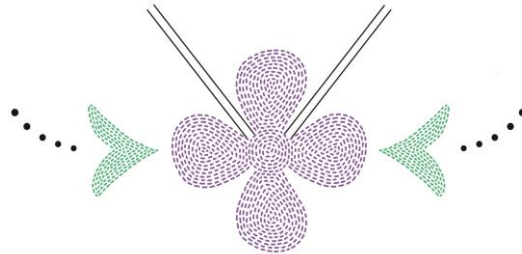


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador**



PUBLIC

Thursday October 18, 2018

Statement - Volume 530

“Sister 1”

Statement gathered by Kerrie Reay

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II

ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 7 of *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*, Chief Commissioner Marion R. Buller ordered that all names and identifying information in this transcript and any related documents be rendered anonymous, including the name of the witness. This order was made March 19, 2019.

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Statement Gatherer: Kerrie Reay

Documents provided with testimony: none.

1 St. John's, Newfoundland.

2 --- Upon commencing on Thursday, October 18, 2018 at 6:56
3 p.m.

4 **KERRIE REAY:** Ok then, [Sister 1], for the
5 record this is Kerrie Reay, statement taker for the
6 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women
7 and Girls. And today is October the 18th of 2018 and we are
8 at St. John's, Newfoundland at the Sheraton Hotel. Today
9 with me is [Sister 1]. And along today for support in the
10 room is [Sister 1]'s sister, [Sister 2]. For the record,
11 [Sister 1] would like to be referred to as [*abbreviated*
12 *form of Sister 1's name*]. And [Sister 1] is here today to
13 speak of her survivorship. And [Sister 1] has decided today
14 to only have audio and is not going to have the video
15 recording. [Sister 1], the space is yours, the time is
16 yours; when you're ready to start. Some people like to
17 start with where they're from and growing up and others
18 want to start right with the trauma and so it's your time
19 here, ok? When you're ready.

20 **[SISTER 1]:** I don't know how to start off -

21 **KERRIE REAY:** You can talk about your family
22 and where you're from and --

23 **[SISTER 1]:** (Crying) I don't know how to
24 start it.

25 **KERRIE REAY:** You said you were born on

1 [birthdate] 1992 and where were you born, [Sister 1]?

2 [SISTER 1]: Born in [Newfoundland-and-
3 Labrador Community 1].

4 KERRIE REAY: [*Poses a factual question*
5 *about the community*]?

6 [SISTER 1]: Yup.

7 KERRIE REAY: And your mom and your dad, and
8 your family?

9 [SISTER 1]: My mom and dad is from
10 [Newfoundland-and-Labrador Community 2].

11 KERRIE REAY: [Newfoundland-and-Labrador
12 Community 2], ok.

13 [SISTER 1]: (Inaudible reply).

14 KERRIE REAY: I know you have a sister,
15 [Sister 2], here.

16 [SISTER 1]: (Crying). I don't know if I can
17 do it.

18 KERRIE REAY: I'm going to suggest that we
19 stop the tape so that you can take a deep breath and settle
20 down and maybe walk around the room. It's 6:59. That's ok,
21 you just take your time.

22 (Short break)

23 KERRIE REAY: It's now six - 7:02.

24 [SISTER 1]: We went to those in the
25 afternoon. We went up to get beer and liquor. When we got

1 home we were drinking.

2 **KERRIE REAY:** Who was there? Who was with
3 you?

4 **[SISTER 1]:** Me, [Man 1], and [Woman 2].

5 **KERRIE REAY:** Okay. You were having a few
6 drinks?

7 **[SISTER 1]:** I had a few beer and I started
8 drinking liquor. And I blacked out. I woke up in the
9 hospital. And I asked my mom -- my mom was sleeping there.
10 And I woke her up and I asked her how come I'm in there.
11 She said that I got picked up by the ambulance. I was
12 losing a lot of blood. One of the RCMP officers, they said
13 -- she said it took a while for her to wake me up. I was
14 laying my own pool of blood. The bed was covered in bed
15 and I was on the floor in my own pool of blood.

16 The RCMP officer told me a few times that
17 I'm lucky to be alive. I was in the -- in the hospital in
18 [Newfoundland-and-Labrador Community 1] for two days and
19 they said I had to get Medevacked to here in St. John's. I
20 had, like, two surgeries -- two surgeries I think. I've
21 been here in a hospital in a private room for two weeks.
22 They sent me back to home to [Newfoundland-and-Labrador
23 Community 1].

24 **KERRIE REAY:** When you went back to
25 [Newfoundland-and-Labrador Community 1], did you go back

1 into the -- the hospital?

2 [SISTER 1]: I had to get another surgery in
3 another three months time. After my surgery, I stayed in
4 the hospital for, like, two days. And then everything was
5 good after that.

6 KERRIE REAY: And when did this happen?

7 [SISTER 1]: [Specific date] is when I woke
8 up in the hospital, 2017.

