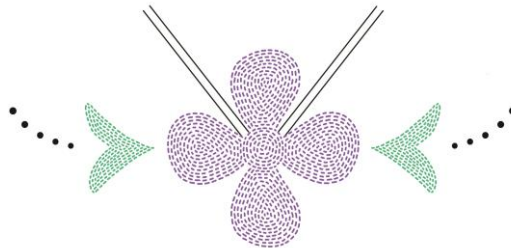


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan**



PUBLIC

Wednesday August 22, 2018

Statement - Volume 473

**Dallas Bird & Mable Bird,
In relation to Happy Charles**

**Statement gathered by Francine Merasty,
Commission Counsel**

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Statement - Public
Dallas & Mable Bird
(Happy Charles)

1

1 Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, August 22, 2018, at 12:35
3 p.m.

4 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** This is Francine
5 Merasty with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
6 Indigenous Women and Girls, speaking on the record with
7 Dallas Bird and Mable Bird. They're from -- one is from
8 Lac La Ronge Indian Band, and the other one is from
9 Brabant. Is that both Lac La Ronge?

10 **MS. MABLE BIRD:** Yeah.

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

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

19 **MS. MABLE BIRD:** Yeah.

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

25 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Yeah.

1 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay. Dallas, what
2 do you want to share with the National Inquiry regarding
3 your sister?

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

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

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

25 So she -- she started having kids there, and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Five.

1 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay.

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

4 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

5 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** -- from my -- my
6 biological father --

7 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

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

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

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

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

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

25 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** And how old was she?

1 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Oh, she would have been
2 10, 10 or 11? I think that's when her depression started,
3 and then went to go see doctors and stuff, but I don't
4 think she ever really got over that because she was very
5 close with her.

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

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

12 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

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

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

23 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Three.

24 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay. So there is
25 you and Happy, and then she went --

1 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Three younger brothers.

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

5 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** M'hm.

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

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

11 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay.

12 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** And then --

13 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** And how did that go?

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

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

22 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Oh, no. After we had --
23 we moved from one part of town to the other, and when we
24 moved over there, my stepfather got a job somewhere up
25 north, and they were still drinking at the time before he

1 went up north. And then when he got back, my mom just got
2 off, like, a bender of partying and we -- after that, we
3 were like -- we had to find a different place to live.
4 Rent wasn't being paid. I was looking after my brothers,
5 keeping them from the partiers, and, yeah, we just slowly
6 -- slowly moved to -- to the reservation after that.
7 That's where I was living, around town, in townhouses, but
8 then we moved to the reserve.

9 And Happy was already living off of reserve
10 too. So she was, like, living in trailers with her
11 boyfriend. She -- she lived in Prince Albert for a while
12 as well.

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

16 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Didn't go to no
17 residential school. My late grandfather did though.

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

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

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

24 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Because I remember him
25 telling me stories about them burning down the first one,

1 and then they thought they were free, but they built a more
2 secure one, and it was even worse after that for him.

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

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

7 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay. That's a long
8 time.

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

13 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah. And your
14 grandfather, he's still alive?

15 **MS. MABLE BIRD:** No. He passed away.

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

18 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Yeah.

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

23 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** The last time -- the last
24 time I physically seen her, she was in Prince Albert here.
25 She was still, like, kind of drunk. I'm not sure if she

1 was drunk or drugged up, but she -- she'd always approach
2 me whenever she seen me, come say hi, give her a hug. But
3 she'd always ask me for money, but I always refused to give
4 her money --

5 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

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

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

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

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

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

20 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

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

22 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

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

25 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

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

5 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So tell me about
6 that.

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

12 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

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

19 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

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

23 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

24 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** -- and Happy was, like,
25 digging in a garbage can --

1 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

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

5 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

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

20 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

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

25 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

1 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** But she came to the city
2 to come see her so-called boyfriend, and then, like, he
3 ditched her over at YWCA, and then apparently there was
4 some video of him at Tim Hortons around the time, and I'm
5 not even sure what's going on there.

6 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Oh. So what -- what
7 have -- what has the police done in regards to this
8 investigation? Like, who's -- who's the head of this
9 investigation?

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

14 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay. He's the
15 liaison, that kind of thing.

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

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

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

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

25 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Oh, lots of -- lots of

1 searching, like, personal searching.

