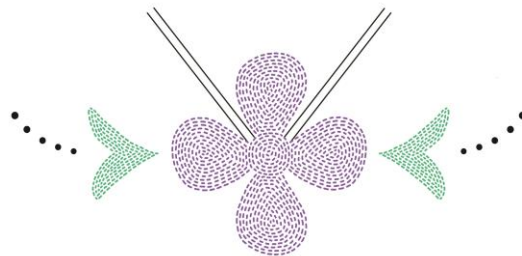


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Sheraton Hotel
St. John's, Newfoundland-and-Labrador**



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Statement - Volume 511

**Sheena Jadis & Deana Beaton,
In relation to Mary Jane Paul**

Statement gathered by Kerrie Reay

INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.

41 - 5450 Canotek Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K1J 9G2

E-mail: info@irri.net - Phone: 613-748-6043 - Fax: 613-748-8246

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List of documents provided with testimony:

Item 1 Black and white photocopy of photograph.

Item 2 Photocopy of newspaper article, *The Guardian*, PEI, page A7, hand dated February 15, 2018.

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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."

Sheena Jadis & Deana Beaton
(Mary Francis Paul)

1 St. John's, Newfoundland
2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, October 17, 2018.

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Alright, this is Kerrie
4 Reay, I'm a statement taker with the National Inquiry into
5 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. And today
6 we are in St. John's, Newfoundland, and the date is October
7 17th, 2018, and the time is 5:15 p.m.

8 Today I am speaking with Sheena Jadis,
9 that's S-H-E-E-N-A, Jadis is J-A-D-I-S. Along with Sheena
10 today is her sister Deana, D-E-A-N-A, Beaton, B-E-A-T-O-N.
11 Sheena is here today -- and I should say that Sheena is
12 with the Abegweit Mi'kmaw Nation, and lives on the
13 Scotchfort Reserve here in Newfoundland. So I'm going to
14 spell that --

15 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** It's not in Newfoundland,
16 it's in P.E.I.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh, P.E.I., sorry. So
18 Abegweit is A-B-E-G-W-E-I-T, Mi'kmaw, M-I, apostrophe, K-M-
19 A-W, Nation. And Scotchfort is spelled S-C-O-T-C-H-F-O-R-
20 T. And Sheena is here today to talk about her grandmother,
21 Mary Paul, who went missing in early October of 1977, and
22 was found a few days later. [*One sentence redacted -*
23 *confidential information*]. And just for the record you're
24 here voluntarily?

25 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yes.

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(Mary Francis Paul)

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And you understand that I
2 am videotaping you and audio taping you?

3 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yes.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, so Sheena, when
5 you're ready and you're feeling comfortable, please begin.

6 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** I don't know how normal
7 people start off the process, but --

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Wherever you feel
9 comfortable. Sometimes people like to start about talking
10 a little bit about themselves and where they grew up. And
11 then some like to start with their missing loved one.

12 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Okay.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So it's wherever you feel
14 comfortable.

15 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** I'm, I'm from the
16 Scotchfort Reserve. I am a mother to seven Indigenous
17 children. I have been married to my husband -- together 15
18 years, married two. I really thought it was important to
19 come here and share a bit of my story, because my mom, she
20 was in New Brunswick sharing her story about her mom at a
21 time where, you know, she had believed that her mom had
22 been murdered. So I lived on Scotchfort from the day I was
23 born until probably three months, six months?

24 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Eight.

25 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Eight months old? Until

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1 I was about eight months old. My mom left a domestic
2 violence relationship and she moved into Charlottetown.
3 And so we lived in town maybe 10 years off Reserve. And
4 when I was 10 or 11 she decided to bring us back to the
5 community. Growing up I didn't -- she didn't really talk
6 about her mother or what happened. We kind of knew it was,
7 we kind of knew it was a, it was like a really sensitive
8 subject for her. It wasn't until we were kind of older
9 where we kind of -- we lived in a community where people
10 talk, and one of the first times I heard about my
11 grandmother was from, you know, a lot of the older people
12 in my community. Most of them substance abuse kind of like
13 -- you know the people in your community that says things
14 to kind of just hurt you.

