community1]. It's in Northern Quebec. It's on the coast. Of 700 people.

My parents first moved there in 1972 before people went to -- went there. So I've lived there since 1974, and I left [Community1] in 1985 for six years to be in Nunavut Region, that's in [Town1].

**MS. JAYME MENZIES:** M'hm.

**MS. [N. A.]:** I got married in 1976, so [date], and we had five children. We have five children, which are adults now.

From the relationship I had with this
marriage was like -- it was 12 years. I went through abusive and violent relationship that I could not -- I did not think I would escape or get out of. At first, it was like there was no way out. It mostly verbal and psychological abuse.

I considered in the 12 years of marriage I was in the -- I was thinking of committing suicide to get out of it, and I thought it was the only way out. So I tried several times trying to harm myself and trying to run away to the land where I could never return. Nobody would know.

And I've tried drowning in the river, and the river -- the water would come up here and I would just float away, which I couldn't, I don't know why. That was when I thought I would finish my life because I got tired of it.

One more thing, that I went for committing suicide was I handled a rifle. I don't know, I don't remember what kind of rifle it was. I put a bullet in it and I was trying to shoot myself and the gun was just there and I could just go, but I didn't. Those was -- several times I tried. I don't know why, but they never worked -- it never worked.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm.

MS. [N. A.]: I didn't have the strength.
One time when I had a physical abuse for days, even a week, my husband took me to a land where there were no houses or no people. It was beside the mountain where there were a lot of big rocks. And he had a big -- very thick wood, and I was kneeling on the ground. He took off my eyeglasses, my glasses, and I was ready there for him to finish me off but he didn't. I was really ready there, ready to die, just to get it over because to finish -- because I got tired.

Why he did that to me was because several times my children and I ran from him going to shelter, women's shelter in Iqaluit about three times, three or four times. He tried to make me stop running away from him, because I had to say yes for the last time that I would never run away.

At times, we would run away from him in the village with my children just to get safety. A lot of times in the evening, sometimes he would be really angry and we could be really in fear with him.

My children would never have called him -- my children never called him father in Inuksitut. Sometimes, I saw children calling their father and they would be playing with him or, you know, do things as a child and a father would. They never did that.

One time, I -- after the -- after I went
through the land which he had, a big thick wood, we
returned home again and I thought he would finish me, but
he didn't. He never touched me physically, but slapped --
one slapped me on the leg, asking me why, why -- his
questions were why. And I had to come up with an answer.
He was really abusive because he was a jealous type.

He judged me from the past life I had and
who I went out with, and I had to answer him and he
wouldn't say why. And I came up with an answer and I told
him "Because I never thought you would question me like
this and I cannot go back and fix them. They are my
problem, not yours, so you don't even have to mention them,
you know." And he stopped.

After 12 years of violence and abuse
relationship, I ran away again. I saw the police. They
came. I was on my way somewhere to escape, and I saw them.
They were -- I saw someone driving a truck, and I said to
him to tell the police I'm here and I need them. So they
came. And the police took me somewhere safe and I -- they
told me, because they knew, if you ever go back again then
he'll kill you, and they can't come by, that's it.

So I went back home to [Community1] from
[Town1] in 1990, and I never returned. I said that's it.
My kids and I went there because we never wanted to go
back.
MS. JAYME MENZIES: So you escaped with your kids?

MS. [N. A.]: Yes. They came after me.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh.

MS. [N. A.]: I escaped first and then I think weeks after that they came back.

So I went on. I filed for divorce on my own in 1994. But it came to my mind that we had no alimony or child support, anything at all like that from the father. He never helped us in any way. And I kept telling myself where were when I needed them. Now they can have help like that. To do -- up to this day, I never had help from him. Otherwise, I never wanted anything to do with him anymore.

So I -- I thought I lost hope, but I can see that there is hope. I have tried committing suicide but they never worked because there was hope. I thought there were no hope anymore.

From other things that he has done was that he has raped my sister, who was taking care of my two kids when I was away for our third child. She was babysitting them. She was just a teenage girl.

And that was when I got really feared with my mother. I was really scared. I was really angry. I was really -- I wish my sister would not have gone through this. It's like I wouldn't mind telling about it because
it's something that he had destroyed all of our lives up to 
this date.

I've had difficulties living on my own with 
my children, having to raise them and having to support 
them with no other support, and I have worked, I have made 
my way just trying to live. So I did up to this date.

I have grandchildren now, and we are just 
doing fine, but in some ways, I have -- I never had any 
support trying to raise my children. They are grownups 
now, they became teenagers and then adults. Up to this day 
I have difficulties trying to -- doing on my own.

So my daughter lives here in Montreal. So 
she doesn't want to do anything with her father. She won't 
say who is he, because he -- she is really angry at him. 
So she's still saying that I would never want to see him, I 
don't want to see him, I don't want to talk to him. It 
goes for me too today.