9 KERRIE REAY: So it's -- it's been [number
10 redacted] long months?

11 [SISTER 1]: Yeah.

12 KERRIE REAY: And how are you doing now
13 physically? Are you healed from your -- your -- from what
14 happened?

15 [SISTER 1]: I got quite a big scar on my
16 belly from surgery. I don't know, I just can't get the
17 thought out of my head of just being alive today.

18 KERRIE REAY: Yeah.

19 [SISTER 1]: I'm so happy I survived it.

20 KERRIE REAY: Yes. Can you share with the
21 Commissioners what happened? Do you know what happened?

22 [SISTER 1]: They are thinking that he stuck
23 a beer bottle ---

24 KERRIE REAY: Broken beer bottle?

25 [SISTER 1]: I don't think it was open

1 because they couldn't find any broken bottles in the house.
2 But I had to get a surgery and get stitches done up there
3 for the -- for it to stop bleeding.

4 **KERRIE REAY:** On the inside?

5 **[SISTER 1]:** That's what they think is it's
6 from a beer bottle.

7 **KERRIE REAY:** And this was the fellow that
8 was with you?

9 **[SISTER 1]:** Yeah. They told me he's only
10 in the correctional centre for another three years.

11 **KERRIE REAY:** So it went to trial?

12 **[SISTER 1]:** He got three years and then
13 he's out.

14 **KERRIE REAY:** Did he plead guilty or did he
15 plead not guilty?

16 **[SISTER 1]:** I think he plead guilty.

17 **KERRIE REAY:** Okay. And so he -- you said
18 he'll be out in three years?

19 **[SISTER 1]:** Yeah.

20 **KERRIE REAY:** So he didn't get very much
21 time then.

22 **[SISTER 1]:** I was hoping it'd be longer
23 than three years. It was hard to go through but just glad
24 I made it through.

25 **KERRIE REAY:** Yes. Yes, I'm glad you made

1 it through too. Your family, your friends. So that's
2 pretty -- that's -- that's pretty significant. You're --
3 you're young.

4 **[SISTER 1]:** Yeah.

5 **KERRIE REAY:** So what would you like to
6 share with the Commission? What your thoughts are about
7 the sentence he received?

8 **[SISTER 1]:** I don't like that he only got
9 three years. Like, it just hard, like -- if he goes back
10 to [Community 3] (phonetic) I was down there quite a bit.
11 And if I sees him, I'm probably going to have a bad anxiety
12 attack.

13 **KERRIE REAY:** So you're already worrying
14 about him getting out.

15 **[SISTER 1]:** Yeah.

16 **KERRIE REAY:** And when the matter was in
17 court, was there anybody from Victim Services that came and
18 spoke to you, or ---

19 **[SISTER 1]:** I was ---

20 **KERRIE REAY:** --- supported you?

21 **[SISTER 1]:** I was talking to them before I
22 went and made a statement in court.

23 **KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

24 **[SISTER 1]:** It's in -- they're in the same
25 building as court and ---

1 **KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

2 **[SISTER 1]:** --- I went to talk to them
3 before court was going on.

4 **KERRIE REAY:** Right. Were they helpful?

5 **[SISTER 1]:** I don't remember what they were
6 telling me but ---

7 **KERRIE REAY:** A little overwhelming with
8 everything that was happening?

9 **[SISTER 1]:** Yeah.

10 **KERRIE REAY:** And how about the police? How
11 were they with you? Were they helpful?

12 **[SISTER 1]:** They just told me what -- what
13 the scene was like when they arrived and they said I'm
14 lucky to be alive.

15 **KERRIE REAY:** And when they talked to you,
16 [Sister 1], was there anybody else in the room with you to
17 be supportive hearing that information? Must have been
18 pretty traumatic for you to hear that.

19 **[SISTER 1]:** They told me over the phone
20 first but I seen them, like, last -- last week some time.
21 They said it was a horrific scene and it wasn't easy to
22 watch.

23 **KERRIE REAY:** So they talked to you about
24 your statement over the telephone?

25 **[SISTER 1]:** Or, I called them before I came

1 here. And I was asking them some questions about what
2 happened that night. They said it was a horrific scene.

3 **KERRIE REAY:** When they -- when they came to
4 the hospital -- when you -- when you were first talking,
5 you said about the lady constable, when she came to see you
6 in the hospital.

7 **[SISTER 1]:** Or, I don't think it was her
8 who came to the hospital.

9 **KERRIE REAY:** Okay.

10 **[SISTER 1]:** But I was talking to her last
11 week. Or, she's the one that came over that night before
12 the ambulance did.

13 **KERRIE REAY:** Okay. Do you have much memory
14 of your time in the hospital or here in St. John's?

15 **[SISTER 1]:** I was just mostly in bed and it
16 was hard to get out of bed.

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

18 **[SISTER 1]:** And I went to the cafeteria, I
19 had to be in a wheelchair.

