Dallas Bird & Mable Bird,
In relation to Happy Charles

Statement gathered by Francine Merasty,
Commission Counsel

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Witnesses: Dallas Bird & Mable Bird

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**Commission Counsel:** Francine Merasty

**Documents submitted with testimony:** none.
MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: This is Francine Merasty with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, speaking on the record with Dallas Bird and Mable Bird. They’re from -- one is from Lac La Ronge Indian Band, and the other one is from Brabant. Is that both Lac La Ronge?

MS. MABLE BIRD: Yeah.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. And they’ve travelled from La Ronge, Saskatchewan, and we’re in Prince Albert. The date is August 22, 2018.

Dallas and Mable, you are here to voluntarily give your statement in the matter of your sister Happy Charles and your sister-in-law, and present with us in the room are Dallas Bird, Mable Bird, and their daughter --

MS. MABLE BIRD: Yeah.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: -- Tracy. Your statement will be audio-recorded today, and you haven’t -- you didn’t allow us to video-tape your statement. However, we put it on here just as a backup. Can you please confirm that you agree with this?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah.
MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. Dallas, what do you want to share with the National Inquiry regarding your sister?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: I just want to share what the investigation is, how I think the investigation is going, and want to know more about, like, what the country is doing for my sister.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. So first of all, do you want to talk a little bit about your sister, like, where she’s from, her name, maybe things like that?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah. She was -- I’ve known her since -- I stayed with my auntie when I was young, so I wasn’t really with my sister the whole time when we were growing up. It wasn’t until I was about 9 years old, that’s when I moved in with my mom and stepfather, and my sister Happy was living there, but by then she was already kind of into drugs and alcohol. And just kind of getting to know her, she was actually quite violent to me when we were growing up, used to hit me a lot and -- nothing too crazy, just like brother and sister banter, but, yeah, she was a little bit violent. But I think she was just a lost soul after my late grandfather -- or grandmother died. And, yeah, she was on a downward spiral from then on.

So she -- she started having kids there, and
then her oldest one she had when I was -- well, I would have been 15 -- 13 years old at the time, when she had her oldest daughter. And then with her boyfriend at the time, they had their kids, and she lost one of them. Yeah, she was just -- just a baby, and I -- I can’t even remember if she was quite a year old yet, but, yeah, she passed away in her sleep, and my sister found her in the morning, stiff in -- stiff in her little car seat. Yeah, then that’s when -- about the same time she really started to turn her alcoholism more into drug use.

Then she met somebody who was a very bad influence on her, even worse, and I think he took her into dark places where she wasn’t before. And, yeah, and then she came to Prince Albert to meet him, and that night is the last known video-recording of Happy on tape outside of PACI.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So do you and Happy have the same parents?

**MR. DALLAS BIRD:** No. She has a different father than me. I’m not sure who her father was.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Oh, okay.

**MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Just the same mother.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah. And how many kids does your mother have?

**MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Five.
MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Five. And then she -- I believe she lost two --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: -- from my -- my biological father --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: -- before I was born.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. And you -- you -- you were saying that she grew up somewhere else and you grew up somewhere else?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah. I lived with my auntie and my late grandfather for most of my young life, and then she was raised by my mom and stepfather, but my mother and stepfather were into heavy alcohol use, so just getting me out of that environment, I just stayed -- stayed with my auntie and my late grandfather.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: And you said that the death of your grandmother devastated your sister?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah. I think I was -- I’m going to say about 4 years old when she passed away, but then the family noticed that that’s about the same time that Happy started getting into drugs and alcohol was when she passed away.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: And how old was she?
MR. DALLAS BIRD: Oh, she would have been 10, 10 or 11? I think that’s when her depression started, and then went to go see doctors and stuff, but I don’t think she ever really got over that because she was very close with her.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Oh. So did your grandmother raise her at some point?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: No. They were just really close. We were a tight-knit family when -- when I was young. I remember seeing lots of pictures of us living at my late grandfather’s house --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: -- late grandmother’s house. And that’s just where all the family kind of hoarded together and visited and -- yeah, and she was really close with her. It wasn’t until my mother met my stepfather that she actually strayed away from the house, and I think that’s when I stayed behind and I stayed with my late grandfather, where Happy went with my mom and went to go live with them.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: And how many kids does your mom have with your stepfather?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Three.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. So there is you and Happy, and then she went --
MR. DALLAS BIRD: Three younger brothers.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. I see. And so it was very -- growing up, you were kind of, like, not really living with your mother?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: M’hm.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Did you ever live with her?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah. Once I turned 9 or 10 years old, I believe it was, I moved back in with her and my stepfather.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: And then --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: And how did that go?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: It wasn’t too bad. I stayed -- yeah, I stayed with them pretty much all the time. It just started over -- with me sleeping over with my brothers just because I wanted to hang out with my brothers, and then eventually I slowly integrated myself into them, and then I started living there.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: And what about -- are they still drinking or --

