National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Truth-Gathering Process

Part I Statement Gathering

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Nicole Abraham & Pam Wiebe,

In relation to Sharon Abraham

Statement gathered by Pamela Vernaus

International Reporting Inc.
II

NOTE

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.
--- Upon commencing on Sunday, October 21, 2018 at 4:16 P.M.

**MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** You can start from the beginning or the -- work your way down.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Okay. Well, my birth mom was Sharon Abraham and I was born in B.C. And when I guess I was four or after when my sister was born, she was also born in B.C., she moved both of us to Winnipeg. So I guess she would have been -- I think I was still a toddler when we moved. So we grew up in Winnipeg. And then my mom had struggled with alcohol addiction. I'm not sure if she struggled with a drug addiction. And she also was involved in a lot of physically abusive relationships.

So because of her alcohol addictions me and my sister grew up in different foster homes. We were moved quite a bit actually. I'm not sure how many different foster homes there was.

**MS. PAM WIEBE:** I was told eight.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Eight different foster homes.

**MS. PAM WIEBE:** Throughout Manitoba.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** So yeah. So -- but she -- so after we had been to several foster homes we got moved into -- with Pam.
MS. PAM WIEBE: Well, Mom.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: And so ever since then we were -- we've been with her. But after -- I'm not sure of the timelines exactly because I was a young kid but was it kind of a little bit -- like, was it, like, a year or two after we moved in with you that she moved back to B.C.?

MS. PAM WIEBE: No. I actually -- you were placed with me ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I was six.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- on the 10th of March.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Okay.

MS. PAM WIEBE: And she was -- you had visit with her that day. The following week you were scheduled for a visit but unfortunately there had been an altercation before that visit and she was left with bruises on her face and she didn't want you guys to see her like that so she cancelled the visit. And then the following week, so two weeks from the time you were placed with me, she had decided that she needed, for her own safety ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: To move.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- to move and she went back to B.C. And at that point in time she did ask that you guys be moved to B.C. But you had just been placed with me and the social worker at the time felt that because she had missed a number of visits with you guys, scheduled
visits, that they weren't willing to make that move because
they wanted some stability for you guys, so that was the
last time you actually saw her was on that week ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: When she ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- that you were placed

with me, so the 10th of March.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: What year?

MS. PAM WIEBE: Nineteen ninety three or

four.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I would have been ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Six. You were ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I was turning seven.

Seven? Okay ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I was six turning

seven. And then my sister was ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Four turning five.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Four turning five.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: How many siblings do

you have?

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I have three younger

ones that I -- I didn't know about them until I found out

that my mother had been found -- or reported missing. So --

-- where was I? So after -- it's kind of -- I don't know

how to tell this story. I've never told it before.
MS. PAM WIEBE: Just let go.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: You're doing great.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So yeah, she had been in a lot of abusive relationships so that she didn't show up to her last appointment because she had, I guess, bruises on -- black eyes and whatnot. And I had no -- I've never met my mother. I'm not even sure who my father is. But I've been told that -- that he was abusive so I've kind of never tried to attempt to figure out or find out who he is. I do have a name though with the birth certificate but I've never -- I don't know who that is. Or even if he's the same dad as my sister, younger sister. So that's -- I don't really mind though.

So yeah, I grew up with -- with my younger sister [T.] (ph.). And we grew up in Winnipeg and then we moved out to Stonewall. And I guess Stony Mountain in the country and then Stonewall.

And it -- it wasn't until we found out that she had been missing and that was when I was in high school that we were told she had been missing.

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yes, you were 16 when the RCMP came from B.C.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So we had the RCMP flew from B.C. to Winnipeg and then we had a meeting and they informed us that they had -- was that -- we knew she was
missing before that though.

MS. PAM WIEBE: Well, I don't think we knew she was missing. Oh, I -- maybe they had called and talked to me before they came in person. I knew that -- so I used to send school pictures each year but the school pictures would go from me to the social worker to Sharon. And the last time I provided pictures was when Nicole was about 14. I had sent pictures that year and they were returned address -- or that -- that Sharon had moved and that no forwarding address had been given. But at that point we didn't know she was missing. We just knew that they had no longer ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: No contact.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- had contact. And she hadn't had actual contact with the girls from the time they were placed with me. So it's kind of gets blurred in your mind as far ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- as exact dates but they did contact me. I'm trying to remember how long before they came.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I think ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: I've got in my mind -- because I remember coming into Winnipeg ----

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Coming here remember --
--

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- and picking you up to
tell you.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah. But I remember
before that Eva (ph.) told me that you got news that she
had been reported missing. And then it wasn't -- it was
while we were still in foster care when we had said we
would try to fly out to B.C. to ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Find her.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- go find her.

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah. Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: But I think it was --
was it after -- I think it had to -- you decided after I
was done in foster care that I could go look for her. I
think ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- that's what was --
what the social worker had ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Well, the social worker
wouldn't support you in ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Going ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- your request to find
her. And I said that I promised you because you were --
you were talking about running away to B.C. to try and find
her. And you were 14. And I promised you that if you
would not do that, that I would take you. But I couldn't
do that until you turned 18 because Child and Family
Services wouldn't ---

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Wouldn't.

**MS. PAM WIEBE:** --- allow me to do so. So I
had promised you that when you turned 18 and were no longer
in their care that I would take you and that we would try
to find her.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** So -- so I think I was
-- yeah, so when I was 16 I think that's when the police
came and they said that they had found DNA on Robert
Pickton's farm and they requested for my sister and myself
to provide some DNA. And we did.

