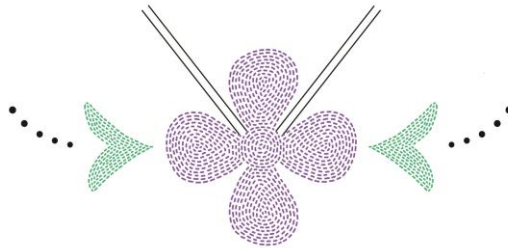


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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 I Statement Gathering  
Holiday Inn  
Moncton, New Brunswick**



**PUBLIC**

**Sunday October 21, 2018  
Statement – Volume 535  
Nicole Abraham & Pam Wiebe,  
In relation to Sharon Abraham  
Statement gathered by Pamela Vernaus**

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**International Reporting Inc.**

## II

### 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."

III  
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statement Volume 535  
Nicole Abraham & Pam Wiebe  
October 21, 2018 PAGE

Testimony of Nicole Abraham & Pam Wiebe . . . . . 1

Reporter's Certification . . . . . 54

Statement Gatherer: Pamela Vernaus

Documents submitted with testimony: none.

1 Moncton, New Brunswick

2 --- Upon commencing on Sunday, October 21, 2018 at 4:16  
3 P.M.

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** So yeah. So -- but she  
24 -- so after we had been to several foster homes we got  
25 moved into -- with Pam.

1                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Well, Mom.

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

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

9                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** I was six.

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

11                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Okay.

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

20                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** To move.

21                  **MS. PAM WIEBE:** --- to move and she went  
22 back to B.C. And at that point in time she did ask that  
23 you guys be moved to B.C. But you had just been placed  
24 with me and the social worker at the time felt that because  
25 she had missed a number of visits with you guys, scheduled

1 visits, that they weren't willing to make that move because  
2 they wanted some stability for you guys, so that was the  
3 last time you actually saw her was on that week ---

4 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** When she ---

5 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** --- that you were placed  
6 with me, so the 10th of March.

7 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** What year?

8 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Nineteen ninety three or  
9 four.

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

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

12 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** I was turning seven.

13 Seven? Okay ---

14 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

15 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** I was six turning

16 seven. And then my sister was ---

17 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Four turning five.

18 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Four turning five.

19 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** How many siblings do  
20 you have?

21 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** I have three younger  
22 ones that I -- I didn't know about them until I found out  
23 that my mother had been found -- or reported missing. So -  
24 - where was I? So after -- it's kind of -- I don't know  
25 how to tell this story. I've never told it before.

1                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Just let go.

2                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** You're doing great.

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

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

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

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

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

1 missing before that though.

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

13 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** No contact.

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

18 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah.

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

22 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** I think ---

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

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



1 -

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

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

9 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Find her.

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

11 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah. Yeah.

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

16 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

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

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

21 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Going ---

22 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** --- your request to find  
23 her. And I said that I promised you because you were --  
24 you were talking about running away to B.C. to try and find  
25 her. And you were 14. And I promised you that if you

1 would not do that, that I would take you. But I couldn't  
2 do that until you turned 18 because Child and Family  
3 Services wouldn't ---

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

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

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

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

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

25 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** In shock, yeah.

1                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** --- to see you as you were  
2                   to see her.

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

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

9                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** No.

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

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

15                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Which one?

16                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Sagkeeng.

17                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Oh yeah.

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

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

24                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah.

25                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Okay.

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

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

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

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

12                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** They have to know.

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

14                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah.

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

18                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Where we were.

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

21                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Would not ---

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

25                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah.

1                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** --- so she knew where the  
2 girls were because she was the girls' worker. Never did  
3 she approach me to say ---

4                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** That ---

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

8                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah.

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

12                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah.

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

16                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Or a say in that.

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

19                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah.

20                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Absolutely.

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

23                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

24                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** --- that someone passed away

25 ---

1                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Not knowing.

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

3                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** They are.

4                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** --- their great-nieces were  
5 when this woman knew exactly where they were. Like, she  
6 could have at least given her the peace of mind that  
7 they're fine, they're doing well.

8                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

9                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** But nothing.

