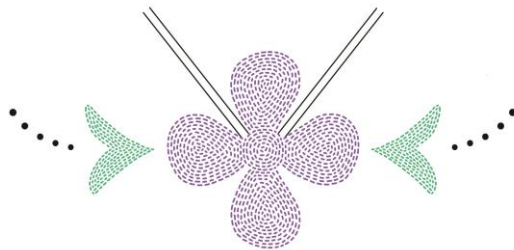


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Holiday Inn Calgary Airport
Calgary, Alberta**



PUBLIC

October 12, 2018

**Statement - Volume 503
Terrell Downwind (Bignell),
In relation to Daleen Bosse & Elizabeth Mae Dorion**

Statement gathered by Kerrie Reay

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NOTE

Where not required by other statute, redactions to this public transcript have been made pursuant to Rule 55 of the Commission's *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*, which provides for "the discretion to redact private information of a sensitive nature where it is not material to the evidence to be given before distributing the information to the Parties. The National Inquiry will consider the public interest in releasing this type of information against the potential harmful impact on the individual whose personal information is at issue."

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Statement gatherer: Kerrie Reay

Documents submitted with oral testimony: none.

1 Calgary, Alberta

2 --- Upon commencing on Friday, October 12, 2018 at 4:57
3 p.m.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. This is
5 Kerrie Reay. I'm a statement-taker with the National
6 Inquiry Into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and
7 Girls, and today we are at the Calgary Holiday Inn,
8 airport. It is October the 12th, 2018, and the time is
9 4:57. Today, Terrell -- that's
10 T-E-R-R-E-L-L -- Bignell -- B-I-G-N-E-L-L -- Downwind -- D-
11 O-W-N-W-I-N-D. And Terrell is from the OCN Nation, and for
12 the record, could you pronounce it, please?

13 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Opaskwayak Cree
14 Nation.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Opaskwayak Cree --

16 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Opaskwayak Cree
17 Nation.

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- Cree Nation, and that's
19 spelled O-P-A-S-K-W-A-Y-A-K, and Terrell is currently
20 residing on the O'Chiese First Nation Reserve. That's O,
21 apostrophe, C-H-I-E-S-E.

22 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Yeah.

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And that is just outside
24 of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, but you are originally
25 from The Pas, Manitoba.

1 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** M'hm. Yeah.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And Terrell is here today
3 to speak of the loss of her cousin, Daleen Bosse. That's
4 D-A-L-E-E-N, B-O-S-S-E.

5 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Yeah, Bosse.

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Bosse.

7 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Yeah.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And Daleen was born on
9 March 25th, 1979, and she lost her life on May the 24th,
10 2004, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

11 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** M'hm.

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And Terrell, you're here
13 voluntarily, and you understand that you're being
14 audio-taped and video-taped?

15 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Yes.

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. Terrell, as I said
17 to you earlier, it's your space and it's your time.

18 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** M'hm.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And so you please start
20 when you feel comfortable to -- to share what you're here
21 today for.

22 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Okay. Okay. Well,
23 I'm from the Opaskwayak Cree Nation. My mother is
24 [Mother]. I have a big family. She is one of nine. Her
25 mom, my grandma, my kookum is [Kookum]. Again, another big

Terrell Downwind (Bignell)
(Daleen Bosse & Elizabeth Dorion)

1 family where she comes from. All my family have been in
2 residential schools within Manitoba. My mom went to Mackay
3 residential school. My kookum went to Elkhorn residential
4 school, so pretty much that's where most my family has
5 gone. I know that there is tons of things that have
6 trickled down because of that. I grew up with two sisters.
7 We're all a year apart. I -- I'm not too -- really too
8 sure where to start.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** You're doing fine.