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Oh, no. After we had -- we moved from one part of town to the other, and when we moved over there, my stepfather got a job somewhere up north, and they were still drinking at the time before he
went up north. And then when he got back, my mom just got off, like, a bender of partying and we -- after that, we were like -- we had to find a different place to live. Rent wasn’t being paid. I was looking after my brothers, keeping them from the partiers, and, yeah, we just slowly -- slowly moved to -- to the reservation after that. That’s where I was living, around town, in townhouses, but then we moved to the reserve. And Happy was already living off of reserve too. So she was, like, living in trailers with her boyfriend. She -- she lived in Prince Albert for a while as well.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm. And do you know your mom’s background? Like, did she go to residential school or anything like that?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Didn’t go to no residential school. My late grandfather did though.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Oh, okay. Well, where did he go?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: I think it was just in La Ronge there, just -- just at the -- at the residential school that was there.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Oh, okay.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Because I remember him telling me stories about them burning down the first one,
and then they thought they were free, but they built a more secure one, and it was even worse after that for him.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Oh. So how long did he go to the schools?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: I think he was in there for, like, 13, 14 years.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. That’s a long time.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah. His late brother died in there. Yeah, it’s just -- he told me some stories about it, never really got in depth with me about it because I was still young when I was living with him.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah. And your grandfather, he’s still alive?

MS. MABLE BIRD: No. He passed away.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. I see. So your mom grew up in La Ronge?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: So can you tell me more about your sister’s, like, last days, I guess? When’s the last time you guys seen her? Like, what she was doing and --

MR. DALLAS BIRD: The last time -- the last time I physically seen her, she was in Prince Albert here. She was still, like, kind of drunk. I’m not sure if she
was drunk or drugged up, but she -- she’d always approach
me whenever she seen me, come say hi, give her a hug. But
she’d always ask me for money, but I always refused to give
her money --

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M’hm.

**MR. DALLAS BIRD:** -- because I thought she’d
just, like, shoot it up. If she asked for smokes and stuff
like that, I’d gladly give her cigarettes, even food. If I
had some food, I’d give her food, but I would never
actually give her any money or anything that she could sell
because I told her I wasn’t going to contribute to her
killing herself.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah. And how many
days before she went missing was --

**MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Oh, this was like a few
months at least.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So that’s the last
time you seen her?

**MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Yeah --

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

**MR. DALLAS BIRD:** -- physically seen her.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

**MR. DALLAS BIRD:** But then the last time I
seen her was the video that the police shared online --

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.
MR. DALLAS BIRD: -- plus the -- I went to the police station to go look at the video too, but to me it looked edited. It looked like they were hiding something from us.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: So tell me about that.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Me, my uncle, my mother, and stepfather went there because we were on the search that one day. We had, like -- somebody had a vision of Happy being buried at -- in a remote location on a -- outside of a graveyard --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: -- so we went out to go check out some places north of the city but came up with nothing. But then they wanted to -- they wanted to share some information about the video with us, so we went to the police station. They showed us the aerial footage of them doing the helicopter scan all around the city --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: -- and showing us that they scoured it, and they couldn’t find any evidence. They showed us the video outside of PACI, P-A-C-I --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: -- and Happy was, like, digging in a garbage can --
MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: -- and -- but if you look at the footage, it looks like there’s a cat walking on the screen, and then all of a sudden that cat vanishes --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: -- and then the cat was nowhere to be seen, and then Happy pops out of nowhere. She goes and digs in the garbage can, looks in there. It looks like she found something, went to go hide behind the corner. She did something there and then she snuck out, and the video was her walking into a field. And when I asked the cops, like, “So where’s the other video; there’s another one pointing this way because I’ve been there,” and they said, “No other video exists,” and I was like, “But there’s one pointing straight to Kinsmen Park,” they’re like, “No, no, it never recorded; no, it doesn’t -- doesn’t exist.” And then hear later -- found out that they do have other video that they didn’t share with us at all too. That was Happy’s last video that I know of, that I seen her --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: -- but she didn’t look drunk or drugged up at all. In the video, she looked pretty sober, and it looked like she was just on a search for something.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.
MR. DALLAS BIRD: But she came to the city to come see her so-called boyfriend, and then, like, he ditched her over at YWCA, and then apparently there was some video of him at Tim Hortons around the time, and I’m not even sure what’s going on there.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Oh. So what -- what have -- what has the police done in regards to this investigation? Like, who’s -- who’s the head of this investigation?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: I’m not sure. I know [Liaison Officer] has some influence on it a little bit, but he’s more into the healing side of it for the -- for these people with missing people.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. He’s the liaison, that kind of thing.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah. Yeah, the liaison.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: I see. And did you guys talk to him?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: I’ve met with him a couple times, nothing too in depth, just a meet-and-greet kind of thing.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah. And what about your family? What -- what efforts have they taken over the search for your sister?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Oh, lots of -- lots of
searching, like, personal searching.

   MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

   MR. DALLAS BIRD: We noticed that a lot of the time too -- like, with our search, they were, like, “Yeah, just keep going out and searching for her; yeah, don’t stop, just go look for her.” Where I noticed other searches have been, “Yeah, here’s a bunch of resources; the cops will come help you search; we’ll give you the Buckland Fire Department, and we’ll go search.” But none of that was offered to my family.

   MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

   MR. DALLAS BIRD: It was just offered to other families.

   MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah. So why do you think that is?

   MR. DALLAS BIRD: I’m not sure. Biased, racism.

   MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

   MS. MABLE BIRD: And I think it also has to do with her drug addiction.

   MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

   MS. MABLE BIRD: Like, they look at her, like, just another drunk, kind of thing --

   MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

   MS. MABLE BIRD: -- and that’s how I feel.
MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay.

MS. MABLE BIRD: That’s why they’re not taking it serious.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah. So that was Mable speaking there, so I have to identify you for the camera on there.

MS. MABLE BIRD: M’hm.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. So how long has she been missing? Like, what day did she go missing?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Was it April 3rd?

MS. MABLE BIRD: April 3rd.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah, April 3rd was the date. That was the last known video of her, but the last time she was seen by any of her family was April 1st, I believe it was. I was up in La Ronge.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Oh, okay.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Because then she got her cheque sent over here, and that’s what she came to get, was cash some cheque and renew her bank cards or open a bank account, she said.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Oh, okay.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: But I don’t know how far that one goes because she has told a lot of, like, different stories. Didn’t want us to know that she was going to -- to [Boyfriend], her boyfriend.
MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm. What’s her boyfriend’s name?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: [Boyfriend].

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. So who reported her missing?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: I believe it was my mom. Regina reported her missing in -- I think it was a couple days after the 2nd. She messaged me up right away and was like, “Hey, can you go search the city for your sister? Have you seen her around?” And I was like, “No.” I didn’t really think anything of it. Because she’s been missing for -- a couple times before, like, for a few days before we took any notice, but she’s always showed up. She’s always contacted us, like, always contacted one of us.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: And I’ve always bumped into her in the city too so --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Right.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: But, yeah, then they started scouring the streets. We made missing poster signs, went all over, talked to a bunch of people. A bunch of wild goose chases around there though, like, nothing that had any concrete -- concreteness to it.