2 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

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

11 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

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

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

16 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** I'm not sure. Biased,
17 racism.

18 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

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

21 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

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

24 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

25 **MS. MABLE BIRD:** -- and that's how I feel.

1 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay.

2 **MS. MABLE BIRD:** That's why they're not
3 taking it serious.

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

7 **MS. MABLE BIRD:** M'hm.

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

10 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Was it April 3rd?

11 **MS. MABLE BIRD:** April 3rd.

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

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

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

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

22 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** But I don't know how far
23 that one goes because she has told a lot of, like,
24 different stories. Didn't want us to know that she was
25 going to -- to [Boyfriend], her boyfriend.

1 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm. What's her
2 boyfriend's name?

3 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** [Boyfriend].

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

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

15 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

16 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** And I've always bumped
17 into her in the city too so --

18 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Right.

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

24 And then their searches were -- in my
25 opinion, I don't think they were very organized. They were

1 very scattered and all about -- just going by people's
2 dreams and what they -- what they've seen in visions and --

3 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

4 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** -- there was never any 'A'
5 and 'B' method to their -- to their search. They never
6 followed a strict little thing. It was like, "Hey, let's
7 search over here, let's search over here." And it was just
8 kind of a needle-in-the-haystack search, no thorough
9 search.

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

12 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** I'm not even sure.
13 Medicine men. I know they talked to some psychics.

14 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So they're really
15 concerned about your sister.

16 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** M'hm.

17 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

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

21 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

22 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** But then hearing the way
23 that they were talking to the psychics, it's just -- they
24 were giving the psychic all the ammo to tell them what they
25 wanted to hear. The visions of the medicine -- medicine

1 men and stuff like that, that's a different story, but
2 psychics I just think are -- I don't think psychics are
3 real.

4 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Can you tell us a
5 little bit more about your sister? Like, I know she abused
6 drugs and she drank alcohol and she started -- she had
7 depression since she was 11, and she started, you know,
8 using.

9 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** M'hm.

10 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Is there anything
11 else that's significant for you to share with us? Because
12 we like to know the person, like, how that person was,
13 like, even their positive attributes.

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

23 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

24 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** But, yeah, they were best
25 friends. They were close, tight knit growing up, and then

1 all of a sudden [Cousin 3] just kind of snapped and they
2 just stopped talking, maybe when Happy was in her 20s.
3 They just stopped connecting after that.

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

8 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

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

12 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

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

19 But she was like me, against bullying. We
20 fought against it, both of us did. I never knew that about
21 her until later on when a guidance counsellor pushed me to
22 -- pulled me aside and told me about it, that my sister did
23 the same thing that I do as an antibullying person. Yeah,
24 she didn't like -- she didn't like people getting picked
25 on. She didn't like people that got taken advantage of.

1 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah. And how old is
2 she? Like, how much older is she than you?

3 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** I guess she'd be about 5
4 years.

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

7 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Yeah.

8 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah, okay.

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

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

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

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

18 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** I don't know.

19 **MS. MABLE BIRD:** Beginning of June?

20 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Yeah, around that.

21 **MS. MABLE BIRD:** The first weekend of June.

22 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah. Whereabouts
23 did they look?

24 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** I think they just had some
25 little leads on the outskirts of the city that they wanted

1 to check out that they didn't get to check out last year.

2 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

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

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

8 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Numerous.

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

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

24 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** And how -- how long
25 before she went missing after that beating there?

1 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** I'm not sure. This was
2 probably a couple years.

3 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay. I see.

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

6 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

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

9 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

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

15 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

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

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

23 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** No, not from any of the
24 family. I know -- I know when she first moved away from La
25 Ronge and moved to Prince Albert that she did stem into a

1 little bit of prostitution and drug use then.

2 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

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

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

8 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** M'hm. Just with her with
9 her kids.

10 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay.

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

13 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

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

17 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay. And now that
18 she's missing, where are her kids now?

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

22 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay.

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

1 actually raised me --

2 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

3 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** -- but she -- she adopted
4 her when she was born and --

5 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay.

6 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** -- she took care of her,
7 and then there's her son that she had with [Boyfriend].
8 That one is staying in foster care with his uncle, and his
9 uncle was one of my best friends growing up. But that
10 family has come from -- come from an abused home.