10 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Yeah. So I have,
11 like -- I'm here to talk about my cousin Daleen. We were
12 born -- both born in 1979. When she went missing in 2004,
13 she was already 24. She had her little daughter, [Daleen's
14 daughter]. She was married to Jeremiah. I was her maid of
15 honour at her wedding, and I was there for her when she
16 graduated. She was there for me when I graduated. She was
17 there for me when I had my son Cleveland (ph). He's 16
18 now. She was in the hospital room with me when I gave
19 birth to him.

20 Every summer, my kookum and I would jump on
21 the bus from The Pas and go all the way to Onion Lake,
22 Saskatchewan, where my cousin lived, and we'd go spend the
23 summers there, and me and her were close. We were like
24 sisters. We fought like sisters. We loved each other like
25 sisters. We shared a lot of really great experiences. We

1 often wrote a lot of letters to each other because I lived
2 in Manitoba growing up in The Pas, and she grew up in
3 Onion Lake, Saskatchewan, so we would write letters back
4 and forth. You know, it started out when we were really
5 young and continued on right until we were in high school.

6 When we both graduated, you know, we were
7 there for each other to celebrate our successes, and when
8 she got married, she was -- she asked me to be her maid of
9 honour, and I told her that she would -- she would be mine.

10 I'm trying so hard to speak really positive.
11 It's difficult. It's difficult to speak about her. It's
12 been a while since I lost her, but it still hurts every
13 single day. She was a really, really great person. She
14 was very loving, and she was very energetic and fun, and
15 she grew up with her two younger brothers. She was the
16 oldest, and she loved her brothers, Dana and David, so, so
17 much. She was very protective of them. She took care of
18 them, and I just loved how she loved them, and, like, to
19 this day, I know -- it still breaks my heart to see how sad
20 they are with her being gone, and it breaks my heart that
21 her daughter [Daleen's daughter], you know, had -- had to
22 grow up without her, and [Daleen's daughter] would have
23 loved to have known her mom. Her mom was amazing. Her mom
24 was amazing. Daleen was amazing. Daleen was really good
25 at singing. Daleen was beautiful. Daleen was very smart.

1 She was athletic. Daleen was my best friend and my sister,
2 and I loved her incredibly.

3 So she did go missing. I was living in
4 Regina at the time, going to school. She was living in
5 Saskatoon going to school. Both of us were studying
6 education to become teachers. She had one year left to
7 finish her education degree. My aunt Pauline is in
8 education, and she had lead -- guided my cousin to follow
9 that path, and it -- it seemed natural. I knew my cousin
10 was going to be a good teacher. It just seemed very
11 fitting for her.

12 When she went missing, they called me and
13 they thought maybe she had come to visit me in Regina
14 because it's, like, just a 2-hour drive, and she has done
15 that quite often. You know, we'd call each other every
16 single day, talk; even if it was just, like, a 10-second
17 phone call or an hour phone call or a 2-hour phone call, it
18 was every day we talked to each other, and -- you know, I'd
19 go drive up to Saskatoon on a weekend to meet her or go
20 garage-saling. She'd come down to Regina. She'd come see
21 me and my son and my sister, my little family I had there,
22 and we were just very much a part of each other's lives in
23 a very meaningful and deep way.

24 But like I said, she didn't come home the
25 night before. My aunty was calling me. Jeremiah was

1 calling me, and I'm close with Jeremiah, too, her husband.
2 Anyways, me and my brother-in-law -- even though we're
3 cousins, I call him my brother-in-law, and I -- I knew
4 something was wrong because it's so unlike her to just not
5 come. It was so unlike her to not come home or to not
6 phone home, to not -- to not let any of us know where she
7 was. She wasn't one to run away or hide. She had all of
8 us, and we were there for her, so we knew something was
9 wrong right away.