And then their searches were -- in my opinion, I don’t think they were very organized. They were
very scattered and all about -- just going by people’s
dreams and what they -- what they’ve seen in visions and --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: -- there was never any ‘A’
and ‘B’ method to their -- to their search. They never
followed a strict little thing. It was like, “Hey, let’s
search over here, let’s search over here.” And it was just
kind of a needle-in-the-haystack search, no thorough
search.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: So who are these
people with visions?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: I’m not even sure.

Medicine men. I know they talked to some psychics.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: So they’re really
concerned about your sister.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: M’hm.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah, because my mom
never, like, believed in any of the psychic stuff, and then
that’s when they started searching, talking with them.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: But then hearing the way
that they were talking to the psychics, it’s just -- they
were giving the psychic all the ammo to tell them what they
wanted to hear. The visions of the medicine -- medicine
men and stuff like that, that’s a different story, but
psychics I just think are -- I don’t think psychics are
real.

Ms. Francine Merasty: Can you tell us a
little bit more about your sister? Like, I know she abused
drugs and she drank alcohol and she started -- she had
depression since she was 11, and she started, you know,
using.

Mr. Dallas Bird: M’hm.

Ms. Francine Merasty: Is there anything
else that’s significant for you to share with us? Because
we like to know the person, like, how that person was,
like, even their positive attributes.

Mr. Dallas Bird: She was very artistic.
She could draw. She could draw very well. She did have
ambitions to be a hairdresser when she was younger. She
used to practice on her dolls and stuff all the time, and,
yeah, she always gave haircuts to all the -- the whole
family. She was good at it. She did a nice job. She was
best friends with my [Cousin 3], who has a little bit of
mental disorder there in the family on that side. We
noticed that trend going on.

Ms. Francine Merasty: M’hm.

Mr. Dallas Bird: But, yeah, they were best
friends. They were close, tight knit growing up, and then
all of a sudden [Cousin 3] just kind of snapped and they just stopped talking, maybe when Happy was in her 20s. They just stopped connecting after that.

Very, very strong in math skills too. Like, she was -- she was an odd one. She was very intellectual but very poor in English. She was smart though. She was a very smart girl.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Growing up, like, I never really needed any help in school. I was always a pretty good student myself.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: But then if I ever had a math question or something, I’d ask Happy, and she could definitely find it for me. I heard stories about her in school, how she was, like, one of the popular kids in school, and I was -- I was about the same line as her, a popular kid in school.

But she was like me, against bullying. We fought against it, both of us did. I never knew that about her until later on when a guidance counsellor pushed me to -- pulled me aside and told me about it, that my sister did the same thing that I do as an antibullying person. Yeah, she didn’t like -- she didn’t like people getting picked on. She didn’t like people that got taken advantage of.
MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah. And how old is she? Like, how much older is she than you?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: I guess she’d be about 5 years.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Five years? So you were born in 1980?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah, okay.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: But at the end, so, yeah, about 6 years.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. So besides the police --is there anybody else involved in the investigation besides the police and your family?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Not that I know of. I haven’t heard anything. No police reached out to me.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. And when the last time they went to search for her?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: I don’t know.

MS. MABLE BIRD: Beginning of June?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah, around that.

MS. MABLE BIRD: The first weekend of June.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah. Whereabouts did they look?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: I think they just had some little leads on the outskirts of the city that they wanted
to check out that they didn’t get to check out last year.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: But, yeah, they scoured pretty good and searched all the places that they thought they might need to search.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah. Was your sister ever in domestic violence relationships?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Numerous.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Can you tell me about that?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Her latest boyfriend, [Boyfriend], he beat her up on several occasions. I’ve only heard stories though. I’ve never seen the actual abuse. We were already living in Prince Albert here, and I guess [Boyfriend] took her back to his house, beat her up pretty bad, and when my mom went to go recover her from the house, they said she wasn’t there, but they busted in the door anyway and went to go check it out, and she was beaten pretty badly. She could barely open her eyes. They had to take her to the hospital. Part of the bone structure was, like, damaged on the side of her skull. Like, he beat her up bad. That’s probably the worst case that he’s ever done to her.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: And how -- how long before she went missing after that beating there?
MR. DALLAS BIRD: I’m not sure. This was probably a couple years.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. I see.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Because I only hear mostly stories secondhand, hey.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Never really keep me in the loop on too much stuff.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Before that, I remember one of her first boyfriends when I was I’d have to say maybe 10, she was beat up by her one boyfriend pretty bad, and my stepdad went and -- went and took care of him pretty good there --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: -- gave him a licking there afterwards. But, yeah, that’s the earliest case I could really remember myself. I’m not sure how her other relationships were in between, but, yeah, I just remember that first one, and then I remember [Boyfriend].