15 So the first thing that I heard about my
16 grandmother was that she was just, you know a drunk, and
17 she had fallen into a garbage can and she broke her neck
18 because she was a -- an alcoholic. And so when I kind of
19 asked my mom about it she just said no, you know, that
20 didn't happen, like you know -- but she didn't want to talk
21 about it. So for most of my life I had all my friends, and
22 they had all their grandparents, and you know, but there's
23 always that piece that, you know, missing in my life.

24 And it wasn't until we got a little bit
25 older when my mom started coming to Missing and Murdered

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1 Indigenous Women Conferences right, it's when she started
2 opening up more about what had, what happened to her. And
3 she kind of told us, you know like the lack of information
4 that she was given as a -- I think she was 16 when her
5 mother died. So with her lack of information and, you
6 know, not given the right words on how her mother died like
7 from one of the police officers. They told her, you know
8 your mother was kind of stuffed in a bin, it's not
9 suspicious to us, and you know that's, that's what
10 happened.

11 And they said -- she said that her neck was
12 broke or something like that, and we found out like last
13 year that it wasn't. So it was like communication 40 years
14 ago is so crucial and so important, like in -- like it
15 should have been top priority. Like they should have
16 explained to her, you know, exactly what happened instead
17 of having her, you know, think something different.

18 So my mom, she completely changed her life
19 around. She was -- like she stayed sober for us, and she
20 raised us to be like strong role models in our community.
21 And like it wasn't until like I said, that she came into
22 all this, that she started realizing that she was a part of
23 this. Because she thought -- like she didn't really put
24 two and two together that, you know, her mom was missing
25 for a while, and you know found the way she was found. And

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1 then that's when my mom kind of starting opening up more to
2 us. Like she never even like shared stories of her
3 grandmother -- or I mean of her mother. And so when all
4 this kind of started happening it's like we kind of heard
5 more and more stories. Like do you agree?

6 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** M'hmm.

7 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** And so she tells me that
8 I remind her a lot of my grandmother. And I can't imagine
9 what it was like, you know, back then when I feel like
10 missing and murdered Aboriginal women were like to the
11 justice system, just another thing. Like today it's, it's
12 still a problem, but like back then it was almost, almost
13 the norm when Aboriginal and Indigenous women went missing.

14 So I don't really know what more to say
15 about my grandmother, just that I wish that I met her, I
16 wish that we had got the information sooner, I wish that we
17 would have got the autopsy sooner. But I'm glad that, you
18 know, after so long that we were able to get closure. But,
19 you know, 40 years is a really long time. And I know like
20 in my mom's statement and in her inquiry, she said a lot.
21 Probably the most that I've ever heard her talking about my
22 grandmother, which was like awesome. And I know that
23 that's an open door for her to like start her healing
24 process. And, you know, I was really proud of her for
25 doing that, sharing her story about her mother.

1 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Our grandmother, she was
2 an alcoholic but she was more than that.

3 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yeah.

4 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** You know? And it was
5 nice to hear her stories and hear her laugh, like you know?

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hmm.

7 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Like stories that she was
8 almost -- you know didn't, didn't want to say, but she said
9 them.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Is that a picture of your
11 grandmother?

12 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yes.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Would you like to hold it
14 up so I can --

15 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yep.

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** I can get a nice -- for
17 the Commissioners. And your grandmother is Mary Paul?

18 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yes.

19 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** And we don't have too
20 many photos --

21 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yeah, we don't have --

22 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** -- of our grandmother.

23 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** I have maybe seen two or
24 three in my life.

25 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

1 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Maybe a little bit more
2 when she was younger.

3 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** And then this is, this is
4 my mom at her inquiry, with her granddaughter and my sister
5 that's sitting beside me.

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So you say that you've,
7 you've got the information now. And how, how different is
8 that information from what your mom believed? Do you want
9 to share with the Commissioners what the difference was
10 that you lived with all these years and now you have
11 closure?

12 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** So the information that
13 we got, the information that my mom had got was that she --
14 that her mother went to town and she went to her usual --

15 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Spots.

16 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Spots in town. And for a
17 few days she didn't come home, and she usually always came
18 home and took care of her kids and stuff. And she wasn't
19 home for a few days and my mom was kind of worried. So my
20 mom would go to school --

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hmm.