10 Within two, three days, we ended up driving
11 up to Saskatoon and started putting out missing posters for
12 her, and my aunt -- you know, we tried to work with the
13 Saskatoon police, but at that time it was not good and they
14 didn't help us, and it was actually really, really awful to
15 go through working with the police because they made us
16 feel like we weren't important, like she wasn't important,
17 and because she was Native and because, you know, she had
18 went out to a bar that night with her friends, they
19 automatically just told us she's probably out drinking,
20 drinking for days, you know how it is. That's not how it
21 was, and we told them straight -- straight from the
22 beginning that's not how she is, that's not how this is.

23 You know, my cousin was married. She had a
24 beautiful 2-year-old daughter. You know, she was in
25 school. You know, it was -- the function she went out for,

1 it was just not -- it wasn't right. It wasn't right for
2 them to stereotype her that way. It wasn't right for them
3 to slough us off like our family member didn't matter. You
4 know, when we were all upset over it, a lot of us just
5 said, jeez, we should have just told them she's nonNative.
6 Maybe they would have helped us.

7 But no, my aunt had resources. You know, we
8 weren't stuck. She hired a private investigator, and
9 everything my aunt did helped -- to help solve her case,
10 everything my aunty did, you know, she worked so tirelessly
11 to get information, to get the private investigator, to get
12 all of us on board to help. It made all the difference.
13 It took four years, but we did find my cousin. The police
14 eventually did help, and they did find my cousin. I don't
15 know how rare it is, but they actually did find the person
16 who took my cousin's life, and just like we did suspect,
17 something went wrong that night she went missing.

18 This is really hard to talk about. There is
19 just so much -- so much I put way, way back. It's awful to
20 know how she died. It was awful to hear in court all the
21 awful things that were done to her. It was awful to have
22 these visuals of what this man had done -- done to her and
23 how he killed her and -- and to brag about it the way he
24 did and to see him in court with, like, no remorse on his
25 face, and -- and just to hear his voice on those tapes

1 of -- you know, of just how awful he thought about Native
2 women, and I never, ever thought about myself that way, and
3 it was awful to hear how other people looked at us. Like,
4 it didn't matter how hard you work or how educated you are.
5 It didn't matter, you know, how well you lived your life.
6 You're just looked down upon. My cousin was looked down
7 upon. You know, she was seen as someone to prey upon,
8 and -- you know, it's just so unfair.

9 I have -- I have three daughters, and I'm
10 raising them very well, as well as I could, and I just -- I
11 don't wish that for them. I don't wish that -- like, I'm a
12 teacher myself. I did finish school, and I teach mainly
13 Native students. Like, that's where my heart is, and I
14 teach my students about all of this, and I want them to
15 value themselves even though not -- not very much other
16 people do, and -- you know, that -- it's just difficult.
17 It's difficult carrying a lot of that stuff and living each
18 day trying to -- to live better and -- I don't know. I'm
19 not too sure how to explain it. It's just difficult. It's
20 difficult trying to grieve. It's difficult knowing that
21 this is a -- a big problem, and I worry about my own
22 daughters. I worry about my granddaughters and their
23 daughters. Everything I do today, I think about it's not
24 just for me, but it's for all my children and their
25 children and their children, so I do understand a lot.

1 And before I did this, I kind of stopped and
2 I kind of said a little prayer, and I kind of spoke with my
3 cousin. I asked her to be here with me. I asked her to be
4 here with me, to help me get through this. You know, this
5 is something I need to do. I need to share my truth. I
6 need to share my love for her. I need to share how
7 wonderful she was. I know my -- my aunt and my mom really
8 wanted me to be here. I have a difficult time talking
9 about her. I have a difficult time talking about her with
10 them. They know how close we were.

11 So like I said, before I did this, I asked
12 for my cousin to be here with me. I thought about my mom
13 and my aunt, and I thought that, you know, I need to also
14 do this for them because I know they want me to heal as
15 well. I asked for some strength to help me get through
16 this and say what I need to say, say what needs to be said
17 so that I could walk a little bit lighter. Then I can
18 continue to work hard for myself and my daughters, my
19 future granddaughters and my family, and I really want to
20 honour Daleen. She deserves it in so many ways, and
21 my -- my little [Daleen's daughter] I look at her, I just
22 see her mom. She's just so beautiful, and I -- I really
23 wish she had the opportunity to know her mom. I wish she
24 had the opportunity to grow up with her mom.