And then after that, that's when I got
reunited. That's when I learned about my younger sisters,
that I had three younger sisters living in B.C. who were
also in the foster care system. And -- and then that's
also -- throughout -- all growing up in my foster care I
had no connection with my family, like, my aunts and my
cousins. I knew they lived in Winnipeg and I actually seen
my aunt once at a store randomly. And we said hello to her
and that was it kind of. I don't know. Maybe -- she
didn't really say much, eh?

**MS. PAM WIEBE:** I think was as shocked ---

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** In shock, yeah.
MS. PAM WIEBE: --- to see you as you were to see her.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So it was kind of, like, "Hi." And that was it when we were kids then. But other than that I never seen my family, so it wasn't until it came out that she had -- her remains had been found that I got into contact with my aunts and uncles and ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Or did I not talk to her?

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: No.

MS. PAM WIEBE: No, I think ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: That's not -- [J.] didn't have any contact with [M.] or anyone until after. And then we had, like, a memorial on my reserve. Then I think it was when I learned what reserve I was from too.

MS. PAMELA VERNNAUS: Which one?

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Sagkeeng.

MS. PAMELA VERNNAUS: Oh yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Presauction (ph.). I didn't know I was from there. Social worker wasn't very -- I don't know. We didn't -- yeah, they didn't have a whole lot. And then ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: The social worker told us a lot of mistruths.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah.

MS. PAMELA VERNNAUS: Okay.
MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: And kept information from us. I don't know if that was just a rule or for all one kind of ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Do you have recommendations around how those things could be handled moving forward?

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I don't know. I don't know if -- like, I don't know if it was her personal, she didn't want me to have contact or even know -- like, I'm sure she knew where -- what reserve I was from.

MS. PAM WIEBE: She did know because ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: They have to know.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- their -- well ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- their great-aunt was a foster care -- like, a foster parent and she passed away asking to see ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Where we were.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- [T.] and [N.]. And this woman, [S.V.] ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Would not ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- was, from my understanding, was also their great-aunt's -- a worker that was involved with their great-aunt ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah.
MS. PAM WIEBE: --- so she knew where the girls were because she was the girls' worker. Never did she approach me to say ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: That ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- their great-aunt would really like to see them and she's ill and may not live much longer. She never ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- approached it. She decided upon herself that I wouldn't want the extended family involved. Well, how about you ask me that question?

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah.

MS. PAM WIEBE: And even if I didn't want them involved, I think the kids have some rights or should have some right ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Or a say in that.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- that it supersedes what a foster parent wants.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah.

MS. PAMELA VERAUS: Absolutely.

MS. PAM WIEBE: Like, it -- it was -- it's heartbreaking to think ---

MS. PAMELA VERAUS: Yeah.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- that someone passed away ---
MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Not knowing.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- not knowing where ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: They are.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- their great-nieces were

when this woman knew exactly where they were. Like, she
could have at least given her the peace of mind that
they're fine, they're doing well.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: But nothing.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Or even just having

siblings out there and not knowing ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- like, it's crazy, I

mean, the ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Did you guys ever get

any -- was there any -- ever any talk about who your mom

was around during that time or what she was doing in B.C.

or ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: No.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: You never did ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: The only thing I knew

was that she had been in abusive relationship and she

wanted to move to B.C. and kind of have a new start and I

guess escape from her abusive relationship.
MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah. Do you know who that man was? Was there ever a ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: No.

MS. PAM WIEBE: When she went to -- so after the girls were placed with me, a year and about six months later there was court case where the court, or social development or child family services as it's called in Manitoba, was seeking permanent custody of the -- of the kids. So she was with a man when she -- Sharon was with a man when she came to court that day. I believe that he is the father of [S.], [L.] and [O.].

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: So there's three other ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: There's three younger.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: So in total, how many?

MS. PAM WIEBE: Five.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Five.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Five, okay.

MS. PAM WIEBE: And she did lose permanent custody at that point in time ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Of ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- and ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Of me and [T.].

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah.
MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Of the younger ones, I don't think.

MS. PAM WIEBE: No. And he was with her at that court appearance.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I think -- and that's probably ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: But I don't know that he was the ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: That's when we thought she was pregnant too.

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah, she -- she was pregnant ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: She kind of -- yeah. So we knew about that one but we didn't know about the other siblings.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Do you guys know if he -- if he went to B.C. with her or if that was ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I think he -- yeah, he's still out in B.C. because my younger sisters were, like, after ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Do you know his name?

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I had him on Facebook for a while but he ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Oh, you did?

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah. They kind of
tried to connect with him again and they -- I think it was back kind of after the court case and I don't know what happened. But their relationship didn't go very long or --

**MS. PAM WIEBE:** I don't know that he was the one she was trying to get away from. I think I get the impression ---

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Oh yeah.

**MS. PAM WIEBE:** --- that he was from B.C. and that she met him after she moved there.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah.

**MS. PAM WIEBE:** I don't think he was the one that ---

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** No.

**MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Pushed her out of Manitoba.

**MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** And apparently we -- there was calls to -- who was it? There was calls to somewhere from a man saying that he was the father of ---

**MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yes, yes.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** --- me or [T.].

**MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

**MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** What's -- do you remember what his name was on the birth certificate?
MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: [T.F.].

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: That's your dad?

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: That's what the name was on the birth certificate. I don't know if that's -- and apparently -- was it with the social worker or with ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: So it was with Freda. Some -- after the ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- names were, like, out in the public more, this guy from B.C. contacted Freda Ens who is -- was with the ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Missing and ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Missing -- what -- she was with B.C. ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: She was a support worker.

