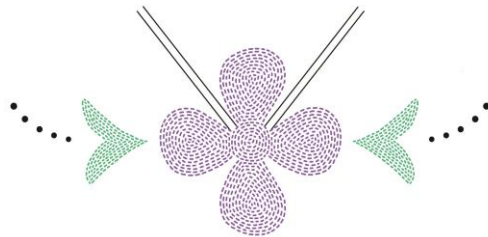


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Toronto Marriott Hotel
Toronto, Ontario**



PUBLIC

Wednesday October 10, 2018

Statement - Volume 505

H.H.

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

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II

ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 7 of *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*, Chief Commissioner Marion Buller ordered that all names be made anonymous in this transcript and any related documents. The order for anonymity was made June 7, 2019.

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

Toronto, Ontario

1
2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 1:11
3 p.m.

4 MS. H.H.: I'm beating myself up.

5 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

6 (LAUGHTER)

7 MS. H.H.: Okay, that's it. I'm done.

8 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Are you ready to
9 start?

10 MS. H.H.: For sure. Yeah.

11 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: This is Francine
12 Merasty, statement-taker with the National Inquiry Into
13 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. We are in
14 Toronto, Ontario. The date is October 10, 2018, and the
15 time is...

16 MS. H.H.: 12:30?

17 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: 1 --

18 MS. H.H.: Oh.

19 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: -- 11.

20 MS. H.H.: 1:11.

21 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: P.m.

22 MS. H.H.: P.m.

23 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah. Today I'm
24 speaking with [H.H.] of the [First Nation 1]. She resides
25 half-time in [City 1] and half-time in Toronto. She's here

H.H.

1 to tell the truth about herself and her experience with a
2 2006 assault that happened to her at [Town 1 in
3 Northwestern Ontario], and there's no one else in the room
4 with us. There's only me and [H.H.].

5 [H.H.], you are voluntarily here to provide
6 your truth in regards to your 2006 assault, and you agree
7 to the video-taping and audio-taping of your truth?

8 **MS. H.H.:** Yes, I do. Yeah.

9 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay. You can begin.

10 **MS. H.H.:** Okay. Yes, hi. My name's
11 [H.H.], I was a social worker up in [Northwestern Ontario
12 First Nation 1]. It was a new job which I started. It was
13 a year, and I got my two weeks off, and I was only
14 permitted to come in once a month to pick up my groceries
15 and whatever supplies I needed for the month, and one thing
16 they did up there was they paid me in cash, and everybody
17 knows everybody got paid in cash. So whoever came in,
18 everybody knew there was a lot of money, and --

19 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Can -- can you tell
20 me about [Northwestern Ontario First Nation 1]? Like, is
21 it an isolated community? Do you have to fly up there,
22 or --

23 **MS. H.H.:** Yes. [Northwestern Ontario First
24 Nation 1] is a 3-hour flight from [Town 1 in Northwestern
25 Ontario], and it only flies in and out twice a month, and I

1 was only permitted to go out once a month to do my banking
2 and pick up my personal stuff.

3 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So it's a really --

4 **MS. H.H.:** It's an isolated -- it's a
5 remote -- no fresh fruit, no fresh meat. There's no trees
6 on that island. All the water is polluted. They have to
7 bring in water. They have to bring in the food, and
8 I -- actually went to the grocery store there. They have a
9 [Store 1], the only store, and I went to buy a little
10 80-milligram or 80-gram package of baloney. It was green,
11 and they wanted almost \$20 for it, and that's the food that
12 the government is giving the people up north.

13 I picked up a box of oranges, fresh oranges,
14 those big naval oranges. I took them up. They didn't even
15 know what they were. What's wrong with the government?
16 Why can't they send them up fresh fruit? We have -- we
17 have plenty for the entire world, but yet our own people
18 are being neglected. They're not being fed the proper
19 food. They're not getting the health care which
20 they -- they require. They cannot come and go as they
21 please. They are isolated. They want to leave but they
22 cannot leave because there's no jobs, there's no money, and
23 there's no food. They're just slowly dying one by one, and
24 I -- I actually believe that -- I was told up there that
25 they were actually killing people and eating them because

1 in the winter it gets so cold. What they do is they burn
2 their furniture for heat, and they eat -- they turn into
3 cannibals in the wintertime because there's no food and
4 they got no money to get out, and there's no such thing as
5 a food bank, nothing up there.

6 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So you were working
7 there as a social worker?