10                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

11                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Or even just having  
12 siblings out there and not knowing ---

13                  **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

14                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** --- like, it's crazy, I  
15 mean, the ---

16                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Did you guys ever get  
17 any -- was there any -- ever any talk about who your mom  
18 was around during that time or what she was doing in B.C.  
19 or ---

20                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** No.

21                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** You never did ---

22                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** The only thing I knew  
23 was that she had been in abusive relationship and she  
24 wanted to move to B.C. and kind of have a new start and I  
25 guess escape from her abusive relationship.

1                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah. Do you know who  
2           that man was? Was there ever a ---

3                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** No.

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

12                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** So there's three other  
13          ---

14                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** There's three younger.

15                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah.

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

17                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Five.

18                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Five.

19                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Five, okay.

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

22                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Of ---

23                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** --- and ---

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

25                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

1                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Of the younger ones, I  
2           don't think.

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

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

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

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

11                  **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah, she -- she was  
12          pregnant ---

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

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

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

21                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Do you know his name?

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

24                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Oh, you did?

25                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah. They kind of



1           tried to connect with him again and they -- I think it was  
2           back kind of after the court case and I don't know what  
3           happened. But their relationship didn't go very long or --  
4           -

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

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

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

11                      **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah.

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

14                      **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** No.

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

17                      **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

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

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

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

23                      **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

24                      **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** What's -- do you  
25          remember what his name was on the birth certificate?

1                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** [T.F.].

2                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** That's your dad?

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

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

8                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah.

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

12                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Missing and ---

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

15                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** She was a support  
16 worker.

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

25                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

1                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** And Nicole chose not to.

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

4                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** It's your choice.

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

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

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

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

13                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah.

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

15                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** It was someone else.

16                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah. Yeah.

17                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** So kind of ---

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

21                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Sure enough.

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

24                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Oh.

25                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** --- money so I really -

1 - just seemed strange.

2 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

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

6 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah. Yeah.

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

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

11 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah, I brought some  
12 pictures.

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

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

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

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

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

24 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** So -- out of her family  
25 when I met with them from aunts and -- I think my Aunt Eva

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

5                       **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** That's good.

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

7                       **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** That's a great one.

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

12                      **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Aw, that's so cute.

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

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

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

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

22                      **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** I don't know how well  
23          the phone will project the ---

24                      **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Oh, yeah, it probably -  
25          - I probably shouldn't.

1                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** But I'll look at it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Seven and a half.  
22 He'll be eight in December. So I wanted him to meet his --  
23 his aunties. But I also met -- I also got in contact on  
24 Facebook with one of my mom's friends. They had met in, I  
25 think it was some kind of women's shelter for abused women

1 in B.C. I believe that's -- they were both -- and she had  
2 me and [T.] at the time. And they did a lot of, like,  
3 outings together and took us kids out to the park and  
4 stuff. So -- and I think they were even neighbours. I'm  
5 sure.

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

16 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** She ---

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

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

21 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah.

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

24 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** So ---

25 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Did she have any -- any

1 insight into your mother's life prior to her going missing?  
2 Was there any discussions about that in any capacity?

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

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

23 But that wasn't -- that wasn't until I think  
24 later -- later in her -- when she went back to B.C. I  
25 don't know. Because my -- her -- her sisters don't have



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

13                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** [*Personal information*]

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

18                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Isolation.

19                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** --- did get worse,  
20          yeah.

21                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

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

25                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

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

6                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

7                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** I'm not sure.

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

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

12                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

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

16                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

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

19                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

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

22                  **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Identified, yeah.

23                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** --- recognized her down  
24                  there so we're not really sure what happened. Like, if --  
25                  I think she -- her -- the kids would have been in foster

1 care. I'm not sure how they found out that she had been  
2 missing. Oh, I think she had cheques that she was picking  
3 up or something. She had to come pick it up.

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

6 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Okay. So they -- she  
7 wasn't picking her cheques up and then missed the doctor's  
8 appointment and then that signalled something to someone or  
9 ---

10 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Guess so.

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

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

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

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

18 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** No.

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

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

22 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** I have ---

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

24 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** I'll have to -- I don't  
25 know if Freda, the support worker, could -- or the victim

1 services could figure it out.