22 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** She would go to school,
23 and after school she would go into town and look for her.
24 And it wasn't until a few days later that, you know, my mom
25 found out that they found her mother kind of like in a, in

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1 a window sill, like a metal window sill, but she had
2 thought it was more of like a barrel. When the police
3 officer came and told her, you know, your mother was found
4 in a barrel and they had believed that her neck had been
5 broken. And so when they rolled it out to be like
6 unsuspecting -- I don't even -- was she in the obituary, or
7 did they have a write up or anything of what happened?

8 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** No.

9 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** No. Like there was
10 nothing. So my mom felt like that it was kind of an
11 unimportant thing, and kind of like her mom didn't matter
12 in our community. And I think getting that information
13 kind of just like shut her down to like even bring it up or
14 talk about it. And after she had did her inquiry and it,
15 and it kind of went public, we had -- we had the Chief of
16 Police from P.E.I. contact her and, you know, agreed to
17 share what they knew. And they had actually found the
18 officer that found her. So --

19 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Which was like minimal
20 kind of information, of notes that were jot down, you know?

21 **MS. SHEENA JADIA:** M'hmm.

22 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Like, you know that was
23 one of the things he said, that now, you know, it's so
24 important to have so much more facts written instead of
25 like, you know, a few scribbles here and there, you know?

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1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** I'm just wondering if the
2 family thought that perhaps it was a murder? Like was your
3 mom concerned that her mother had been --

4 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Well she --

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** -- her life had been taken
6 and the police didn't care?

7 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Well she felt like it was
8 a murder.

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

10 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Like my grandmother had
11 14 children, and two were -- the two oldest -- the three
12 oldest ones were adopted. And my mother didn't even know
13 that until later on. Probably when she was around 14 or 15
14 her mother told her. You know because all her kids got
15 adopted out. She was married and her husband had drowned
16 in a boating accident, and she was, she was -- she sobered
17 up in her, in her life and then her husband drowned. And
18 in that process she ended up losing her kids.

19 They were taken like to foster care on
20 Prince Edward Island and then they were given up. Like she
21 was under the impression that they were going to come back,
22 you know that she was getting her life in order and that
23 they were going to come back. And then she found out that
24 they were all already given to the United States. So my
25 mother and her older brother -- they were older, so that

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1 they weren't forced that they had to be adopted out. So my
2 mother was still living with my grandmother at the time.

3 And so there was always like suspicion
4 there, about my grandmother's kids. You know that they
5 were, they were sold and, and that type of thing. So then
6 -- like there was rumours that circulate in a small
7 community, that you know, she was murdered due to those
8 kind of facts, you know?

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

10 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** And it's hearsay stuff.
11 And my mother --

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** It's still very upsetting.

13 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Yeah, it's very
14 upsetting. And so my mom was telling my grandmother that
15 she promises she'll find all her siblings. And then she
16 said well you're going to have to look for the three older
17 ones too, that she had given up prior to, that my mother
18 didn't even know all those years. And so she said -- you
19 know she promised to find them. And they had -- she found
20 all her siblings.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh God.

22 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** And, you know, some have
23 come back to Prince Edward Island, some visit, we visit,
24 and some are still in the United States. You know but it
25 wasn't like a good -- it wasn't good for them. They took

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1 them away from something they thought was bad and put them
2 into something that was worse. So that weighed on my
3 mother too you know, knowing all her siblings were gone.
4 And then she was pregnant with me when her mother passed
5 away. So when her mom died, like she didn't even get to
6 tell my grandmother that she was pregnant with me. But
7 some, some other ladies in the community, you know, told my
8 mom that she knew, and she was saying my baby's going to
9 have a baby, you know?

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hmm.

11 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** But they never talked
12 about it. So that was hard. So we hear like the hearsay
13 things that, you know, she was murdered and she was -- one
14 of the things was she was found by the waterfront and, and
15 her neck was broke by rocks. Another thing was she was
16 found in a barrel and her neck was broken. And what we had
17 found out through the, the detail from the officer -- and
18 the officer was actually there to meet us as a family. He
19 was retired, but he came into that meeting and he talked
20 about the day, like the morning of, and he was just -- you
21 know he was young, he was new and, you know, on his --

22 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** He was embarrassed of his
23 notes.

24 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** He was embarrassed of his
25 notes that he wrote. You know that in a way they were

1 racist, and you know he was embarrassed for that.

2 MS. SHEENA JADIS: And it was the first
3 thing he said, so it's not like -- I mean he could have
4 brought in his notes, but he said that he was ashamed of
5 them.