8 **MS. H.H.:** I was working there as a social
9 worker for a -- for a good year, but I was flying for ten
10 years to different islands because of the high suicide rate
11 at that time. It was a very high suicide rate, and at that
12 time, the children -- it was children suicide. They were 5
13 and under, and I was burying at least two children a week
14 minimum which were under the age of 5. The parents were
15 around somewhere, I don't know, but they only had so far to
16 go on the island. There's nothing on the island, so you
17 could see -- you could look in the -- in the old shacks.
18 They're tar shacks, not insulated. It's cold, very cold --

19 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** And what year was
20 this?

21 **MS. H.H.:** This is -- was in 2006.

22 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Oh.

23 **MS. H.H.:** Still happening in 2006.

24 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** And you're saying
25 5-year-olds are committing suicide?

1 **MS. H.H.:** Yeah, and the following year it
2 went up to the teenagers that did the suicides, and the
3 year after that it hit the ones in 20s, and right now since
4 I've been away from contact with anybody up there, I've
5 been busy looking after my injuries and getting myself
6 healthy again, both traditionally and the way the white
7 people -- the traditional white people way, I guess, which
8 is our way because there's many things which they stole off
9 of us, like aspirins. We never got compensated for any of
10 that, and somebody should get compensated because it was
11 the Aboriginal people who originally made it, but they
12 never received anything. There's many medicines out there
13 the government owes thanks to Aboriginal people, and -- and
14 they don't even get a "thank you," which I find extremely
15 rude, and they sit there and they make billions of dollars
16 off of us, and we don't see one red cent or that "thank
17 you." That "thank you" is so important in -- in our
18 culture, and in our culture we don't say thank you. We
19 have say *Miigwech* or *chi-Miigwech*, which means "thank you
20 very much" or just -- *Miigwech* means "thank you."

21 And what happened on this day in [date in
22 June] in 2016 [sic], I was flying in. I was finished for
23 the year, so I got a motel room, and I stayed there because
24 I was tired, wanted a break away from everything, and all
25 of a sudden I seen my friend up there. She resided up in

1 [Southern Ontario First Nation 1] where I resided. I had a
2 house up there, also, and she was there, and she had two
3 guys in the truck with her. They looked like biker guys.
4 I never seen them before, and I'm walking down the road
5 with the two big bags, walking to my truck. I just got off
6 the plane, and I got all the cash in my pocket and my
7 wallet, and I'm carrying these two really heavy bags, and
8 they see I was struggling, and I seen a big smile on their
9 face. They pulled over and offered me a ride to my truck,
10 and of course I offered. I knew the person, but we drove
11 right past my truck. I -- I told them -- I yelled at them,
12 whoa, stop, that's my truck here, but she kept going, and
13 then she turned left into a logging road, and then once
14 they got past the logging road around a few trees and that
15 where you couldn't see the truck, they threw me out of the
16 truck, they grabbed a crow bar -- well, first they asked me
17 for the money, and I told them, no, I already went to the
18 bank, but they -- I never knew that they were watching me
19 all along getting off the plane and everything, so they
20 knew I -- I didn't just get off -- that I went to the bank.

21 So they emptied my pockets right there, and
22 they ripped my pants down to knee-length and dug through my
23 pocket. They got my wallet out of my bag -- out of one of
24 my bags, and then they got all my cash out and they took
25 that. They went to the bank. They emptied my bank

H.H.

1 account. They maxed out my credit cards, and the only way
2 that they got the number -- my pin number was they held
3 guns to my head and they were firing shots. They wanted me
4 to dance, but I was beaten so bad I couldn't even walk or
5 sit.

6 So they dragged me over to this swamp, and
7 they dunked my head over, and I remember watching
8 "Gilligan's Island" as a kid. I was raised very well. My
9 family did not drink. They did not smoke. I was raised in
10 a very strict household. My dad was [European
11 nationality], and he's very strict. When work had to be
12 done, it had to be done now, and there was no smoking, no
13 drinking, very strict, but we were fed good. We were
14 dressed good. We were taught manners, etiquette. We were
15 taught -- and then we got taught the traditional way by my
16 mother. After my dad find out -- found out that -- that
17 the drinking had slowed down on the reserves and there's
18 dry reserves, that's when he permitted us to go on
19 reserves. He kept us off as long as he could, but I always
20 had to go with my mother to all the funerals.

21 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So -- so before -- I
22 just want to go back to the assault there. So they
23 were -- they put your head in the water?