MS. PAM WIEBE: A victim support -- victim services. So he contacted her and said that he thought he might be Nicole's father. He didn't name Nicole by her name. He said he had been involved and had a relationship with Sharon Abraham and that he believed he was the father of her oldest child and that he wanted to connect with Nicole. And I was like mother bear, "Uh, no, he's not having access to Nicole until we know more about him."

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.
MS. PAM WIEBE: And Nicole chose not to.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah, just because gone
this long without knowing ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: It's your choice.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- who my father is,
so.

MS. PAM WIEBE: And it wasn't ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: We don't know what kind
of relationship he had with her. I know all of her
relationships that you know of were abusive ones, so.

MS. PAM WIEBE: And it wasn't [T.F.] That's
not who it was.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah.

MS. PAM WIEBE: It was some other ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: It was someone else.

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah. Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So kind of ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: I did -- I did tell Nicole
after a bit but initially I was, like, "No way. No one's
having access to my daughter as long as I live."

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Sure enough.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: And I think -- and the
Natives too there is about the compensation too, so ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Oh.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- money so I really -
- just seemed strange.

  MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

  MS. PAM WIEBE: Randomly after how many years to suddenly decide you want to know someone that you think might be your daughter, it's ---

  MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah. Yeah.

  MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Didn't really sit right with me, so.

  MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: So I saw you brought some stuff today.

  MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah, I brought some pictures.

  MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Did you want to show them here?

  MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I think you guys have seen this picture before but this is, like, a blow-up one of this one. I think that's my younger sister, [T.]---

  MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Here, I'm going to ---

  MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- as a baby. But we never -- I never had any pictures of her until we found out.

  MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: And then how did you get them?

  MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So -- out of her family when I met with them from aunts and -- I think my Aunt Eva
Nicole Abraham & Pam Wiebe
(Sharon Abraham)

gave me quite a bit of pictures and some of her sisters. [G.] gave me some pictures. But I never seen any pictures of myself when I was a baby. I don't think we had any growing up.

MS. PAMELA VERNIAUS: That's good.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So, like, that one.

MS. PAMELA VERNIAUS: That's a great one.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: And they have these too but -- some baby pictures. And I think that was me in that picture. Oh, no, I think that was my sister, [T.], and then this is me and her.

MS. PAMELA VERNIAUS: Aw, that's so cute.

MS. PAM WIEBE: You should pull out that one from the family too.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah. I guess I have that on my phone. I could show you that.

MS. PAM WIEBE: She has a picture of her mom sitting with her and [T.] and the resemblance between Nicole and her mom is uncanny.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I have to find it though. I think I just posted it not too long ago.

MS. PAMELA VERNIAUS: I don't know how well the phone will project the ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Oh, yeah, it probably -- I probably shouldn't.
MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: But I'll look at it.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah. Yeah, I should have but I think I cut that one up and it's in, like, a -- a book. This one, yeah. And that's me in B.C. at the aquarium and then my younger sister, [T.], when she was a baby.

MS. PAM WIEBE: Aw, you guys are so cute.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So also in -- we also got in contact with some of my mom's friends after we found out -- or I guess -- when it happened -- when did we get in contact with [Th.] and [L.]?

MS. PAM WIEBE: It was when -- when ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Oh, I guess we've -- we were in contact with her younger sisters. They were still in foster care so we had them -- I think the first time we met them we flew out to Vancouver to meet my younger sisters. And then we did another visit where they flew out to Winnipeg. And then since then I -- I took my son out there a couple years ago to -- to meet them.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: How old's your son?

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Seven and a half.

He'll be eight in December. So I wanted him to meet his -- his aunties. But I also met -- I also got in contact on Facebook with one of my mom's friends. They had met in, I think it was some kind of women's shelter for abused women
in B.C. I believe that's -- they were both -- and she had me and [T.] at the time. And they did a lot of, like, outings together and took us kids out to the park and stuff. So -- and I think they were even neighbours. I'm sure.

And then she also had another friend, [L.], who took care of -- she knew her when -- I guess she knew her when we were kids too because we got pictures from [L.] in -- at her house with our mom. And she was also a friend with her when she had the younger -- three younger sibling -- or my three younger siblings as well. So she knew my mom for I guess the entire time she was out in B.C. So I was in -- and I got to meet her. And she was really close to my three younger siblings too. I think they -- she used to take care of them ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: She ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- for a period of time until they are -- were put in the foster care home.

MS. PAM WIEBE: She told [T.] that she had you and [T.] most weekends ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- when you were living out there.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAS: Did she have any -- any
insight into your mother's life prior to her going missing? Was there any discussions about that in any capacity?

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I knew she -- she met her because she wanted to help out -- help out women and she -- I guess she was making, like, baskets to hand out to women and I think that's how she met my mom. I think it was -- I'm not sure if it was at the shelter or not. But she had met her and then I guess my mom would go to her for help whenever she needed something and I guess she would just kind of show up and get laundry done or something or help with the kids. And so they became friends over time and she would help out with watching me or my younger siblings or we'd just go over there and have play dates.

But she also told me that over time she noticed a difference in my mom and she would be -- my mom -- she said that my mom was paranoid and I think -- I think Freda said too that they have medical documents stating that my mom might have had schizophrenia but I'm not sure if she was treated for that or not. But her friend [L.] said that she often found that she was very paranoid and thought someone was following her or coming after her or something.