6 MS. KERRIE REAY: Okay.

7 MS. SHEENA JADIS: And that was kind of hard
8 to hear.

9 MS. DEANA BEATON: M'hmm.

10 MS. SHEENA JADIS: But it was kind of like
11 at least he had the, you know, knowledge now.

12 MS. DEANA BEATON: And he felt maybe he
13 should have went to my mother and -- you know what I mean?
14 But he didn't. You know somebody else maybe higher up than
15 him or something, went and you know, said what they said.
16 And they did take us to the area that my grandmother was
17 found, and it was back of like old buildings. The exact
18 spot where she was found we couldn't get to because they
19 had added, added an extension onto the building, but the
20 next building beside it, it was basically showing like the
21 old window basement with the steel --

22 MS. KERRIE REAY: So like a window well?

23 MS. DEANA BEATON: A window well, like a
24 steel window well, and how they -- they think that, you
25 know, she was intoxicated and she had fallen back into it.

1 So she was like in a "V", and that she actually died due to

2 --

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Aspiration.

4 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** -- aspiration. And they
5 didn't feel like there was anything suspicious. And there
6 was two --

7 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** I think it was weather
8 exposure.

9 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Yeah, and the weather
10 exposure.

11 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** She was missing her shoes
12 too.

13 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** She didn't have shoes.
14 Like, you know, there was still questions. Like after
15 hearing like the -- seeing the autopsy, you know, listening
16 to the RCMP, that's all we can go on, right? But still in
17 the back of my mind, why was she missing shoes, why didn't
18 she have a coat? Like -- you know like those kind of
19 things still kind of -- yeah.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** It's still a little
21 unsettling, you still have questions.

22 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yeah. And if it was a
23 spot where every goes, why was she there for three days?

24 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** I'm supposed to be your
25 support.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Well it's an emotional
2 time, you know, recalling such a loss.

3 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yeah.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** You know it's --

5 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** And like I, I feel like
6 it's so important to have, you know, her story shared --

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

8 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** -- because if it wasn't
9 for this, would it have ever been, would it have ever been
10 looked into, would we have ever known where she took her
11 last breath.

12 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Yeah.

13 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** And those are things
14 that, you know, people need for closure. Because my mom
15 had no closure, none. She closed herself off, but she had
16 no closure.

17 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** And that may have like
18 been 40 years ago, but still today we have missing and
19 murdered Indigenous women and girls happening across
20 Canada. And they matter. You know they're just not
21 another drunken Indian or something, you know --

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And that's kind of --

23 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** -- they're a grandmother,
24 you know they're an aunt to somebody.

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

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1 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yeah, like just because,
2 you know, we have -- you're hurting or you're turning to
3 alcohol, you know to suppress your own pain, you still
4 matter, you're still a person, you're still a human being.
5 And you know that's what my sister, my mom, my niece,
6 wanted to get out, was that every person out there, whether
7 you know they are Indigenous, or they're a woman, or
8 they're a male, or they have, you know, no means to you
9 know find a place to stay, or no means to you know help
10 their addiction, they still matter. Even though they're
11 missing, or they're murdered, or like --

12 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Like their families need
13 answers.

14 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** M'hmm.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And your grandmother, I
16 don't think I wrote that down. Where, where did this
17 happen?

18 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** In Charlottetown.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** In Charlottetown, P.E.I.
20 And the reason I ask is, when your mom -- did your mom seek
21 help from anybody to help look for her mother?

22 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** She basically did it, her
23 and her friends.

24 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

25 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** So she would go to

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1 school, and that was like a safe haven for my mother. Like
2 education was so important to her back then, you know. And
3 she'd go to school, and then after school they would -- her
4 and a couple of friends would hitchhike into town and
5 they'd try to go to all the usual spots and look. And
6 they, they never found her.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And nobody felt
8 comfortable asking or going to the RCMP for help either?

9 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** No.

10 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** That's true.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And can you share with the
12 Commissioners sort of the feelings as sisters, or as one
13 another, the impact of the loss of your grandmother on your
14 mom, and how that has impacted you as, as your mother's
15 children?

16 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Well for me being the
17 oldest, Christmas was always a hard time for my mother.
18 She was always emotional, she was always crying. She
19 wouldn't get a tree up until like -- maybe even sometimes
20 the night before Christmas. And it was just all because
21 her mom passed close to Christmas.