24 **MS. H.H.:** They put my head in the water,
25 and I tilted my head just a bit, just enough to get a

1 little bit of air, and then they kicked -- he -- both of
2 the guys, they must have been 300 pounds. I don't know who
3 they were. They had steel-toed boots on. I was on the
4 ground. They were busy hoofing me. Once they dragged me
5 to the water, they dunked my head in, and I was holding my
6 breath, and then when I came up, I just went on a little
7 tilt like that, just enough so I wouldn't move the water,
8 and I had myself against two rocks. I was holding myself
9 up against two rocks like that so I wouldn't slide in or
10 make a mistake, and I just laid there. It felt like
11 forever. It felt like -- oh, at least half a day it felt
12 like, but really, it must have only been ten minutes.

13 And then I went to get up. I heard the
14 truck finally start. I heard them leave. I got my head
15 out of the water and I listened, and I never heard anything
16 for about 15 minutes, so I got back in my truck after they
17 smashed it up with a crowbar and left a few souvenirs on my
18 car, marking it all up, smashing the window, smashing this,
19 smashing that, because I had to walk to my car, but once I
20 tried to get up from the swamp/river, I couldn't walk. My
21 legs didn't operate.

22 So I ended up walking like a duck down on
23 two legs, and I got to the hospital. It must have taken me
24 a good two and a half hours to duck-walk to the hospital.
25 I was down -- actually, I will show you how I was. I was

H.H.

1 down like this, and I had to walk approximately two and a
2 half kilometers in this position. I had to walk two and a
3 half hours, and once I got to the hospital, the doctor
4 called me an effing Indian drunk and to get the hell out of
5 the hospital, and -- so -- so I just went back to my truck,
6 and I got myself back in just like so. It took me a good
7 half-hour. This won't take me a half-hour, but this is
8 exactly how I had to get in, and I was crying all
9 the -- all that time.

10 And then I finally got myself in, and I
11 waited until 7 o'clock until doctor change, and then I went
12 in. That doctor took me in immediately. They did x-rays,
13 they did everything, and then they didn't have any room in
14 the [Town 1 in Northwestern Ontario] hospital, so they put
15 me up at the [Hotel], and I was there for a month. I lost
16 80 pounds in that one month, and still to this day I'm
17 dropping weight. I -- I put on 20 pounds, and in one week,
18 I lose that 20 pounds. I --

19 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So this
20 happened -- so this happened in 2006?

21 **MS. H.H.:** This happened in June - [date in
22 June], 2006.

23 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** In [Town 1 in
24 Northwestern Ontario]?

25 **MS. H.H.:** In [Town 1 in Northwestern

1 Ontario], Ontario.

2 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** And what -- do you
3 remember what kind of injuries you sustained?

4 **MS. H.H.:** Yes. My sciatica got smashed.

5 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** What -- what part of
6 the sciatica is it? Like, the back?

7 **MS. H.H.:** Right dead centre, and it -- and
8 that's our main nervous -- this controls all our nerves --

9 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

10 **MS. H.H.:** -- in our system, so --

11 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So what -- what
12 happened to you there during the assault? Like, what did
13 they do there?

14 **MS. H.H.:** During the assault, she used the
15 crowbar, just went nuts on the crowbar. I found out later
16 that they were all stoned on coke, and the injuries which
17 the doctor reported was -- I was supposed to be casted up.
18 They did not cast me up, or else I would have been healed
19 faster. I sustained back injuries. I -- I sustained -- I
20 had a great big goose egg out to here, at least two to
21 three inches, because she got me really good on the side of
22 the head, that --

23 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** With the crowbar?

24 **MS. H.H.:** With the crowbar, and that's when
25 I dropped and the guy started booting me around, and then

1 they got everything they wanted. That's when they dragged
2 me over to the lake -- to the stream --

3 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Was this, like, a
4 random attack?

5 **MS. H.H.:** Yes. It was rare -- it -- it was
6 rare for her to be even there when I pulled up in the
7 plane.

8 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** And you know this
9 person?

10 **MS. H.H.:** I knew the driver. That was it.
11 I didn't know the two gentlemen that were in there. They
12 must have been 300 pounds. They were both wearing leather
13 jackets, and they were both -- they both had on
14 Harley-Davidson black boots.

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

16 **MS. H.H.:** And --

17 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So to this day, you
18 don't know who they are?

19 **MS. H.H.:** No. I never did get a look at
20 their faces.

21 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** But the woman, you
22 know who she is?

23 **MS. H.H.:** Yeah. I can pick her -- yeah.
24 Yeah. Yeah.