But that wasn't -- that wasn't until I think later -- later in her -- when she went back to B.C. I don't know. Because my -- her -- her sisters don't have
any memory of her ever being paranoid. But when I was a kid I remember we went into a store and my mom was very paranoid. She kind of pushed us behind some bread and then there was a man walking by. I don't know if that was, like, an ex-boyfriend maybe that had been abusive. But I remember that because she was -- she didn't want him to see us. I don't know if that was an actual ex or just some random. I'm not sure. It's so long ago too, so -- and then some stories that my sisters have told me too. I thought -- I think it got worse. Like, I don't know if she had her drinking addiction it was worse. [Personal information – one sentence redacted]. ---

    MS. PAM WIEBE: [Personal information]

    MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: [Personal information], yeah. So I think that's kind of an indicator that -- especially it's more present in my younger sister as well with her. So I think it -- over the years she did get ---

    MS. PAM WIEBE: Isolation.

    MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- did get worse, yeah.

    MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

    MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So -- and then in reports for my mom -- or for, like, the Robert Pickton case they ---

    MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.
MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- all over in the media it was saying how he killed prostitutes and we're just not sure if she had just, like, gone to a party at the Robert Pickton farm or if she had been a prostitute and was addicted to drugs ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I'm not sure.

MS. PAM WIEBE: But things back then were a lot different.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah, so -- they kind of labelled -- there's no ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- evidence showing that my mom was a prostitute or had been living in the downtown ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- because there -- I guess they do have, like, support workers down there ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- and I don't think -- there was no -- no one that ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Identified, yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- recognized her down there so we're not really sure what happened. Like, if -- I think she -- her -- the kids would have been in foster
care. I'm not sure how they found out that she had been
missing. Oh, I think she had cheques that she was picking
up or something. She had to come pick it up.

MS. PAM WIEBE: And she missed a doctor's
appointment too is what I was told.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Okay. So they -- she
wasn't picking her cheques up and then missed the doctor's
appointment and then that signalled something to someone or
---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Guess so.

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah. Yeah, and that ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: And I think she had an
apartment too ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah, the landlord said that
she hadn't paid rent and she hadn't moved her stuff ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Was her apartment in
the lower -- in the east side, or ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: No.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Okay. So there's a lot
of ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: I'm not sure where it was.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I have ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: I don't know where it was.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I'll have to -- I don't
know if Freda, the support worker, could -- or the victim
services could figure it out.

MS. PAM WIEBE: But they were able to give --

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I think they gave us some information ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- Nicole and [T.] some personal effects as well.

MS. PAMELA VERNIAUS: Oh really?

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah.

MS. PAMELA VERNIAUS: What kind of things ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Oh, I don't think they were able to get anything.

MS. PAM WIEBE: They gave you the -- the videotapes.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Oh, yeah, they gave us the videotape. I don't know where they got that from. But I know that I asked if she had any belongings from the apartment but, I mean, that was ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: There was a big timeframe between.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah, lots of ---

MS. PAMELA VERNIAUS: So ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So I think the landlord had just ---

MS. PAMELA VERNIAUS: Must have got rid of ---
MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- gotten rid of whatever she had.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: So how long from her initial sort of gone missing to I guess, is it ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I think she went -- was reported missing in 2000.

MS. PAM WIEBE: I think so.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Two thousand or 2001.

MS. PAM WIEBE: I have that written down somewhere.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah.

MS. PAM WIEBE: I should have looked that up before we came.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah. And then when we found out that she -- her DNA had been found on the -- on the farm was -- was it -- how old was I?

MS. PAM WIEBE: You were 16.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I was 16 but I don't know what year that was. I'm 31 now.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: So it would have been two thousand and ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: It was the year before I graduated or two years before. I was in Grade 10.

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah. So you were still 15.
MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Fifteen.

MS. PAM WIEBE: No, 16.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Sixteen, yeah. And I was -- it would have been two thousand -- 2005 is when I was supposed to graduate but then -- so two thousand ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: We lived out here. It was before then because I don't -- I moved out here in two thousand and ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Four or five. Five.

MS. PAMELA Vernaus: So 2004 or 2005?

MS. PAM WIEBE: Or 2006. No, I moved here in 2006 so it was 2004 I think when ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Well, I guess whenever they did that excavation too, right.

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah.

MS. PAMELA Vernaus: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah, it might have been 2005. I think it was just the year apart.

MS. PAMELA Vernaus: Were you part of any of that that went on? Like, were you contacted?

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I was contacted -- yeah, I was in contact with Freda and she's the victim support worker and she had just given me -- like, because she would let me know if there was going to be something in
the media or on the news about the case, just to give more
than just ---

**MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** --- because it was a
high profile case and -- and I guess she had just let us
know that there was lots of misinformation in the news and
-- or it could be traumatizing to watch. And then she also
informed us of the court dates of when Robert Pickton would
be -- like, when the trial would be. So they allowed two
people to go and it -- I invited my younger sister, [T.],
and my Aunt Merna (ph.) came and she had to pay her own way
to come to it. And -- and then she just stayed at the
hotel with us.

**MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Okay.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** So I had my aunt, my
young -- and my -- at the time, my younger sisters were
really young and so I didn't want -- think it would be ---

**MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** --- thought they were
too young probably for that -- to come to that. I don't
even think they even knew about it. I don't think their
foster mom wanted them to.

**MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Do they know now?

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** M'hm. They do. So
yeah, so when we -- I don't know -- I think we did do a
visit when we were out there.