So now I have nothing to do with the father, 
and I -- I'm doing okay. But in some ways, I'm not doing 
okay because I need -- I tried to be in a relationship but 
it didn't work so there are some other ways that really are 
not going the way I think they would. So that's it.

**MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Do you feel like you 
have a hard time trusting men now? Is that part of the...?

**MS. [N. A.]:** No. Well, I did in the first
10 years I left the father. No.

**MS. JAYME MENZIES:** What sort of -- you said you had no support raising your kids when you were -- when you went back to Quebec. What kind of supports would have helped you? What did you need?

**MS. [N. A.]:** I tried looking for jobs. I tried -- my family -- all I want to say, were -- kept with the father.

**MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Oh.

**MS. [N. A.]:** Because I lived in Nunavut at that time, and my mail went there and he had access to it, the family allowances. And I had nothing. So my parents supported us all the -- I think -- almost -- I think a year.

**MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Were there any women's organizations or anything like that in Quebec for you after you left Nunavut? No?

**MS. [N. A.]:** No. No support from any other women. They would just think that I make it wrong. Like getting separated. They were really against that.

**MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Right.

**MS. [N. A.]:** Yes.

**MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Right. When you were married and living in Nunavut, you were in [Town1] --

**MS. [N. A.]:** Yes.
MS. JAYME MENZIES: --- [Town1]? And you went all the way to the Iqaluit women's shelter?

MS. [N. A.]: Yes.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: How far was that?

MS. [N. A.]: By airplane.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: With your kids by airplane?

MS. [N. A.]: Yes.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Did you do that more than once?

MS. [N. A.]: What's that?

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Did you do that more than once or just one time?

MS. [N. A.]: Yeah, more than once.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Was that the closest women's shelter?

MS. [N. A.]: Yes.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh.

MS. [N. A.]: Yes.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: There wasn't anything like that in [Town1]?

MS. [N. A.]: No.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Do you know if there is now?

MS. [N. A.]: I don't know.
MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah.

MS. [N. A.]: Probably there is, I think.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Do any of your kids have a relationship with their father?

MS. [N. A.]: Yes, they do.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah. Just not your one daughter?

MS. [N. A.]: Not the youngest one, no.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay.

MS. [N. A.]: There are other ways that -- other things that my daughters went through. They went through child sexual abuse before -- after we left the father. I mean, one of them have. I don't think they want me to talk about it. So ---

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay.

MS. [N. A.]: So I'll just leave it there.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay. Is there any ---

MS. [N. A.]: There are other women who have been talking to me before, though. They want to get out of a relationship but they cannot. There are some women who have talked to me about it. And I keep telling them that I don't want to be blamed for what -- if they have been -- if they went through separation or something like that ---

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah.

MS. [N. A.]: --- because I'm not an
example.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm.

MS. [N. A.]: I'm not an example.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right. Yeah. We don't have to talk about this, but did your former husband, did he go through anything in his life that do you think led him to be abusive?

MS. [N. A.]: Yes. He told me before.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay. So he had his own trauma that he was dealing with?

MS. [N. A.]: Yes. And he took out on me --

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah.

MS. [N. A.]: --- all those years. I was (inaudible) of how other children has their father with them when my children don't. And I used to be blame the abusers, he went through that. If he -- they didn't abuse him they would have a father.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm. Yeah. Are there any resources for the men in Nunavut or [Town1]?

MS. [N. A.]: I don't know about that. I don't really know about that.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah.

MS. [N. A.]: Because they're in Nunavut, and then in Nunavik.
MS. JAYME MENZIES: So -- yeah, we don't know if he has -- even if he wanted help, you don't know?

MS. [N. A.]: Maybe he has.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay.

MS. [N. A.]: But I didn't want to do anything with him anymore.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm.

MS. [N. A.]: I also have an anger with me. I have anger with me all those years since I was 18. I remember all -- a family who did something wrong to me, which I have had to go through in all those years too. I can speak about it now, I don't mind that. I can speak about it.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay.

MS. [N. A.]: It made me angry all those years because I didn't think a member of the family would do that to me. I wanted to scratch his eyes out each time I saw him, and each time I saw him just outside, even though he was really far away, I would just get really angry, you know.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm.

MS. [N. A.]: I get a real tight, you know, anger.

And I've learned how to forgive, so forgiveness gave me more strength to not be really angry
about it anymore, but I wouldn't forget about it because it's like it's ruined my life, you know. If I were to do something about it today, he would be in prison.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm.

MS. [N. A.]: If I knew how at that time, but they say that even after a lot of years I could charge the man and maybe he would be in prison now, but it's like impossible for me to do that. I don't know.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: I don't know what happened, but there are a few things that you can charge someone with forever. So the time never runs out.

MS. [N. A.]: No.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: For example, if you -- if someone abuses someone sexually, you can still charge that person 60 years later and the time is still okay.