25 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So did -- was there

1 any assault charges?

2 MS. H.H.: I went to lay charges. I went to
3 Thunder Bay. I got a lawyer, and I asked the [Police
4 Service 1] because the [Police Service 1 officer] that was
5 on duty happened to be the brother-in-law of the woman who
6 beat me, and he was also on coke, and -- and -- he was all
7 part of this -- they had this all planned because my
8 report -- when I went to lay the charges, the -- my reports
9 went missing. I contacted [Police Service 1] to inform
10 them that, yes, I did just do a statement with one of your
11 officers, the statement will be coming in.

12 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: So --

13 MS. H.H.: That statement never arrived.

14 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: How far is [Town 1 in
15 Northwestern Ontario] to Thunder Bay?

16 MS. H.H.: [Town 1 in Northwestern Ontario]
17 to Thunder Bay is approximately [a certain number of
18 hours].

19 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Oh, okay. And do
20 they have police services in [Town 1 in Northwestern
21 Ontario]?

22 MS. H.H.: Yeah.

23 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay.

24 MS. H.H.: Yeah. And then there's [Town 2
25 in Northwestern Ontario], which -- which is the [Police

1 Service 2], and that's who I went to after I went to the
2 [Police Service 1].

3 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: So why did you decide
4 to go to [Police Service 1] before [Police Service 2]?

5 MS. H.H.: Well, because the [Police Service
6 1] are the ones that took the report first.

7 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay.

8 MS. H.H.: Well, they took the only report.

9 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Did they --

10 MS. H.H.: And then --

11 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: -- take the report,
12 like, in the hospital or after you got there?

13 MS. H.H.: They took the report -- they came
14 into my motel room -- because there was no room in the
15 hospital as I stated previously -- and I had two witnesses
16 in my room with me when that officer was there and writing
17 down the statement. He never gave me a copy of the
18 statement, and when that lawyer asked me for that
19 statement, I went looking for it. I went to the [Police
20 Service 1]. I went straight to the office. I even helped
21 them look through the files. There was nothing there, so I
22 went to the [Police Service 2 office in Town 2 in
23 Northwestern Ontario]. They said maybe it went there, so I
24 went there. They looked. It wasn't there. It just
25 disappeared, so I could never lay charges, and -- but I

1 have been told by at least 15 people from that
2 reserve -- from [Southern Ontario First Nation 1] reserve
3 that she was out to kill me for my money, and that was just
4 my incident which happened to me.

5 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So --

6 **MS. H.H.:** And --

7 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** -- did you know this
8 lady before? Like, what kind of interactions did you have
9 with her?

10 **MS. H.H.:** She was the one who -- her father
11 is a Chief of [Southern Ontario First Nation 1] and I just
12 moved into town. I just got a job with [Employer], and
13 they offered me double the pay and a house, and -- so I
14 couldn't turn down the offer. The pay was too good. So I
15 took that job. I worked there for nine years, and then
16 I -- and then everybody was not going to school and
17 not -- not coming to social work and that, so I went
18 somewhere where I was needed, and I carried on -- you know,
19 like, even -- even if they needed help, you know, I would
20 take time out of my day, and I would put them aside --

21 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So --

22 **MS. H.H.:** We -- we would walk --

23 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So the woman was just
24 an acquaintance? Like, she wasn't your client or -- she
25 was just part of the community where you worked?

1 **MS. H.H.:** Yeah. Yeah, and she's the one
2 who got me into the reserve because of her dad.

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

4 **MS. H.H.:** And at first, he said I had to
5 share a house with her, which I didn't mind --

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

7 **MS. H.H.:** -- you know, because she had her
8 son, and then -- you know, I was by myself by that --

9 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So she was your
10 roommate?

11 **MS. H.H.:** Yeah. I was staying at
12 her -- her place.

13 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay.

14 **MS. H.H.:** But I eventually got my own house
15 because I raised 15 of those children from one family.

16 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah.

17 **MS. H.H.:** The mother just keeps popping
18 them out every year.

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

20 **MS. H.H.:** She -- and she's only 49 now, so
21 I don't know how many more -- well, 49 when I left, so I
22 don't know how many more she's pumped out since then.
23 Plenty. Too many. A woman who does not deserve children.
24 And as far -- I got a lot of information from being a
25 social worker, and on the street, I heard it quite a bit of

H.H.