    MS. PAM WIEBE: You did the option to I

think you ---

    MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: To see the girls?

    MS. PAM WIEBE: Oh, yes, you did see the

girls ---

    MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Okay.

    MS. PAM WIEBE: --- when you were there but

their foster mom had asked that you not talk about why you

were there.

    MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah. So we did that

and then I think we left just before because I had to go

back to work in Winnipeg. But I think we left just before

the verdict. But we did go to the court cases and I think

just because there was so many family members, they had so

many different court rooms too with all the family members

that were impacted by the -- by him. But we -- we weren't

actually involved in the case because our mother's case

wasn't ---

    MS. PAM WIEBE: Brought to trial.

    MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Brought to trial, yeah,

just because there were so many -- I think they did the

most recent. Like, the -- the DNA that -- for the people

that had the most evidence because they wanted to make sure

that he was for sure going to be convicted.
MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So I think they did the first 20.

MS. PAM WIEBE: I don't know how many. What they ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So far ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- had said was that they were going to try the ones where there was absolutely no way that he could be ---

MS. PAMELIA VERNAX: Anyone else ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- construed as they were -- the DNA -- there -- there was no way that they could prove reasonable doubt of -- that the death had occurred there, is what I was told then because there was ---

MS. PAMELIA VERNAX: Oh, okay.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- a -- a chance that he would get off on some of the other cases because there was -- they could prove reasonable doubt ---

MS. PAMELIA VERNAX: So they had a strategy going on then ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yes. Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah.

MS. PAM WIEBE: It wasn't that they were discounting or minimizing ---

MS. PAMELIA VERNAX: Yeah.
MS. PAM WIEBE: --- any of the other women's
-- that were found, their DNA was found there, but it was
they wanted to go for the ones that they knew without a
doubt that they could prove happened ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- at the farm. There was
no way that it could have ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Been any way ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- that he could get off.

Like, those cases ---

MS. PAMELA VernaUS: Yeah.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- basically.

MS. PAMELA VernaUS: And then did they allow
-- I don't know much about that but were they open to
continuing on though with other cases if requested that --
to go further or no?

MS. PAM WIEBE: Once he was convicted ---

MS. PAMELA VernaUS: It's -- yeah.

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah, that was kind of
where it ended.

MS. PAMELA VernaUS: Just asking for closure
for other family members, right.

MS. PAM WIEBE: No.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah. For me
personally, I think he's in jail so ---

MS. PAMELA VERNVAUS: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- I mean, her name's not -- wasn't listed as why he's in there but I know he's going to be staying there for the rest of his life, so I'm fine with it. But I do have family members who feel like their ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Justice hasn't been served.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Been served.

MS. PAMELA VERNVAUS: Yeah. I could -- I could see that. So ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: But it's understandable. Well, I mean, I understand why they did it the way they did it, so.

MS. PAMELA VERNVAUS: Yeah. I was just curious if there was an opportunity at some point to, you know, say ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Go back and ---

MS. PAMELA VERNVAUS: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Like, they only kind of just bring up the ---

MS. PAMELA VERNVAUS: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- trial over again and ---

MS. PAMELA VERNVAUS: Yeah.
MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- it just -- you know what I mean?

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: What -- what, me personally I wouldn't do.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. PAM WIEBE: From what I was told is that it would not be brought to trial because there's just -- there's too many loopholes or too many -- like, it -- it wouldn't stand.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Okay.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So -- and then after the -- like, after he had been brought to justice and -- I think it was a couple years later I asked Freda, the support worker, just for more information, like, as much information about her as she could get. Like, that's when I asked about, like, where she had lived or ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- any belongings, any pictures or anything like that. But I think that she had that video and a couple other pictures she had gotten of, like, my younger sisters. And she had a video too and she -- I don't know who took the video but it was her and she was just playing in the backyard with my three younger sisters. And that came on a little VCR. But I have to get
it changed into a DVD. And I don't think my younger sisters have seen it yet.

MS. PAMELA VERNANUS: Oh.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: And I'm not sure if they would -- like, I know my younger sister, she's -- has a hard time with it, so. And so I don't know if they've seen it. I've asked them about it but they [inaudible response] video. So -- and then the pictures aren't, like, it's not the greatest quality but -- I guess it was from how many years ago.

MS. PAMELA VERNANUS: Yeah. I know Costco does that.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah, they take it ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Harvest Studio in Fredericton does that too.

MS. PAMELA VERNANUS: Oh, yeah, I don't know if you guys have a Costco in Fredericton.

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah, we do. We do.

MS. PAMELA VERNANUS: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah. So I was thinking I should mail them a copy, or each. But I do know my other sister has a really hard time with anything involved with the case I guess.

MS. PAMELA VERNANUS: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: And also when they came
-- she came, they just talked about what DNA evidence was found and I -- there's been some I guess misinformation throughout the family I guess about what DNA was found. But when Freda Ens came she had said that it -- the DNA that they had found was -- there was blood. There was a trailer on -- I think there was only one trailer, but the one that Robert Pickton had lived in, he lived in a trailer and -- at the farm, in the trailer there's a bedroom and she said that's where my mother's -- I guess it was blood that they had found on the wall and on the mattress. And that it was her -- it was a match to me and my sister's DNA. And then during the court we -- so seeing and -- like, we went over the evidence and -- in the case.

And there's a lot of support workers too there but there was also a news reporters that -- I had news -- one -- one news reporter that was pretending to be a support worker to try to get information out of family members.

**MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** That's awful.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah. So we had -- had to be careful about that. Because I was young then and I knew my younger sisters didn't really know of a lot then and -- yeah, so I didn't -- and I really wasn't comfortable talking about it. Like, I only tell people that are really close to me about what happened to my mom. Even growing
up, like, I -- well, growing up I -- well, I guess my experience is living with my mom, like, seeing her drinking. And there's times where she'd be drinking and then she would leave me and [T.] home alone without any food or nobody there to watch us. And I remember the last time that she had done that. I -- I don't know what -- why I called the police but I called the police. I don't know. Maybe I was home alone and me and my sister were hungry. But I called the police and a social worker had shown up -- or the police had shown up and then a social worker had shown up. And then I don't know if we were -- no, actually, my mom had come back and then the policeman showed -- social worker showed up and then kind of packed our bag and that was, like, I remember that was the last time we had seen -- that was the last time we had seen my mom I think.

And I remember she was crying and we were just kind of putting in -- she was putting clothes in a garbage bag and then -- that's when I think we came to live with you. But that -- I remember that happened a few times where we were left alone. We didn't have any food or anything.

I remember one place we stayed at and I remember it was an apartment building and I remember standing in the staircase and there was a little corner
store that was attached just outside the apartment
building, so I told my sister, and I don't even know how
old I was, told my sister to hold the door open so I could
run out to the -- run around to the corner stores and I had
-- it was winter out so I had a jacket on. And I remember
thinking, "Should I steal bread or should I steal a
chocolate bar?" And then I remember I was so hungry I went
over to the -- to the store and I stood there and I started
taking chocolate bars and slipping them up my sleeve and
the cashier said to return them, so I was, like, "Oh no,
what am I going to do?" So I returned two of them but I
had one still in my sleeve and then I just ran out the door
and ran back to my sister and gave her the chocolate bar
and split it.

But I remember after thinking I probably
should have, like, took bread or something and that was
going to, like, fill us up more because she would gone for
I don't know how many days.

And I remember another time she had left us
and her boyfriend, I don't know if he was -- I think he was
just a boyfriend, not, like, me or my sister's dad, he had
woken up and he's, like, "Where's your mom?" And I said,
"I don't know. She's not here." And so he went out
looking for her. And then we were -- me and my sister were
at that apartment for, I don't know, it seemed like a long
time. I don't know how long it was. Probably a day or something. And there was no food in the fridge. I remember there was, like, a bottle of soya sauce and I tried to eat it or drink it and it tasted horrible. I don't know if I thought it was pop or what.

So that was experiences that, like, I guess poverty and not knowing where I'm going to eat next or just being -- feeling not safe because you don't have anyone, like, an adult present or ---

**MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** That's tough.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah. And we also did -- like, me and [family member] and I think [other family members] too had experienced abuse and she'd be intoxicated. We had that. So growing up I knew, like, once I got into a different -- and in different foster homes I would experience racism too. So I don't know. This was all before I was five. Before I came to live with you. All the different foster homes, we were not exactly easy kids I think because every foster home had different rules and I think I was just so used to not staying in one foster home for very long.

But I remember one foster home she -- she had her own kids there. I think there was three. And then me and my sister. And we had our own room and a bunk bed, but she would eat with her and her family at the table and
then me and my sister would have to eat at a separate table in the kitchen by ourselves after they ate. So we were always separated and I remember one time her daughter, was a little bit older but she was having a party with all her friends and we went to go hang out with them and she said we couldn't be a part of that. We had to be separate from all of them being downstairs having fun. And me and my sister had to stay in our rooms all the time while they were partying.

And then I remember she wasn't -- they -- we were there and it was Halloween and her younger kids, she had that older one and then the younger kids that were probably our age, they all went trick or treating and she let us go in the van but we weren't allowed to go actually run up to the houses and get candy. So I, like -- I don't know. I knew that wasn't right. It's mostly the same thing.

And what else did she do? I remember that one stick out though so I don't know -- and I think I went there -- we went there back -- we went back there twice because I remember another time I had gone -- I had this purse and it had my mother's lipstick in it and when she found it she, like, yelled at me saying I was stealing her lipstick, but I knew that purse was my mom's and the lipstick inside had been my mom's and I really wanted to
keep it. Like, it was something of her. I remember her 
yelling at me saying that I'd stolen her lipstick and, 
like, that wasn't hers, but it was just strange. 

Yeah, so I was really happy when we went to 
your home because it was not like the others. And I think 
we even said something to you about not being at your house 
for very long.

**MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Because I think I was 
so used to being switched out of -- I don't know how long 
we even stayed at a house for.

And then we had another lady. She was 
really nice. Remember we were at [inaudible response] 
Village?

**MS. PAM WIEBE:** M'hm.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** I forget her name. And 
we saw her and she was really excited to see us. She was a 
really nice lady with a foster home.

But yeah, so just, like, all those 
experiences and then just seeing, like, downtown Winnipeg - 
- I guess when we lived with -- with -- when we were put 
first with you we lived in, like, Ostell (ph.) Avenue in, 
like, the north end and we went to, like, an inner city 
school and it was ---

**MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** That's where you lived?
MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah. Yeah. So it was -- I don't know. It was -- it wasn't -- I was starting to get in trouble but -- right before you moved, I was starting to -- I was in Grade 1 and I started running away from school with some other kids and ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Be missing for hours at a time in the north end of Winnipeg.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Wandering in the street.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Oh no.

MS. PAM WIEBE: Oh no is right.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So I think Grade 3 was when we moved to Stony Mountain.