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hmm.

23 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** So she, she always had
24 that, and I never really understood like why she was so
25 emotional, you know, during what is supposed to be, you

1 know, a happy time.

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hmm.

3 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** And I remember when I was
4 probably in between eight and 10 maybe, I asked her like
5 mom, why don't you love me? And she said hearing that kind
6 of shocked her a little bit, because she just assumed we
7 did. She never heard that from her, her parent, like her
8 mom.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hmm.

10 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** And so, you know, that
11 wasn't something that was passed on, you know it was just
12 assumed. And that kind of opened up her eyes that, you
13 know, she does love me. And you know, now that's all you
14 can hear her saying every day to our kids, is you know, I
15 love you. And she says it to us all the time now. But
16 just, just the impact of not having a grandmother, and you
17 know I envy so many people that have their grandparents,
18 and that's something that was like taken away from me. You
19 know I, I didn't get to experience that. And my, my kids
20 never got to, you know, meet their great-grandmother. And
21 it's been hard.

22 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Sheena?

23 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** As the baby who got
24 everything, I think growing up I didn't realize what it was
25 like to be missing out on having a grandmother, because she

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1 never spoke of her. And it wasn't, it wasn't an issue
2 because I knew that my mom was everything. My sister kind
3 of played a role as a second mom, and you know at the end
4 of the day we had each other, no matter what. And we still
5 have each other. And it wasn't a problem for me growing
6 up, because my mom and my sister were like my heroes.

7 And it wasn't probably until I got older
8 that my mom started talking about my grandmother, is when I
9 started to realize how much she loved her and how much she
10 missed her. And then I started to realize that, you know,
11 if I had -- if I was 16 and I lost my mother, then you
12 know, it would impact me for the rest of my life. But I
13 didn't realize until she started talking about it, was when
14 it felt like there was more of a void. But for me growing
15 up, it's just I knew I had those, them two.

16 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Do you know much about
17 your grandmother's background? One of the things that the
18 Commission is looking at as well, is the impacts of that
19 systemic violence. And a lot of that through the
20 residential school systems and the taking of the children,
21 and how the pain and in return to cope, to rely on alcohol
22 to help dull the pain of, of the experiences. And it also
23 sounds like for your grandmother that child welfare had a
24 huge role in the pain.

25 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yeah. And, and she would

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1 have had residential school. It's like our community is so
2 small, and you know the residential --

3 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** My grandmother wasn't in
4 residential school.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** No, okay.

6 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** No, she wasn't in --

7 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** But she -- like they were
8 taken to the United States so that they didn't have to go
9 to residential school.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh, so her parents took
11 the children to the States?

12 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Well yeah, and --

13 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Mary took her
14 grandchildren?

15 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** No, no, like my
16 grandmother.

17 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yeah.

18 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** You know she didn't have
19 to go to residential school.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah, because her parents,
21 your great-grandparents took them to the States?

22 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Her, her -- I forget what
23 I was trying to say there.

24 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Mary's parents, were they
25 in Residential school?

1 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** No, all I know is my
2 grandmother wasn't in residential school.

3 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

4 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** But still the far of
5 that, like she didn't -- she knew how to speak her
6 language, but she didn't teach her kids the language, you
7 know in fear of, of those things that, you know, happened
8 to the other Indigenous kids in the community and stuff,
9 you know?

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

11 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** So like my mother, she
12 don't -- she can't speak her language. She can understand
13 it a little bit, but she can't speak it. But she's part of
14 that movement in education in our community, that she has
15 somebody that comes and teaches every week, you know to --
16 our, our kids go, and you know are starting to learn how to
17 speak Mi'kmaw. But even though my grandmother didn't
18 attend residential school, still that fear from it, you
19 know --

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Impacted.

21 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** -- has played a big, big
22 role.

23 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** And sometimes it's not
24 even just about the school itself, it's about the
25 government coming in and taking all your children.

1 MS. DEANA BEATON: M'hmm.

2 MS. SHEENA JADIS: It was a form of --

3 MS. DEANA BEATON: How they were so scared
4 when the Indian agents would come to the home and, you
5 know, to inspect and -- you know like to have somebody come
6 into my home and check to see if it was dusty, or you know,
7 like --

8 MS. SHEENA JADIS: And that's not, that's
9 not 40 years ago. That's still to this day, like on
10 reserves. That happens all the time. I can only imagine
11 what it was like then, because even still it's so invasive.