1 where the missing women are. There was one gentleman in
2 [Northwestern Ontario First Nation 1] who knew where bodies
3 were buried in [Northeastern Ontario Town 1], and I asked
4 him, how -- how do you know where this is hidden? He goes,
5 well, my uncle's a police officer, and -- and then he went
6 on to tell me -- he goes, yeah, he goes, it's -- my uncle
7 rapes and kills all these little squaws -- and that's
8 exactly what he called us, squaws -- and I just looked at
9 him. I didn't even think that word existed anymore. You
10 know, when he said that, then I got, okay, well, I -- I
11 know how the police think here. And I went to speak to one
12 of the friends that I used to work with. I worked with her
13 for nine years --

14 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** And where was this?

15 **MS. H.H.:** In [Northeastern Ontario Town 1],
16 Ontario --

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

18 **MS. H.H.:** -- which is only an hour and a
19 half from [Town 1 in Northwestern Ontario].

20 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** And what were you
21 doing there?

22 **MS. H.H.:** I was visiting one of my friends
23 that I worked with.

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

25 **MS. H.H.:** And she also informed me that

1 another girl got raped and murdered the night before by
2 another police officer. A week prior, three girls got
3 murdered.

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

5 **MS. H.H.:** And before that, there was close
6 to 25 girls that went missing, never been found yet.

7 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Just in that one
8 place alone?

9 **MS. H.H.:** Just in that one area, yeah, that
10 one area, and I don't know what goes on in the rest of the
11 area, but the -- this is just a little area, and this is
12 how much is going on up there, and the government is not
13 stepping up. Go up there with a fake name. I dare any
14 politician to go up there with a fake name and try to live
15 there for one week. I will pay you. I will pay your
16 flight up there and back. You go up there with a different
17 name.

18 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** You're talking
19 about --

20 **MS. H.H.:** Justin. I really would like
21 you -- I know you know me, and I want you to go live for
22 one week up -- go live in [Northwestern Ontario First
23 Nation 1]. That's the closest one. That'd be the safest
24 one for you. Everybody carries guns, but there's -- you
25 never hear of anyone getting killed by a gun. So I don't

H.H.

1 know what's wrong -- why society does it, but the Natives
2 don't do it, and we don't sit there and we don't drop 200
3 bears just for their gall bladder. The animals we kill, we
4 eat. We feed our Elders first. I would drop five moose a
5 year. The first one goes to the Elders, and if there's
6 more Elders that need it, they get it, and then it goes to
7 the next biggest family, they get it. I usually drop five,
8 and then other people drop more if they wanted more, but I
9 made enough -- I made sure I shot enough for the entire
10 reserve.

11 But I dare any politician to go up -- go up
12 with a fake name. Do not use your real name. They'll know
13 you, and especially you, Justin. They know you. Send up
14 one of your colleagues. Go stay in [Northwestern Ontario
15 First Nation 1] for one week. One week. Eat the meat.
16 Enjoy the food, because you cannot eat the fish up there.
17 You can't eat the moose up there, and enjoy the green
18 buffalo -- I mean, the green baloney that you have to eat.
19 There's no fresh food up there. Go live up there for one
20 week, please.

21 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** What about the wild
22 meat? Is it good?

23 **MS. H.H.:** No. All the meat is
24 contaminated. You cannot eat the meat.

25 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** What's contaminating

1 Northwestern Ontario] hospital, there's over 5,000
2 newborns; healthy, murdered newborns. There's a doctor
3 which the [Town 1 in Northwestern Ontario] hospital has
4 hanging up -- proudly hanging up, and it's right in the
5 centre the minute you walk in that door. That picture has
6 to be taken down. Excavation has to -- has to be done
7 underneath [Town 1 in Northwestern Ontario] hospital.
8 There's over 5,000 newborn babies. Nothing wrong with
9 them. He killed them, and I got verification from -- there
10 was 75. That was a big circle that night, and every one of
11 them lost the baby, and none -- none of them were sick.
12 They walk -- they -- they walk in pregnant, they walk out
13 not pregnant but with no baby. The baby's under the
14 hospital. Jeez, he forgot to give them the directions.
15 That doctor purposely killed -- I -- I really don't know
16 how many thousands. He was up there for almost 40 years by
17 himself doing this.

18 And also, there's a lot of dirty lawyers up
19 there along with police. The bands, they are not poor up
20 there. They have the money, but that -- it's the Chiefs
21 who are pocketing the money. There's over a million
22 dollars just -- on one reserve that I know that's being
23 hidden by a lawyer. You guys have him. I'll let you know
24 that. You have charged him, but I hope you figure the rest
25 out because it's for the safety of all the people up there,

1 of what's left, the ones that aren't starving to death.
2 Change has to be made.