20 **KERRIE REAY:** And coming from [Newfoundland-
21 and-Labrador Community 1], it's quite a ways to come. Were
22 you able to have family here?

23 **[SISTER 1]:** My mom stayed with me the two
24 weeks I was here.

25 **KERRIE REAY:** Okay. Did -- did she stay in

1 the hospital room with you? Or did she ---

2 [SISTER 1]: Yeah.

3 KERRIE REAY: Okay. So she didn't have to
4 get a hotel.

5 [SISTER 1]: No.

6 KERRIE REAY: Well, that's good.

7 [SISTER 1]: We were in a private room.

8 KERRIE REAY: Okay. Well, that's good.

9 That's good. Thinking about when you were coming here and
10 you were doing lots of thinking, is there something you
11 really wanted the Commissioners to know about what
12 happened? Anything that -- if you were angry about
13 anything? Was there anything that you really wanted them
14 to know?

15 [SISTER 1]: Just the story I just told.

16 KERRIE REAY: And that the man that did it -
17 - the guy that did it to you only received three years?

18 [SISTER 1]: He's been in there since
19 [month] since it happened.

20 KERRIE REAY: Okay.

21 [SISTER 1]: And he only has another three
22 years to go.

23 KERRIE REAY: And so he's just really
24 started and you're worried already about him being released
25 with such a short time.

1 **[SISTER 1]:** I spend most of my town in the
2 town where he lives. That's why I'm worried.

3 **KERRIE REAY:** And have you had any support?
4 Like, have you had any support to help deal with the trauma
5 that you've -- that you've had to deal with? Any support?
6 Any counselling? You've been on your own?

7 **[SISTER 1]:** Yeah.

8 **KERRIE REAY:** Victim Services didn't have
9 anything after the court for you?

10 **[SISTER 1]:** No.

11 **KERRIE REAY:** Did they talk to you about any
12 programs that were available for you?

13 **[SISTER 1]:** No.

14 **KERRIE REAY:** I sense you're feeling alone.

15 **[SISTER 1]:** Sometimes it feels like that,
16 yeah.

17 **KERRIE REAY:** And when you're feeling like
18 that, what sort of things do you do for yourself?

19 **[SISTER 1]:** Nothing. I just drink.

20 **KERRIE REAY:** Does that happen very often?

21 **[SISTER 1]:** I drink probably like every
22 day.

23 **KERRIE REAY:** You're so young to have such a
24 burden. Do you have hope?

25 **[SISTER 1]:** Not really.

1 **KERRIE REAY:** You know, that's something
2 that Michelle can help you with. The Inquiry can help you
3 get what you need. This is -- this is -- this type of
4 trauma is -- it's horrific. And it's hard to -- it's hard
5 for -- for anyone to deal with trauma. But this is -- this
6 is really -- this is really horrific. And we certainly
7 don't want you to be trying to deal with it on your own.
8 It's important to have support to help you through the day.
9 Would that be helpful, do you think, if you had some
10 support?

11 **[SISTER 1]:** I think I'll manage.

12 **KERRIE REAY:** Are you concerned that
13 [Newfoundland-and-Labrador Community 1] too small?

14 **[SISTER 1]:** No.

15 **KERRIE REAY:** Is there anything else you'd
16 like to share with the Commissioners, with the Inquiry? I
17 can -- I can see it's really difficult for you. Okay.
18 Would you like us to stop?

19 **[SISTER 1]:** Yeah.

20 **KERRIE REAY:** Okay. 7:20. I'm just going to
21 turn this off for a minute and then we can talk again about
22 what you'd like to do next. And then we'll come back and
23 do the consent.

24 Okay. It is 7:22 and we're back on the
25 record with [Sister 1]. And, [Sister 1], we were -- we

1 talked at the beginning of the statement about whether or
2 not you would like your matter to be public or to be
3 private.

4 **[SISTER 1]:** M'hmm.

5 **KERRIE REAY:** And from -- from what you've
6 shared today -- and I know it's been so hard for you to
7 share. But it is -- it is the beginning of a journey for
8 you. A healing journey. And the person that did this to
9 you has gone to jail.

10 **[SISTER 1]:** Yeah.

11 **KERRIE REAY:** And how are you feeling about
12 whether you would like your statement to be public or
13 private?

14 **[SISTER 1]:** Public.

15 **KERRIE REAY:** Public. Okay. So you know
16 that it'll be posted on the -- the website -- your
17 transcript that you've sent today.

18 **[SISTER 1]:** Yeah.

19 **KERRIE REAY:** Okay. Any last words?

20 **[SISTER 1]:** No.

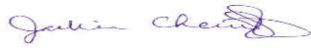
21 **KERRIE REAY:** Okay. Well, [Sister 1], you
22 did really well. Incredibly well for -- for sharing your
23 truth today. Okay. I'll turn it off at 7:23.

24

25 --- Upon adjourning at 7:23.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jackie Chernoff, 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.



Jackie Chernoff

November 22, 2018