25 So I think about -- I was telling my

1 husband -- I started crying about the whole
2 marry -- getting married thing because -- and it took me a
3 while to finally decide, okay, I'll get married. My
4 husband right now, Randy (ph) -- or not right now,
5 but -- my husband Randy, when we were deciding about
6 getting married, I told him I didn't want to do the
7 traditional wedding stuff because my cousin was supposed to
8 be standing beside me, and if she were here, I would have,
9 but she wasn't here, so -- I had told him all about
10 my -- my life with her and her story. I still talk about
11 it periodically with him, and he understood why I didn't
12 want to have a traditional wedding, and he was -- he was
13 fine with it, so -- you know, I -- we got married just this
14 past May, and, you know, it hurt that she wasn't there, but
15 I didn't want to have anyone else stand in her spot where
16 she was supposed to be.

17 And, you know, I continue being a teacher
18 and, you know, I -- I feel alone sometimes because I don't
19 have someone to talk to and share my experiences with and
20 my struggles and my accomplishments. It was supposed to be
21 her. Me -- me and her were supposed to talk about all
22 those things together, so there are times I feel alone.

23 It has -- this whole experience really has
24 impacted myself and my family. Like I said, I'm raising
25 three daughters and a son. My son is 16. My daughters are

1 12 -- no, 13, 9, and 2. When I -- when I'm raising them,
2 when I'm parenting them, I feel like I share too much about
3 how ugly the world is, and I feel sometimes I share too
4 much about the stereotypes that are out there or the
5 negative -- negativity that's against us, and I feel like,
6 you know, I'm just preparing them for, like, a battle or
7 something, and I'm preparing them to, like, really protect
8 themselves and not to be naive and not to think that the
9 world is some safe place. Even though this is Canada, it's
10 supposed to be amazing here, but I feel like I have to
11 prepare my daughters for the worst, and I talk to my son,
12 too, you know, where I feel like we're the most hated group
13 in -- on this -- on this continent, and -- and I've lived
14 in the United States and Canada, so both sides, I feel like
15 we're a very hated group. We're looked upon as the
16 conquered or the forgotten or, you know, the Indian
17 problem, and it's not good to feel that way about yourself,
18 but I -- you know, it's also not good to deny that that is
19 how a lot of people look at you, and -- and you feel that
20 when -- you get treated certain ways, and -- it's
21 ridiculous. It's really ridiculous.

22 Yeah, so I -- I know -- I know that I'm
23 raising my daughters -- my children, I'm doing my best to
24 raise them, but at the same time I'm very overprotective of
25 them. You know, I just don't let them go anywhere. I

1 don't let them go hang out with any -- anybody. I want to
2 know who they're with, who their parents are. They don't
3 get to go to sleepovers. They don't get to go walk around
4 the neighbourhoods. They don't get to do any of that. I
5 keep my kids very close to me. I feel very protective of
6 them. I'm not trying to scare the heck out of them, but
7 it's not -- I don't feel safe. I don't feel safe.

8 So like I said, my whole family has also
9 been in residential schools. I do understand why there's
10 so much dysfunction in our communities, in our families. I
11 do understand in my own personal family where all the
12 dysfunction comes from. I'm doing my very best to try and
13 break a lot of those cycles. I know that's not the same
14 for some of my other family members. I know we all try in
15 our own -- in our own right to make life as best as we
16 could. We're all really strong, resilient people, and
17 we're all trying. I love my family, and I really just hope
18 to put a little bit more positive out there than negative.
19 I'm just one generation, and it's such a small, short life.
20 I do see that now.