3 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So going back to your
4 assault, what -- how has it affected you, like, after?

5 **MS. H.H.:** I am more -- oh, I'm extremely
6 cautious. It's made me more paranoid of trusting people.
7 I -- I have a very hard time trusting people.

8 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** What about
9 physically?

10 **MS. H.H.:** Oh, physically, I've been a
11 physical mess since that happened. I'll -- I'll trip
12 over --

13 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** I see -- I see you're
14 using a cane. Were you using a cane prior to your assault?

15 **MS. H.H.:** No. I never used a cane. I was
16 healthy as a bean. I -- I could haul out moose. I could
17 haul out whatever. It didn't matter. I was in tiptop
18 shape.

19 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** And after the
20 assault?

21 **MS. H.H.:** After the assault, I was in a
22 wheelchair, and then I -- I'm bound and determined to get
23 healthy without the use of crutches. I have crutches in my
24 truck. I have my cane right here. I hate using it, but I
25 have to in order to get better, and I'm in constant pain,

1 24/7. I'm on the strongest painkillers. I do not even
2 want to be on painkillers, but the doctors cannot find out,
3 cannot heal it. I'm taking epidural steroid shots trying
4 to get rid of the pain so I can get off the painkillers
5 because I hate being on them, and I'm an emotional mess
6 every morning that I wake up. I pray to the Creator for
7 another nice day and a healthy day, and if I get that,
8 that's a bonus.

9 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So you said that you
10 made a statement to the police and then the statement went
11 missing.

12 **MS. H.H.:** Correct.

13 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So then you
14 couldn't -- they couldn't file charges against the woman --

15 **MS. H.H.:** That's -- that's correct.

16 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So then what happened
17 after that? Like --

18 **MS. H.H.:** I -- my mom called me. She was
19 sick, so I left the hospital and I went and looked after my
20 mom for five years, and she passed, and then I -- and
21 then -- that's when I came down to get fixed down here in
22 Toronto, and I've been down here since.

23 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** M'hm. Can you tell
24 me about your background, like, how you grew up and maybe
25 your education and things like that.

1 **MS. H.H.:** Yeah, sure. I had a fantastic
2 childhood. I bought all my toys. I was taught how to take
3 care of your money, buy what you need, but of course I
4 needed my little motorbike, my little toys, my little
5 Ski-doos, and we did not ever do without a meal. There was
6 always three full-course meals a day. My mom was home
7 24/7.

8 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Where did you grow
9 up?

10 **MS. H.H.:** I grew up in [Northeastern
11 Ontario Town 2]-- I was born in [Ontario City 1], and we
12 moved to [Northeastern Ontario Town 2] when I was 2, and I
13 lived there, well, until my mom passed in 2011.

14 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So your dad is
15 [European nationality], you said?

16 **MS. H.H.:** Yeah, my dad's [European
17 nationality].

18 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** And your mom is
19 Anishinaabe?

20 **MS. H.H.:** A Shinaabe. Correct. Yeah.

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

22 And -- and --

23 **MS. H.H.:** And my dad passed away --

24 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** And how many siblings
25 do you have?

1 MS. H.H.: I have two sisters and a brother.

2 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. And your dad
3 passed away?

4 MS. H.H.: He passed away when he was only
5 53. That was almost 30 years ago --

6 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay.

7 MS. H.H.: -- that he passed. He passed
8 young. Massive heart attack, eh?

9 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: So where did your mom
10 grow up?

11 MS. H.H.: My mom grew up on the reserve in
12 [Northwestern Ontario First Nation 1].

13 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: And where is that
14 located?

15 MS. H.H.: [*Description of Northwestern*
16 *Ontario*] --

17 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

18 MS. H.H.: -- and [*description of*
19 *Northwestern Ontario*].

20 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: So how far would it
21 be from Toronto?

22 MS. H.H.: What -- the reserve --

23 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

24 MS. H.H.: -- or -- oh. From Toronto?
25 Okay, like, [*description of travel*].

1 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: By road or by plane?

2 MS. H.H.: Driving.

3 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Driving? Oh, okay.

4 MS. H.H.: Yeah. Yeah.

5 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. And where
6 did -- where did your mother meet your father?

7 MS. H.H.: They met in Toronto, actually.
8 Mom was working at [Employer].

9 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Oh, okay.

10 MS. H.H.: And my dad was -- he could
11 not -- he was taking English lessons at Ryerson, and he was
12 taking electrical as a trade.