12 MS. KERRIE REAY: Do you feel, do you feel
13 from the experience on the reserve that people are still
14 scared today that child welfare is going to come knocking
15 on a door. That's what I'm hearing.

16 MS. DEANA BEATON: That fear is still there.

17 MS. KERRIE REAY: Oh okay, yeah.

18 MS. DEANA BEATON: Like, you know, I feel
19 like it's still there. I mean if it could happen back
20 then, what says that they -- it couldn't happen now?

21 MS. KERRIE REAY: Right, right, yeah.

22 MS. DEANA BEATON: You know?

23 MS. KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

24 MS. SHEENA JADIS: And it personally
25 happened to me. I was a young mom, I was 19 or 20, and I

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1 had gone to -- I had three kids at the time, and I had got
2 into an altercation. And I -- like I wasn't drinking, I
3 didn't smoke, I didn't do drugs, no addictions, and I had
4 gotten into a fight with my, with my husband, but boyfriend
5 then. And I had, you know, got so mad that I got into an
6 altercation with him and somebody called on me. You know
7 my kids were in the house, and you know they just, you
8 know, thought that it wasn't right.

9 So they had called and they come to my
10 house, and they came in and they said did you get into an
11 altercation with your boyfriend and I said yeah. And they
12 said okay, we're taking your kids and you don't get to say
13 goodbye to them, and you can pack them a bag and that's it.
14 And I was 19, 20, and I didn't understand that I had no
15 support, I had no help. I had no addictions so I didn't
16 know ---

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Can you tell me what year
18 that was?

19 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** That was -- do you know
20 what year, was it 2007?

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And it was the RCMP?

22 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yeah. It was the year
23 Jody -- just before Jody got there.

24 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Oh.

25 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** You don't remember that?

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So when you say
2 altercation, and are you -- you and your partner got into a
3 fight?

4 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yeah, we got into a
5 fight, we were arguing, and I ended up hitting him. I
6 don't know if I slapped him or --

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, and on that basis
8 they removed all three children?

9 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yes.

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, and did child
11 welfare come?

12 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yes.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, can you -- what, and
14 what happened?

15 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** They took them and they
16 said that I had to go to a drug testing right away, I had
17 to get a urine, I had to go to anger management, I had to
18 go to drug -- it was like a treatment centre to figure out
19 my, my addictions, which I had none. And yeah, they said
20 until I did that, then I couldn't get them back. The
21 recommendations were that they went to my mom's, so they
22 were there maybe two or three months that time, yeah. But
23 I, I had no idea that I, that I could have fought for them
24 and, you know, went with a different approach instead of
25 them just coming in and being like did you, you know, do

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1 this to your boyfriend, and I was like yeah. You need to
2 sign here, so I signed the papers and I didn't know what
3 they meant. And then they said we're going to the daycare,
4 we're taking your babies away from you, and that was it.

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So in your opinion --

6 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** M'hmm.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** They asked you to sign a
8 document that you did not understand?

9 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yes. I was a young,
10 young mom living on reserve, and scared for my life.

11 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And what about your
12 partner, did he have the children or access to the
13 children?

14 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** He, he had -- he could
15 see them just as much as I did. Yeah, he had access to
16 them too.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. One of the things
18 that the Commission is also seeking is to understand some
19 of the policing attitudes and understanding, you know, what
20 happens with policing and their response to Indigenous
21 women and girls, and Indigenous families. And is there an
22 aspect of dealing with Indigenous people different than
23 they would deal with non-Indigenous people?

24 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** M'hmm.

25 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And I'm, I'm just

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1 wondering if, if you -- what comfort level you would have
2 if I requested that file, to find out, you know, what in
3 their view that they needed to remove the children for that
4 amount of time, and how child welfare was involved.

5 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** M'hmm.

6 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Would you be okay with
7 that?

8 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yeah, yeah.

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

10 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yeah, because I was
11 really, really young when that happened, and --

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And you think about 2007?

13 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yeah.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Just roughly, was it
15 summer, spring or winter?

16 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** It might have been --
17 they were in daycare, so I want to say maybe --

18 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Spring maybe?

19 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** I think it was spring
20 maybe? No, because there was --

21 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Well I know there was no
22 snow.