MS. PAM WIEBE: You were in Grade 5 when we moved to Stony Mountain. No, Grade 4.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Grade -- Grade 4. So in Grade 4 I moved to Stony Mountain. But in Stony Mountain it's -- it's a mostly white, I guess ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- population.

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah. So ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Stonewalls and guards.
MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah. That was --
yeah. So when I moved there a lot of kids would ask me,
like, when they saw my mom, they asked me, like, "That's
your mom?" And they'd have all these questions. But I
also knew that I was -- I didn't grow up like how a lot of
those kids did and I felt like I was a lot different. And
I was also really -- also my experiences from when I was
younger and my mom and seeing her drinking I guess. I grew
up really ashamed of being Aboriginal. I used to lie and
say I wasn't. When people would ask me what I was, I think
I said I was, like, Mexican or -- like --

MS. PAM WIEBE: Filipino for a while.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Filipino for a while.

MS. PAM WIEBE: Because of Phil's grandkids
were Filipino so ---

MS. PAMELA Vernaus: Okay.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- that's -- and they could
have passed for siblings or cousins at least.

MS. PAMELA Vernaus: Do you feel like you're
planning on reclaiming that part?

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Now I am. But, like,
growing up I -- and I didn't want to, like -- I didn't want
people knowing I was in foster care. Like, I think over
time I just eventually said I was adopted to people. But
people -- like, kids would always ask me or -- and then --
and then I got called, like, an immigrant once before and, like -- like, it's so ---

MS. PAMELA VERAUS: I'm sorry.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: But I kind of brought that on myself because I claimed I was from Mexico. So it wasn't always...

MS. PAM WIEBE: It was hard because her younger sister would tell anybody anything and ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah, she would.

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- she would ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Ruined all my good stories.

MS. PAM WIEBE: They rode the bus together and -- because she learned the lessons from her.

MS. PAMELA VERAUS: Yeah.

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So it didn't really stick very much but yeah, growing up I didn't really tell a lot of people about -- because I didn't want them to know. I knew it -- like, that's not, like, a normal way to grow up or -- like, having those experiences weren't what every day -- or the people that I grew up with in Stony Mountain but majority of them didn't grow up like that.

So -- and yeah, so I was really ashamed of being Aboriginal and I didn't want anything to do with,
like, going to Pow Wows or, you know, she asked me to go to the Pow Wow or dance in Pow Wows and I refused. And even my mom said when we used to drive -- remember when we used to drive downtown I used to duck ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yes.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- so I wouldn't even look outside the window.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Downtown Winnipeg?

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: I think we all do that.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah. So it wasn't until -- and even in school I didn't really learn about -- anything about residential schools or -- I also kind of grew up kind of angry because in school I struggled a lot with my memory just because I have the fetal alcohol, so my memory isn't that good. Or -- yeah. It's not that good. But, like, to learn anything I had to study twice as hard as any of my classmates. And there was another thing, it was when I was in Winnipeg there wasn't -- in the schools there wasn't this high -- maybe because they do deal with a lot of students in poverty or kids coming from different difficult home situations so the -- the expectations weren't as high when I went to the inner city school ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.
MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- compared to in Stony Mountain. So moving to Stony Mountain was an adjustment. And all my friends were -- I don't know, they did really good in school, like A, B plus students so I felt like I needed to step it up a bit so I studied a lot harder and -- which was good. I feel like that was a good move.

MS. PAM WIEBE: The turning point for you for sure.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah. Yeah. So school became, like, I really focussed on that. And then when I -- I -- actually -- I was in Stonewall until Grade 11 and then I started being a bad kid.

MS. PAM WIEBE: Probably just a normal ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I was 15, 16 ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: --- kid but she had a mother that didn't know how to handle it.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah. Well, you were a single mother then. Yeah. So yeah, I guess I was taking it rough and wanting to go and hang out with friends and party and so then I moved back in -- me and my mom got in an argument and I moved back in with my aunt. Well, I just -- well, I don't know and I kind of found -- I feel like looking back I wonder if it's because I found out about my mom.
MS. PAM WIEBE: Could have been.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Because -- I don't know. I wasn't -- I was fine before that.

MS. PAM WIEBE: She was [inaudible response] to deal with and then suddenly it was like someone flipped a switch.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Because after that I moved back into -- that's when I -- I guess it was just that summer or the year before that where I met Myrna (ph.). Or was it that ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: No, it was ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Right after?

MS. PAM WIEBE: No, I think it was the summer before.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So anyways, I didn't -- I just kind of met Myrna, my aunt. Like, I didn't know her that long but I just showed up in, like, a police car and I was, like,

"Hi, I'm going to come live with you." So I moved in with her when I was in -- I started going to school in Winnipeg. Oh no, I was in a group home before.

MS. PAM WIEBE: You were because that ---

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Before?

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Before that I was in a
group home and then after I moved -- no, I was in a group
home and then you wanted me out of there because it was
just not giving me ---

**MS. PAM WIEBE:** I wanted you to come home
and she wouldn't.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** I was like, "I like it
here."

**MS. PAM WIEBE:** Some attitude, some freedom.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** So I wouldn't move
back. Oh, actually ---

**MS. PAM WIEBE:** I begged and pleaded. There
was no way because she was in the city where she could jump
on a bus and do whatever and they had no consequences for
her staying out all night and ---

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** They did have rules but
-- and then some of them ---

**MS. PAM WIEBE:** Loose ones.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Some of the girls there
were not ---

**MS. PAM WIEBE:** You ended up in the hospital
because ---

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** I got beat up by a girl
in the group home. And pretty sure she was on -- they said
she was on drugs because she kind of flipped out. So -- I
think after that is when I --
MS. PAM WIEBE: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- moved out of there and I went back home because I was, like ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: And then you moved in with Merna.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah, and then me and you got into an argument about something and then I moved --

MS. PAM WIEBE: What now?