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. Do you know if she suffered any child, like, abuse?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: No, not from any of the family. I know -- I know when she first moved away from La Ronge and moved to Prince Albert that she did stem into a
little bit of prostitution and drug use then.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: But other than that, no, I don’t -- I don’t think she had ever faced any, like, sexual or physical abuse in the homes.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. Was there any Child Welfare in -- in your family or with her?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: M’hm. Just with her with her kids.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Her kids got taken away a couple times because of drinking.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: But they’ve always ended up, like, with my mom and my stepdad and with family all the time. They’ve always been close.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. And now that she’s missing, where are her kids now?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Well, they’re all grown up and --since then. I think the youngest one just turned 18, like, recently.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: But the youngest one was -- actually her second youngest, [Daughter 2], the second youngest girl, she was living with my auntie, the one who
actually raised me --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: -- but she -- she adopted

her when she was born and --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: -- she took care of her,

and then there’s her son that she had with [Boyfriend]. That one is staying in foster care with his uncle, and his uncle was one of my best friends growing up. But that family has come from -- come from an abused home.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: [Boyfriend] was abused very bad, same with [Friend]. Like, they were -- they were beat, beat really badly by their father.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Are they also from La Ronge?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: I knew them growing up. Like, [Friend] my friend, so, yeah, we were -- we were pretty close when we were young, and, yeah, he would -- he went to school beaten very, very badly sometimes. I’m scared his abuse actually is going down the line and he’s beating Happy’s son now.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Oh. What -- what do
you think might have helped your sister, like, not go
missing?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: I’m not sure. Because I
told her a lot of times, like, “You’re going to end up
missing or dead soon.”

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Because of what?
Because of the way she was living or --

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Just -- yeah, just her
lifestyle.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: And her lifestyle was
what?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Drinking, drugs. She was
always trying to party since she was young. Like, I don’t
think that mental part in her -- she ever really grew up
and became an adult.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: I think she was always a
child in her mind. I’m thinking something happened back
then that I don’t know about that I haven’t seen.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Something in her personal
life that she’s faced, and I also remember one thing that
she was talking about when she said -- I kind of slipped in
on my mom and her talking one day, and she said, “I can’t
tell you what I know, mom, because it could destroy you.”
But I never knew what that was. I don’t think my mom ever knows what that was either, when she said she couldn’t tell any of us because it would destroy the family. So she was hiding something, but I don’t -- I don’t know if there was anything really to fix her.

I think the only person who really ever got through to her was me, when I did talk with her. Like, I got her to quit drinking one time. I got her to quit doing drugs one time. But I think ‘cause just me being a little harsh with her one time too that caused her not to listen to anybody more.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

**MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Because I told her, like, “You’re going to end up dead.” Like, “You can’t continue your life this way.” But, yeah, I never got through to her. Kind of gave up hope on her.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah. What do you think would make things better for future, the -- like, the future generation?

**MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Just everybody stop hating each other. Like, we’re all one being. We’re not -- race shouldn’t separate any of us.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So where do you experience racism?

**MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Social media. There’s
tons of it, tons on social media. At work I see a lot of it. I used to work up in the mines, seen a lot up there as well, like, native on native, white on native. It wouldn’t matter. They just all had hate for each other. I’m assuming from upbringing mostly, because you’re never -- you’re not born racist. You learn that stuff.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: I think the police need to take native more seriously too. I think they’re just not -- it’s like they don’t care.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Just another dead Indian.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Is that how you feel in regards to how they are treating the investigation regarding your sister?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah, definitely.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Because I seen -- what was that other girl’s name?