23 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** No, because they were
24 there until Christmas, because mom had Christmas there.

25 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** So fall?

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1 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** I remember that. So I
2 think it started in fall because they were in school. So
3 it had to be like September.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So fall, September of
5 2007.

6 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yeah.

7 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. The, the
8 Commissioners -- the Commission, the Inquiry has the
9 ability to subpoena files to take a look at the outcomes of
10 decisions, policing decisions, child welfare decisions, to
11 take a look at those to say, you know, would these
12 standards have been applied to a non-Indigenous family
13 given the circumstances?

14 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** And like the RCMP -- like
15 I still feel like there's issues on how they treat
16 Indigenous, you know, people. Like we're fortunate now, we
17 have an Indigenous RCMP officer that's designated for our
18 community.

19 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

20 **MS. DEANNA BEATON:** He's from Listuguj,
21 Quebec, but you know, it's like he changed how we look at
22 RCMP.

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

24 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** You know what I mean?
25 Like to a point. Like he's got the kids involved in

1 things, and you know what I mean?

2 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yeah.

3 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** And so to me I feel like
4 that's --

5 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh, we'll take a break,
6 it's 5:54.

7

8 -- A BRIEF RECESS

9

10 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, it is 6:08 and we
11 are back on the record. And at this point -- was there
12 anything else that you would like to add Sheena, about your
13 Grandma, about the impact that her loss has had on your
14 family, or any recommendations you might have in terms of
15 policing given your experience of not being told?

16 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** I know you've got a lot
17 of recommendations. Why don't we start with yours?
18 Policing recommendations concerning situations like our
19 grandmother?

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yes. You know you don't
21 have to say anything. If you're comfortable and you know,
22 this is what you were here to share, that's fine. I just
23 want to make sure I, I give that opportunity for you to add
24 anything else, any final words or recommendations. But --

25 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** One recommendation I

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1 would have, and this is Deana speaking, that -- and maybe
2 it's already happening, I don't know. But I feel like the
3 RCMP should have cultural sensitivity during -- I'm not
4 sure if that happens, you know. And if it does happen, it
5 would be nice to know what type of training is given. Is
6 it, you know, a couple of hours of you know, once a year or
7 something, you know?

8 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Right.

9 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** But it would be nice to
10 see that happen, you know, maybe two or three times out of
11 every year.

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Every year?

13 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Every year, you know.

14 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Keep it going?

15 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Yeah, that it's something
16 that continues and, and that they get to know our people.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** M'hmm.

18 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** You know that they're
19 involved in our communities on an off reserve.

20 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So that actually leads me
21 to a question if I can ask that? Do you have a member
22 stationed on your Reserve, or do they come from another
23 community?

24 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** They come from another
25 community.

1 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And they come from which
2 community?

3 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** I think he's from --

4 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** He's from Listuguj,
5 Quebec.

6 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Yes.

7 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** But he's Mi'kmaw, and
8 he's stationed in our community.

9 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** He lives there?

10 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** He doesn't live there but
11 his office is there.

12 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. And so I'm -- if
13 you could just help me out with the geographics?

14 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** M'hmm.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** So you're on P.E.I.?

16 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Yes.

17 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** And your RCMP members
18 travel from Quebec to P.E.I.?

19 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** No, no, no, he lives in
20 Charlottetown.

21 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Oh okay, okay, there we
22 go.

23 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Yeah, he's stationed in
24 Prince Edward Island.

25 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay, but his background

1 is from Quebec, okay. Okay, thank you. So he has an
2 office there?

3 **MS. DEANA BEATON:** Yes.

4 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Okay. Anything else
5 recommendation wise? And like I said, that's fine, you
6 know. If that's not something that you want to do at this
7 point, that's fine. If you think of something you can
8 always add it to the file. Okay Sheena, anything?

9 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** Just like kind of the
10 same as my sister. Like I feel like they should take
11 Indigenous missing and murdered cases just as serious as
12 they would a non-Indigenous person.

13 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Yes.

14 **MS. SHEENA JADIS:** A 100 percent equal.

15 **MS. KERRIE REAY:** Alright, so it is 6:15 and
16 we will conclude your truth.

17 --- Upon adjourning at 6:15 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Sherry Hobe, 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.



Sherry Hobe

November 7, 2018