21 So I know today's one little step in making
22 things better. I know we're all on our own paths, and I
23 know that my mom will be happy that I made it here. There
24 were several times today I just wanted to cancel and not
25 come at all, several times I told myself just take a deep

1 breath, you're going to get through it. Sun's going to
2 rise and set no matter what you do. Just get through it.

3 I'm not too sure where to go from here. I
4 just know that my cousin's loss impacted me greatly. It
5 impacted my family greatly. In many ways, it brought us
6 together. My aunt and my cousins, my uncle, they organized
7 awareness walks for the first four years she was missing,
8 and the -- after we found her, my cousin and my aunt
9 organized a memorial run for four years, you know, so I got
10 to be with my family, and we got to try and heal and, you
11 know, share some memories of her, and since those eight
12 years have passed, you know, we're still -- still mourning,
13 and we're just going to always mourn for her, always grieve
14 for her.

15 But at the same time, it's also separated
16 us. You know, I don't want to go -- I actually avoid
17 driving through Saskatoon. I would rather take the long
18 way around if I'm ever going back to The Pas because I
19 just -- of all the times I visited her, everywhere I go in
20 Saskatoon reminds me of all the little things we did, the
21 places we went, places we ate, you know, the things -- my
22 memories with her as a young adult were there. It -- it's
23 hard. It's hard going back to Saskatoon. It's hard going
24 to Onion Lake. My aunt asked why we don't visit. I want
25 to. I really want to, but it -- like I said, it's

1 difficult. It's difficult driving up that road and driving
2 up her approach to her house and -- you know, it's -- she's
3 not there no more.

4 I see how broken my aunty and uncle were
5 from it. I see how broken my -- my cousins were from it.
6 I see where no -- I see all of that, and it hurts. It
7 still hurts every time, and -- it brought us together, but
8 it's also separated us.

9 My mom, I love my mom, but I know she's just
10 never healed from any of -- any of the traumas, and for me
11 to talk about my mom's life would be, like, a book of
12 nonstop -- every chapter is a new trauma and just like,
13 hundreds of chapters in her life of trauma, trauma, trauma.
14 You know, it's -- I love my mom, but I have to separate
15 myself because sometimes it's too much. It's too much for
16 me to -- to feel her pain that she carries with her and
17 even how she lives her life, and I know she's still hurting
18 and she'll always be hurting, but at the same time, she's
19 also got this strength where, you know, she's so loving and
20 she can laugh despite all that she's ever been through.

21 And my aunt, I don't know her story. I just
22 know she's always worked really, really hard. She's always
23 protected her kids and -- you know, sometimes you can't
24 protect your kids from everything, and it scares the heck
25 out of me.

1 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Yeah.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** But in this case with the
3 man that was convicted, do you know what he received in
4 terms of a sentence?

5 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** I think it was 10 or
6 15 years and then, like, life probation or something for
7 life, parole.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Parole? Yeah.

9 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Something like -- I
10 don't know. I'm kind of --

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

12 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** -- not too sure what
13 the terminology.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah. It's okay.

15 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** But it -- it wasn't
16 much compared to, like, what was taken.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** No. It never is. No.

18 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** No. And -- and it
19 was really upsetting because, you know, it took ten
20 years -- well, they -- they -- the police, you know, they
21 helped our family out, and at the -- I believe -- the only
22 reason they were really helping our family out was because
23 at that time, the Saskatoon police had such a bad
24 relationship with the Native community.

25 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

1 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** And they had already
2 done a number of horrible things to people into Saskatoon
3 area, you know, with -- (indiscernible) a lot of bad
4 publicity.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right. Right.

6 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** So I know the new
7 chief of police had vowed to our family that he was going
8 to help out in any which way he could, and --

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And -- and you said
10 initially there was no help.

11 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** No.

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** There was no interest
13 in --

14 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Mm-mm.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- in helping to look for
16 her?