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I don't even know. And then I moved in with my Aunt Myrna and I lived there for only a couple months. Because she has quite a few kids, four kids. So it was a full house already. And I don't know, and she worked, like, two or three jobs so she was already struggling and I didn't want to put any more pressure on her with trying to support her kids and then me, but I kind of just made my own food and -- and then after that I got my own place and then I went to -- what -- I found a job and I -- what did -- I ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Went to school.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I went -- yeah, I went -- I was in school trying to become a dental assistant but then I was skipping school and so they kicked me out. And then I worked for a bit and then I switched schools and I went to Gordon Bell High School downtown. And then I
graduated from there. And then I worked for a year. And then I decided I didn't want to do working at a department store anymore so I decided to go back to school and do university. And then I met my son's dad and then had my son and then decided to continue school after that because after I had my son I became a single mom, like, probably four months after he was born. So I just decided I didn't want my son to grow up how I grew up ---

**MS. PAMELA VERNHAUS:** Yeah.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** --- like, in poverty. And my mom had been a single mom and I didn't want to be tied down to a guy because of needing money or, like ---

**MS. PAMELA VERNHAUS:** Yeah.

**MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** --- or being in, like --- I just wanted to be independent and support my son. And now I have him experiencing things that I didn't experience. Yeah. And in university, that's when I really learned about -- it was kind of like a time where I -- because I grew up all those years kind of angry at my mom because I remember struggling in school and, like, not doing as well as -- well, I kind of got -- I kind of learned over time how to study so that I could remember things, but it was just really time consuming. But I used to be angry because I was, like, "Why did she drink when I -- when she was pregnant?" And I just didn't understand,
like, the experiences that I went through.

  MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

  MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So it wasn't until I
  was in university that I really learned about residential
  schools or the intergenerational effects of it or cloning
  over. I had no idea, like, growing up in Stony Mountain I
  don't think I ever learned anything about ---

  MS. PAM WIEBE: No.

  MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- First Nations
  history at all. I learned about, like, Americans and what
  -- we had display and -- but I knew nothing about it so it
  wasn't until I was in university that I took a Native --
  Native studies courses. I think two or three of them and
  that's when I really learned about the effects of it. And
  then I kind of -- I don't know. I was just -- I seen the --
  -- my mom's situation in a different light, not as my
  understanding of it. Because I had all -- all the same,
  like, arrogant or just -- because I just didn't know, like,
  I used to have conversations with my mom all the time,
  like, "Why don't -- if it's so rough on the reserve, why
  don't they just move, or?" My mom was like, "It's not that
  easy." But I used to have a lot of those views and yeah, I
  just -- now I have a better understanding of it so I feel
  like that's something they need to teach kids.

  MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.
MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I don't know if being a kid would have had any -- I think it would have given me better insight into my mom's situation, so -- because she -- her parents grew up in a residential school on Sagkeeng and she grew up with a lot of abuse and there was, like, physical and sexual abuse. And -- and with her siblings too. So I think they all had a really rough childhood growing up.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: So I decided that when I had my son I was going to stop that in the family. And unfortunately there is alcoholism still in -- a lot of the time, siblings, but -- and there's also -- because my mom had schizophrenia I'm pretty sure -- pretty sure it was documented that she did, there's a chance that I could ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: No.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- not get it but ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Pass it.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Pass it on, yeah. Or activate it I guess is what they ---

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Yeah.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: How it happens. But -- so that's always kind of -- it was always on the back of my mind, like, if you're really stressed or something that can trigger it -- trigger, right. So yeah, that's basically my
main goal now is just to make sure my son doesn't have to experience anything I did growing up or -- and even, like, moving, I don't want to beg, like, but then it -- there's a lot of violence and -- especially now. Like, I -- did I ever -- I told you, eh, one time I was waiting for a bus on Salter ---

MS. PAM WIEBE: Yes.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: --- and this girl came up to me and asked me if -- if I had a cigarette and I said no. And she's like, "Do you want to be eight balled?" And I was, like, "What?" And all of a sudden an eight ball came and hit me right here in the temple and I started seeing stars and I just picked that eight ball up. It was in a sock and I chased her with it. But I was waiting for a bus.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Oh my God. I know I hear these horror stories.

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Yeah.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: I'm like, "Ah."

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: It's scary.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: Is there anything else you want to share today?

MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: I think that's it.

MS. PAMELA VERNAUS: So I'm just going to --

I have to put a few more things on the record. So we
started today at 4:16 and it's now 5:18 so you -- you did
an hour and two minutes.

   MS. PAM WIEBE:   Wow.

   MS. PAMELA VERNHAUS: My name is Pamela Vernaus. I'm the statement gatherer here in Moncton at
   Holiday Inn in Dieppe, New Brunswick on this fine day,
   October 21st, 2018 and I'm sitting with ---

   MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM: Nicole Abraham.

   MS. PAM WIEBE: Pam Wiebe.

   MS. PAMELA VERNHAUS: And we've just
   completed this statement. My apologies for not putting
   this at the beginning of the statement.

   --- Upon adjourning 5:18 P.M.
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST’S CERTIFICATE

I, Ashley Robertson, 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.

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Ashley Robertson

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November 22, 2018