MS. [N. A.]: I went to high school at the age of 14 to another community. That was the first time I went through sexual abuse, and it happened. And it ruined my life, you know, it ruined my life for the first time.

And physically, I got really not kind of normal because I think I was damaged where I had to have, you know, I -- it took a lot of blood from me.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm.

MS. [N. A.]: Each monthly cycles I went through in those years and I lost blood. I was anemic.
MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay.

MS. [N. A.]: I got anemic. My cervix got kind of not really normal, because after that they had to do some surgery in 2003, and I think it was related to that, because -- I'm sure it was related to that.

There are so many other angry moments that I've had before that I'm not telling because I don't think I can.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay.

MS. [N. A.]: I know a lot of women are going through that, and each time I hear something that they're -- I'm not the only one.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm.

MS. [N. A.]: And I am not ashamed to tell about it anymore because they're the ones who should be ashamed ---

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

MS. [N. A.]: --- of themselves, not me. Not them -- not women. I consider they should be ashamed of themselves because they did something wrong and ruined our lives.

Anger is always there, but I have to deal with it sometimes when -- I get really angry sometimes. I did really get angry, but I try not to do that anymore because it's useless.
So if ever something like that would happen to my daughter I would have killed them.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm.

MS. [N. A.]: I would have killed the man that did it to her, but it was not possible. She was talking to me about it and I believed her.

I wish I was there when it happened because I could have prevented it, but it's like being helpless. I think that's it.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah. Do you mind if I just ask a question? Did this man work at the school that you were attending when you were a teenager?

MS. [N. A.]: No, he was not a attendee, he was a resident of where I went.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: So he was also a student?

MS. [N. A.]: No, he was not also a student. He lived in the village.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Oh, okay. Yeah, he was an adult.

MS. [N. A.]: We used to go out to a community hall for the evenings ---

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

MS. [N. A.]: --- and during the weekend, along with the young people.
MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah, okay.

MS. [N. A.]: He took me to his house and that's when it happened. And I thought he wouldn't do it because he was intoxicated at the time.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Have you ever spoken to a therapist or an Elder or anything about these things?

MS. [N. A.]: No. I never spoke to an Elder. I went to a healing session here in Montreal just the past years for residential school students ---

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay.

MS. [N. A.]: --- a gathering.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay. Was that something that you would like is to have someone to talk to about this specific story?

MS. [N. A.]: No.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: No?

MS. [N. A.]: No.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: You'd rather not talk about it and not bring it up?

MS. [N. A.]: I'm not no more -- I'm not ashamed anymore to talk about it. I won't even mind telling the whole world about it, because it was not my fault.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Because it wasn't your fault.
MS. [N. A.]: No. It was their fault.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm.

MS. [N. A.]: Let them be ashamed.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm.

MS. [N. A.]: I've been ashamed all -- it

seems like all my life and I don't want to be ashamed.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm.

MS. [N. A.]: I could just point him in the

face and say I'm ashamed of you, you know.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah.

MS. [N. A.]: Yeah. I could just say that

to them if I go. I try to avoid that. It's just in my

mind if I have the courage to do that.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Right.

MS. [N. A.]: If I'm in front of him I would

just do that, but it doesn't happen.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah.

MS. [N. A.]: So I'll encourage other women

to be not ashamed of themselves.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm. How are you doing

now? How are you doing these days?

MS. [N. A.]: These days, I'm doing just

fine.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yeah.

MS. [N. A.]: Yeah. I'm just doing fine. I
can say I'm just doing fine.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay.

MS. [N. A.]: Yeah.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Do you have the support you need if you need it?

MS. [N. A.]: Yes.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: You do?

MS. [N. A.]: Yes, I do.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay.

MS. [N. A.]: Yes.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Good. Is there anything else you wanted to share with -- even -- so the commissioners will watch this, so even if it's anything -- even if you have any recommendations for them or any direct message to the Inquiry, the Commissioner?

MS. [N. A.]: The -- yes. For the young Inuit or non-Inuit who live in Montreal and for anywhere up North, I want them to be aware of how -- what surroundings they are in, because there are murdered girls, women who are being raped and who are going through molestation, especially for the small girls. I want their parents, their mothers to teach them, to let them know to be aware of what surroundings they are in.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm.

MS. [N. A.]: And it's like I'm wanting them
to know to be aware of -- not to be in a situation where they could be in a sexual abuse. I want them to be safe.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Thank you.

MS. [N. A.]: Yes, thank you.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: M'hm. Is that all?

MS. [N. A.]: Yes.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: You're good?

MS. [N. A.]: For now, yes.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: For now?

MS. [N. A.]: Yes.

MS. JAYME MENZIES: Okay. I'll turn this off for now.

--- Upon adjourning at 2:50 p.m.
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST’S CERTIFICATE

I, Suzanne Jobb, transcriptionist, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.

Suzanne Jobb

May 8, 2018