17 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** It took a full two
18 weeks before they finally took it serious, and that was
19 only because -- you know, we said, well, hey, her car's
20 missing -- oh, and her car -- just somebody phoned in and
21 said, hey, there's this car outside my driveway, I'm
22 cutting my grass, I don't want any rocks to hit this car,
23 and it's been here for two weeks, no idea who it belongs
24 to; and they called it in, and it was my cousin's missing
25 vehicle, and when the police went to go check it out, it

1 was, like, wiped clean and nothing was in it. Only then
2 just, like, oh, well, now it's suspicious, because it was,
3 like, wow, the car? Really?

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And so the investigation
5 continued?

6 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Slowly.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

8 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** But pretty much, it
9 was, you know, my aunt hiring that private investigator --

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right.

11 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** -- and everything
12 that he had done. You know, the person of suspicion was
13 the guy who actually had murdered her.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh, okay.

15 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** But it was the
16 private investigator that got that information, and, you
17 know, if it wasn't for him, I don't know that the police
18 would have found anything.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right. They -- they did
20 find her?

21 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Yeah. No, the police
22 did -- whatever -- whatever kind of investigation they did.

23 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

24 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** You know, they were
25 able to get a confession out of him and -- you know, he

1 told where he had murdered her and the location, and they
2 found her remains and -- yeah, so that was how she was
3 found and -- it was -- it was really difficult because
4 when -- the -- the first part, the
5 preliminary -- preliminary hearings and listening to the
6 evidence and hear -- seeing the videos and listening to the
7 tapes and -- just listening to all that horrible stuff, and
8 it's like, oh, my God, I can't believe this is how my
9 cousin's last few hours were. I don't even want to
10 repeat -- repeat what I heard. It's just -- there was an
11 outburst -- an outcry in the courtroom from my cousins and
12 my family because it was just so heartbreaking to hear
13 that, you know, such a beautiful person, for something like
14 that to happen to her. It was awful. Truly, truly awful.

15 I forgot to mention that when we were doing
16 those awareness walks, you know, it became
17 apparent -- because this is in 2004 to 2008, those four
18 summers we did that for her, so many other families were
19 coming forward, and -- like, you know, my daughter's
20 missing, too, my aunt is missing, too, and so much unsolved
21 cases. We were just blown away, you know, just more and
22 more and more, and after a while it was just this mountain
23 of -- people had no idea this was happening to our
24 community.

25 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right.

1 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** And it was a -- it
2 was really, really difficult. You just kind of got angrier
3 and angrier the more you found out and scarier and scarier
4 too. Like, how many more are out there? Today, I was
5 telling some of my coworkers that -- you know, I was coming
6 just -- to make the statement, and, you know, I was saying
7 my mom, my aunty really want me to do this. You know, it's
8 for my own healing. And my -- one of my coworkers started
9 telling me, yeah, she said, my grandma's still -- was
10 missing, and she was murdered when my dad was 8, and they
11 still never found out who did -- and -- and this -- my
12 coworker's from my same reserve, Opaskwayak Cree Nation,
13 and you just -- like, you never -- it -- it's hard to talk
14 about, but when you start talking about it, you
15 have -- like, other Native people, it's, like, such a
16 common story, and it's -- it's ridiculous. It's sad. It's
17 horrible. It's -- why should this be a -- something we
18 have in common? But it is. It really is.

19 And my cousin's not the only one in my
20 family. My grandpa, him and my kookum separated, and he
21 had another relationship after her, and he had two other
22 children. The woman he had a relationship with, her name
23 was Elizabeth Dorion. She had gone missing. She's still
24 not found. So I have a little aunt and a little -- little
25 uncle. They're younger than me. You know, they don't know

1 where their mom is, and I grew up, too, you know, with my
2 grandpa, and -- and his -- and Elizabeth, and I knew her,
3 and -- you know, she helped take care of me, too, so she's
4 gone missing. Actually, there's quite a few -- several
5 family members -- some family members I don't know, I've
6 never met, but --

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

8 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** -- them, too, they're
9 missing, you know? My mom tells me about some of this.
10 I'm like, this is, like, what it's like in -- probably in
11 every family. Everyone has some sort of tragedy. One of
12 my mom's older brothers, too, he was murdered, so I'm like,
13 this is awful. It's everywhere. It's not right. It's
14 not -- it's not fair, it's not -- it's not something to
15 look forward to, not at all.