11 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

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

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

17 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Yeah.

18 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay.

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

25 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Oh. What -- what do

1 you think might have helped your sister, like, not go
2 missing?

3 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** I'm not sure. Because I
4 told her a lot of times, like, "You're going to end up
5 missing or dead soon."

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

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

10 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** And her lifestyle was
11 what?

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

16 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

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

20 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

21 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Something in her personal
22 life that she's faced, and I also remember one thing that
23 she was talking about when she said -- I kind of slipped in
24 on my mom and her talking one day, and she said, "I can't
25 tell you what I know, mom, because it could destroy you."

1 But I never knew what that was. I don't think my mom ever
2 knows what that was either, when she said she couldn't tell
3 any of us because it would destroy the family. So she was
4 hiding something, but I don't -- I don't know if there was
5 anything really to fix her.

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

12 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

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

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

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

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

25 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Social media. There's

1 tons of it, tons on social media. At work I see a lot of
2 it. I used to work up in the mines, seen a lot up there as
3 well, like, native on native, white on native. It wouldn't
4 matter. They just all had hate for each other. I'm
5 assuming from upbringing mostly, because you're never --
6 you're not born racist. You learn that stuff.

7 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

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

11 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

12 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Just another dead Indian.

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

16 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Yeah, definitely.

17 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

18 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Because I seen -- what was
19 that other girl's name?

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

21 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Yeah, Brandy something.
22 She -- I think that's the one in Shellbrook? Is that the
23 one that went missing?

24 **MS. MABLE BIRD:** No. That was the one that
25 went missing down west, and they found her body in her

1 mom's house.

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

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

13 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Manitoba?

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

16 **MS. MABLE BIRD:** No. That one's Mekayla.

17 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Oh, yeah. Yeah.

18 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** That one's all over too.
19 That's another white girl missing that --

20 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

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

23 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

24 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** And it's not just Happy
25 either. It's all the native women. There's so many of

1 them out there, and they're not plastered all over the
2 place, but then I -- I hate to bring race into it. Like,
3 bring a white girl into it, and everybody loses their heads
4 and they're all worried about them.

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

7 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** No.

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

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

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

24 Like, I've heard of way more missing cases
25 ever since Trudeau let them in than there has ever been on

1 record. You got blacks, you got whites, you got natives,
2 you got Chinese; they're all going missing in record
3 numbers here. And, yeah, it all started when immigration
4 started coming over, bringing over all the -- I'm not even
5 sure which races are there, but there's no screening
6 process there, and they're not checking their background
7 checks. They're not seeing if these guys are part of
8 terrorist organizations or not. They were just letting
9 them in, like, free for all, and now I think a lot of them
10 are going missing now from those.

11 Then you got, like --

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

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

22 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

23 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Everybody needs a safe
24 place to live, but them letting in the wrong type of people
25 is making our safe place to live not a safe place to live

1 any more. Like, I used to be -- like, even growing up, I
2 could -- 8 years old, I'd walk downtown to the beach and
3 have no problems at all, walk back home middle of the
4 night, I'd be fine. I wouldn't trust my daughter walking
5 down the street alone at 8 years old, at 15 years old.
6 It's a different world now.

7 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah. Do you think
8 there's other people we should talk to?

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

12 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

13 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Yeah, that's probably it,
14 the homeless people, because they see stuff that the cops
15 don't see.

16 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm.

17 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** But they won't speak to
18 cops because they know they'll get in trouble if they talk
19 to any cops.

20 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah. Is that it?

21 **MR. DALLAS BIRD:** Yeah, I think that's
22 probably about all -- all that needs to be talked to is
23 those.

24 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay. Do you have
25 anything to share, Mable?

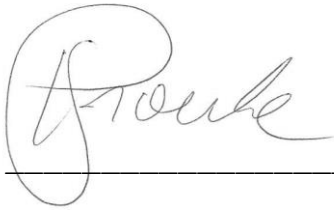
1 **MS. MABLE BIRD:** No.

2 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay. So let's see
3 -- I'm just going to figure out what time it is. So it's
4 2:08 p.m., Wednesday, August 22nd in Prince Albert, and
5 we're done with the statement.

6 --- 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karin Proulx", is written above a horizontal line.

Karin Proulx

October 3, 2018