13 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Did he move here from
14 another place?

15 MS. H.H.: No. He got transferred to [Town
16 3 in Northwestern Ontario]. I don't know why I can't say
17 that.

18 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: [Town 3]?

19 MS. H.H.: Yeah. Yeah. He got transferred
20 up there, and then my mom got hired up there as a cook.

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

22 MS. H.H.: And then they met again, and then
23 my dad got transferred somewhere else, and my mom got
24 transferred; they met again. But this time my dad had a
25 ring ready, and he proposed to her and they got married

1 and --

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

3 **MS. H.H.:** -- they had four healthy kids,
4 and -- we're all healthy, we're all living. Even though
5 I'm in rough shape, I'm going to be healthy again and a
6 hundred percent.

7 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Yeah. And did any of
8 your -- like, your grandparents or your parents go to
9 residential school?

10 **MS. H.H.:** Yes. My mother went to
11 residential school. My grandmother went, all my aunts, all
12 my uncles went, 15 of them, and --

13 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Which one did they go
14 to?

15 **MS. H.H.:** [Residential School 1]. And
16 there was just as much abuse there as in any other
17 residential school, and my mom passed without even getting
18 the money. She was waiting for that, to take her last trip
19 somewhere.

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

21 **MS. H.H.:** She never got it.

22 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Oh.

23 **MS. H.H.:** So there should be something done
24 about that, you know? At least divide it up among the kids
25 because we had to grow up listening to her stories --

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

2 **MS. H.H.:** -- of her brother not even being
3 a foot away yet they couldn't even talk to each other.

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

5 **MS. H.H.:** And the minute she walked in
6 residential school, she said they shaved their heads
7 because you're Indian, you got fleas. You know? Like,
8 okay. I guess every white person that I see has fleas, you
9 know? That's how they categorize us. I'm just giving an
10 example, you know?

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

12 **MS. H.H.:** You can't category a million
13 people over -- over one person, and that's what the
14 residential schools did, and they were very mean. They
15 were very abusive. They starved the kids. They -- they
16 didn't let the kids go to the bathroom. They peed
17 themselves. They did other stuff, and -- they weren't fed
18 properly. They weren't clothed properly. They shaved
19 their heads so they didn't have to buy shampoo. They got
20 raped constantly, and my mom said she could remember
21 hearing yells for help, but all -- all the doors got
22 locked. Nobody was allowed in or out, and that's -- that's
23 when you knew there was somebody getting raped or killed.

24 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So -- so you said you
25 grew up in North Bay, Ontario.

1 MS. H.H.: Correct. Yeah.

2 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: And you had a happy
3 childhood.

4 MS. H.H.: Oh, a super childhood. Yeah.

5 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah. And so can you
6 tell me about your education?

7 MS. H.H.: Yes. Oh, yeah. My education, I
8 got my Native social service worker program in the college.
9 I took that just for something to do, but then I spotted
10 the social work, and I'm a natural helper for people, and
11 I've been told that by Elders, and it just seemed to fit
12 everything I do because I love helping people, and that's a
13 field I chose, so I went to the [University 1]. I got my
14 Ph.D. in social work. I got my masters in pluralism and
15 ethnic studies. That's, like, a multi-culturalism course.
16 I also have my degree for a neurologist, which I got in
17 [United States]. I'm a mediator, which I attended the
18 [University 2]. I am a [Trade 1]. I took that course up
19 in [Town 4 in Northwestern Ontario]. I'm a -- I'm the
20 second female [Trade 2] in all of Canada. That was in
21 1978, and --

22 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: So like a [Trade 2]?

23 MS. H.H.: A [Trade 2]. Yeah.

24 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: A [Trade 2]. Okay.

25 MS. H.H.: Yeah. A [Trade 2], you

1 *[description of Trade 2]*.

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

3 **MS. H.H.:** *[Description of Trade 2]*--

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

5 **MS. H.H.:** -- and shipped to you.

6 *[Description of Trade 2]*.

7 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Okay.

8 **MS. H.H.:** Easy job.

9 **(LAUGHTER)**

10 **MS. H.H.:** *[Trade 1]* -- oh, jeez. I know
11 there's lots, but for now, that's all I can remember, too,
12 right now.

13 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** So you said that
14 after the assault, like, it really affected you. Have you
15 been working since that time?