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Have you -- has there been
17 any commemoration? You did the walks --

18 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Yeah.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- of Daleen?

20 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** M'hm.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** What about -- is there
22 anything the family might like to do to commemorate her
23 loss?

24 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Sure, there is. I
25 don't know. My cousin was -- she was into drama. She was

1 into -- you know, she liked acting and she liked -- she was
2 really beautiful. To me, she was, like, a model. Like, I
3 just -- I thought she was a real beautiful person. She was
4 always into performing and stuff like that. You know, she
5 was into theatre, and -- you know, that's kind of where her
6 heart was, and she wanted to sing and all of that kind of
7 stuff. If I were to have any way to commemorate her would
8 be maybe to have some sort of, like, scholarship or fund to
9 support other Native girls that had that same kind of
10 dream. Like, I mean, just off the top of my head.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Do you have any
12 recommendations for the Inquiry about how to keep
13 Indigenous girls safe?

14 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** I don't know. It's
15 such a hard question.

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

17 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** How do you make the
18 rest of the world value us more? You know,
19 that's -- that's a really hard question. If we were valued
20 a lot more, maybe we'd be safer, or -- it's overwhelming.
21 It's really, really overwhelming. I do know the more I
22 learn about -- the more I learn about our people and our
23 history, even all the ugly stuff, you know, it helps me to
24 make better decisions about my life. It helps me to
25 understand my family, so, you know, that education is

1 important for it not to be shut out.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And then education for
3 both Indigenous and nonIndigenous.

4 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Yeah, for everybody.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And -- and where
6 would -- what sort of age would you think you're teaching?

7 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Well, I teach junior
8 high.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

10 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** I'm already talking
11 about it with kids -- about kids in the -- like,
12 12-year-olds, 13-year-olds. I'm not talk -- I'm not
13 teaching, like, the gory, awful stuff, but I am teaching
14 about, like, facts and statistics and -- there are some
15 stories out there, and, you know, I teach about residential
16 schools. I teach about murdered and missing Indigenous
17 women, and sometimes our kids are so -- their world is just
18 their -- their family and their community. You know, they
19 don't even know that there's so many other Indigenous
20 communities within the province. They don't know that
21 Canada is full of a diverse group of Indigenous people.
22 I'm -- I'm trying hard to -- to make them proud to be
23 Native. I tell them all the time that I'm very proud to be
24 Native, so I -- I want to pass that on. So they need to
25 see more positive faces. They need to see more positive

1 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** -- the big picture.

2 So I would say, you know, if there is a way to kind of ease
3 our kids into understanding, like, a little bit at a time,
4 but -- I don't want to say filtered, but kind of filtered,
5 you know? Like --

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Filtered at the beginning,
7 and then as they get older and --

8 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Yeah.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- understand more --

10 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** M'hm.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- that you -- the filter
12 starts to decrease.

13 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Yeah. Because, like,
14 I've speak -- I've spoken with other educators, nonNative
15 educators. I mean, we talk about that subject, the subject
16 of missing -- missing and murdered Indigenous women and
17 men. We talk about the residential schools, and we -- we
18 all struggle. Like, it's like opening a can of worms, you
19 know?

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M-hm.

21 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** It's like -- do
22 we -- do we even have the right training to handle, you
23 know, sharing -- like, teaching about that when,
24 like -- how is that going to affect our kids? How -- how
25 do we -- how are we there to scaffold them to deal with it?