MS. MABLE BIRD: Brandy, I think it was.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah, Brandy something. She -- I think that’s the one in Shellbrook? Is that the one that went missing?

MS. MABLE BIRD: No. That was the one that went missing down west, and they found her body in her
mom’s house.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah. And then there’s that Brandy one. I think they have, like, a reward or something out for her, but, like, you seen that thing posted all over. You seen it on the police reports. You see it postered everywhere, white girl, blonde hair, all over the news, all over social media, all over the media, and then it comes to my sister and it’s like, “Oh, here’s one little poster.” And -- and they didn’t push it out, and they didn’t claim her missing right away.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: And who is that Brandy? Where is she from?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Manitoba?

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Is that the one from Yorkton there? No?

MS. MABLE BIRD: No. That one’s Mekayla.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: That one’s all over too. That’s another white girl missing that --

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: -- they seem to care more about.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: And it’s not just Happy either. It’s all the native women. There’s so many of
them out there, and they’re not plastered all over the place, but then I -- I hate to bring race into it. Like, bring a white girl into it, and everybody loses their heads and they’re all worried about them.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah. Do you have anything else to share?

**MR. DALLAS BIRD:** No.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Because this is going to go to the Inquiry, and they’re going to look at your statement.

**MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Yeah. I guess I -- I got, like, something to say about, like, immigration and stuff, but that doesn’t really account.

But I was looking back on news history thinking about, like, missing women. You’ve got the Highway of Tears in BC, all those missing women over there, and then they found this guy who murdered a whole bunch of them. I think it was 25 they found in his yard. But you didn’t really hear too much about that. You didn’t -- you heard about the missing and murdered Indigenous women all over the country, but ever since Trudeau let in the refugees into this country, it seems to me that number has skyrocketed.

Like, I’ve heard of way more missing cases ever since Trudeau let them in than there has ever been on
record. You got blacks, you got whites, you got natives, you got Chinese; they’re all going missing in record numbers here. And, yeah, it all started when immigration started coming over, bringing over all the -- I’m not even sure which races are there, but there’s no screening process there, and they’re not checking their background checks. They’re not seeing if these guys are part of terrorist organizations or not. They were just letting them in, like, free for all, and now I think a lot of them are going missing now from those.

Then you got, like --

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** What do you think is happening there?

**MR. DALLAS BIRD:** I -- I just -- I think it’s trafficking, human trafficking. People need to make money somewhere, and that’s probably the quickest way they could do it is go kidnap some girls and sell them for money. They need to take a better -- better look at the borders before they just start letting people in the door. I’m all about like -- like, yeah, they’re country is torn apart, but they still should do some screening.

**MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

**MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Everybody needs a safe place to live, but them letting in the wrong type of people is making our safe place to live not a safe place to live
anymore. Like, I used to be -- like, even growing up, I could -- 8 years old, I’d walk downtown to the beach and have no problems at all, walk back home middle of the night, I’d be fine. I wouldn’t trust my daughter walking down the street alone at 8 years old, at 15 years old. It’s a different world now.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah. Do you think there’s other people we should talk to?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Maybe the homeless, people that are actually out on the streets, and possibly they’re seeing some people taken, but they’re quieted down by fear.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah, that’s probably it, the homeless people, because they see stuff that the cops don’t see.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: M’hm.

MR. DALLAS BIRD: But they won’t speak to cops because they know they’ll get in trouble if they talk to any cops.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah. Is that it?

MR. DALLAS BIRD: Yeah, I think that’s probably about all -- all that needs to be talked to is those.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. Do you have anything to share, Mable?
MS. MABLE BIRD: No.

MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. So let’s see

-- I’m just going to figure out what time it is. So it’s

2:08 p.m., Wednesday, August 22nd in Prince Albert, and

we’re done with the statement.

--- Upon adjourning at 2:08 p.m.
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST’S CERTIFICATE

I, Karin Proulx, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.

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Karin Proulx

October 3, 2018