16 **MS. H.H.:** I -- yes, I -- I work off and on
17 because there are people that I worked with before in
18 Toronto, and they found out I was in Toronto, and the
19 company that I worked for, they asked me to come to work
20 the minute they found out I was in town, and I had to
21 refuse, and -- so I -- but they asked me if it was okay if
22 they gave my name out to -- for certain people because
23 they'd been asking for me, and I do come just for them, and
24 I do it for free. I don't charge them because they're on
25 ODSP like I am, trying to live off a -- lucky if it's a

1 thousand dollars sometimes, and I'm in downtown Toronto.
2 Every time you step out that door, it cost you a hundred
3 dollars. It's too expensive to live down here, and why
4 we're always sent down here to get healed, I don't know.
5 There should be a place for us to at least stay till we're
6 healed and then leave, and that's my personal opinion
7 on -- on that.

8 But I really would love to see a political
9 figure go up, especially with the election going up. It
10 would be to your benefit, and if you help those Natives up
11 there, they will help you in return. There's a lot of
12 information which they have up there which the government
13 would love to hear, the same with MNR.

14 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** Like, what kind of
15 information?

16 **MS. H.H.:** Where the elk -- where the
17 animals -- because they want to slaughter all the elk, so
18 we protect them and we don't tell them where they go or
19 where they live, and there's a lot of scanning going on,
20 money-scanning with lawyers and Chiefs.

21 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** What's
22 money-scanning?

23 **MS. H.H.:** They pocket the money that comes
24 in, and then there's no money for people that get hurt,
25 like me, for example. There wasn't one cent available for

H.H.

1 me to get a cast put on because Indian Affairs didn't cover
2 a full cast, and -- I think -- maybe I just hit every hard
3 rock that was -- every rock that was in my way at that
4 time. Bad memories. I will never go back up there;
5 beautiful country, and I really would love to go up there,
6 but no, not until a government official goes up there and
7 sees how -- how it's like. I'll be more than willing to go
8 up and help straighten them out. There's a lot of drugs up
9 there. There's a lot of shoe polish. There's a lot of
10 Listerine. There's a lot of deodorant. There's all these
11 things with alcohol in it because since they're dry
12 reserves, they've got to find alternative methods to bring
13 in their alcohol, and many of them have turned to
14 hairspray, and now in [Town 1 in Northwestern Ontario] they
15 don't even sell hairspray on Sundays. You can't buy
16 hairspray on Sundays. Ah. You learn something new
17 everywhere you go.

18 And that's pretty well -- I'm in a lot of
19 pain. I'm still suffering from -- from it emotionally,
20 physically, and psychologically. It's going to take time
21 for me to heal, but I'm well on my way of healing and being
22 good again.

23 **MS. FRANCINE MERASTY:** All right. So we've
24 been -- well, you've been talking here for about
25 40 minutes. Do you want to take a break, or are we done,

1 or --

2 MS. H.H.: Yeah, that's pretty well it? Did
3 I get everything pretty well?

4 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: I think so.

5 MS. H.H.: Yeah.

6 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Yeah.

7 MS. H.H.: And nothing too racist, I hope.

8 (LAUGHTER)

9 MS. H.H.: The government, though, I want
10 them -- hey, you bastards, you get up there.

11 (LAUGHTER)

12 MS. H.H.: I dare you. No, not you, Justin.
13 They know you.

14 (LAUGHTER)

15 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay.

16 MS. H.H.: Because I know. I used to smoke
17 dope with Justin.

18 (LAUGHTER)

19 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Oh.

20 MS. H.H.: That's why he wants to sit there
21 and pass a bill, eh?

22 (LAUGHTER)

23 MS. H.H.: He doesn't want to get caught.

24 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay.

25 MS. H.H.: See, I can get him kicked out of

1 office so fast, and he knows that, eh? He phoned me:
2 [H.H.], I'm running for Prime Minister. I started
3 laughing. I said, you're a joke.

4 (LAUGHTER)

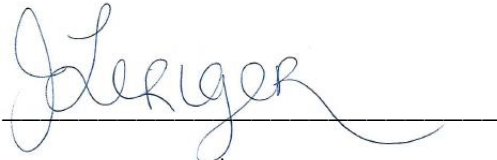
5 MS. FRANCINE MERASTY: Okay. So it's
6 October 10, 2018, in Toronto. It's 1:57 p.m., and Miss
7 [H.H.] is done her statement.

8 MS. H.H.: Okay.

9 --- Upon adjourning at 1:57 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jenessa Leriger, 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, reading "Jenessa Leriger", is written over a horizontal line.

Jenessa Leriger

November 8, 2018