1 You know, if it really does -- we don't -- we're not
2 counsellors, but we kind of have to be at the same time,
3 you know?

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

5 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** So --

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Because you never know --

7 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** M'hm.

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- what is
9 currently -- and when we talk about that intergenerational
10 violence --

11 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Yeah.

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- you know, children
13 today in Grade 4 or Grade 3 may be coming from homes --

14 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Yeah.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- that that dysfunction
16 that you spoke to earlier --

17 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** M'hm.

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- exists there.

19 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** It does.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And -- and sort of what do
21 you open and -- and having skills, then -- or to have the
22 resources for those wrap-around --

23 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** M'hm.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- supports --

25 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** M'hm.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- that when somebody is
2 being taught and somebody discloses --

3 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Yeah.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- that they have that
5 wrap-around support and that they're not left.

6 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Yeah. Yeah,
7 and -- and, you know, I've always just taught in -- either
8 on reserves or I've taught in cities specifically just
9 Native kids. Like --

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

11 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** That's me being drawn
12 to that, you know? I just --

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

14 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** I love -- I love our
15 Native kids, and that's where -- that's where my heart is,
16 and I just feel I want to help and I want to educate
17 and -- but me, too, I have to be careful, like, I don't
18 share too much.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hm.

20 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** And I -- but I don't
21 want to not share, you know?

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M-hm.

23 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** We need to know. We
24 need to get on a healing path. We need to have awareness.
25 Absolutely.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And your own journey, your
2 own healing --

3 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** M'hm.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- is part of it.

5 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Absolutely.
6 Absolutely.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And what other things have
8 you been able to do -- to do to help in that healing for
9 yourself?

10 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** For myself? You
11 know, I think it is -- what I do for myself is -- in my own
12 job, in my own family, I try to pass on good kids, my kids
13 and my students. I try to put good there, and I tell them
14 exactly what I tell myself. What I give to my kids,
15 they're going to give to their kids, so I already love my
16 grandchildren. You know, what kind of parents am I giving
17 them? So I think about that.

18 So I tell that to my students too. I said
19 you guys are going to be moms and dads someday. What kind
20 of -- you know, and someday you'll be grandpa and
21 grandpas -- grandmas -- or kookums and moushouns. It's
22 easier to say: Kookums and moushouns. You know, that's
23 what you're going to be someday. All this good that you're
24 learning you got to pass on, and you need to know about the
25 bad, too, so you can put a stop to it.

1 So I tell that to my students. I tell that
2 to my own kids, and I do share my story, and, you know,
3 like I said, I do filter it because some of that's a little
4 bit too graphic to hear.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right.

6 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Your younger --

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

8 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** High school students
9 when I have a chance to teach -- teach them, they're able
10 to handle -- handle it a little bit better. Some of them
11 actually can tell me their stories and --

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah. You mentioned so.

13 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Yeah.

14 So -- (indiscernible) I know we're strong and resilient,
15 but we're -- also, we've been through a lot.

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

17 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** M'hm.

18 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Is there anything else you
19 would like to share today?

20 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** No. Thank you.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. All right. It's

22 5:44.

23 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** Wow.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So I'm just -- before we
25 turn off, though, I do need to ask you in terms of your

1 decision whether you would like your consent to be public
2 or private.

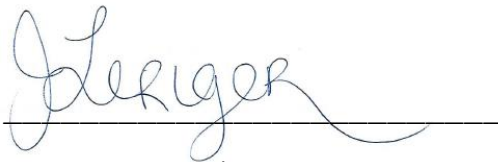
3 **MS. TERRELL DOWNWIND:** I'm okay with it
4 being public.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. All right.
6 And -- I don't -- I'm just going to have to go and grab the
7 consent, and I'll just say that it's 5:45.

8 --- Upon adjourning at 5:45 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. The signature is fluid and extends slightly to the right of the line.

Jenessa Leriger

November 8, 2018