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

3 --

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

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

8 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Oh really?

9 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

10 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** What kind of things ---

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

13 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** They gave you the -- the  
14 videotapes.

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

19 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** There was a big timeframe  
20 between.

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

22 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** So ---

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

25 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Must have got rid of --

1 -

2 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** --- gotten rid of  
3 whatever she had.

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

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

8 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** I think so.

9 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Two thousand or 2001.

10 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** I have that written down  
11 somewhere.

12 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah.

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

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

18 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** You were 16.

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

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

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

25 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah. So you were still 15.

1                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Fifteen.

2                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** No, 16.

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

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

9                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Four or five. Five.

10                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** So 2004 or 2005?

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

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

15                  **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

16                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

17                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** So ---

18                  **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah, it might have been  
19 2005. I think it was just the year apart.

20                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Were you part of any of  
21 that that went on? Like, were you contacted?

22                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** I was contacted --  
23 yeah, I was in contact with Freda and she's the victim  
24 support worker and she had just given me -- like, because  
25 she would let me know if there was going to be something in

1 the media or on the news about the case, just to give more  
2 than just ---

3 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

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

14 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Okay.

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

18 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

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

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

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

1 visit when we were out there.

2 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** You did the option to I  
3 think you ---

4 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** To see the girls?

5 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Oh, yes, you did see the  
6 girls ---

7 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Okay.

8 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** --- when you were there but  
9 their foster mom had asked that you not talk about why you  
10 were there.

11 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah. So we did that  
12 and then I think we left just before because I had to go  
13 back to work in Winnipeg. But I think we left just before  
14 the verdict. But we did go to the court cases and I think  
15 just because there was so many family members, they had so  
16 many different court rooms too with all the family members  
17 that were impacted by the -- by him. But we -- we weren't  
18 actually involved in the case because our mother's case  
19 wasn't ---

20 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Brought to trial.

21 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Brought to trial, yeah,  
22 just because there were so many -- I think they did the  
23 most recent. Like, the -- the DNA that -- for the people  
24 that had the most evidence because they wanted to make sure  
25 that he was for sure going to be convicted.



1                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

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

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

6                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** So far ---

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

10                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Anyone else ---

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

15                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Oh, okay.

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

19                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** So they had a strategy  
20 going on then ---

21                  **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yes. Yeah.

22                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah.

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

25                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

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

5                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah.

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

8                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Been any way ---

9                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** --- that he could get off.  
10                  Like, those cases ---

11                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

12                  **MS. PAM WIEBE:** --- basically.

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

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

18                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** It's -- yeah.

19                  **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

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

22                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Just asking for closure  
23                  for other family members, right.

24                  **MS. PAM WIEBE:** No.

25                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah. For me

1 personally, I think he's in jail so ---

2 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

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

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

9 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Been served.

10 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah. I could -- I  
11 could see that. So ---

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

15 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah. I was just  
16 curious if there was an opportunity at some point to, you  
17 know, say ---

18 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Go back and ---

19 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

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

22 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

23 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** --- trial over again  
24 and ---

25 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

1                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** --- it just -- you know  
2                   what I mean?

3                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

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

6                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

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

11                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Okay.

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

18                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

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

1           it changed into a DVD. And I don't think my younger  
2           sisters have seen it yet.

3                       **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Oh.

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

11                      **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah. I know Costco  
12          does that.

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

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

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

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

19                      **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

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

24                      **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

25                      **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** And also when they came

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

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

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

20 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah. So we had -- had  
21 to be careful about that. Because I was young then and I  
22 knew my younger sisters didn't really know of a lot then  
23 and -- yeah, so I didn't -- and I really wasn't comfortable  
24 talking about it. Like, I only tell people that are really  
25 close to me about what happened to my mom. Even growing

1 up, like, I -- well, growing up I -- well, I guess my  
2 experience is living with my mom, like, seeing her  
3 drinking. And there's times where she'd be drinking and  
4 then she would leave me and [T.] home alone without any  
5 food or nobody there to watch us. And I remember the last  
6 time that she had done that. I -- I don't know what -- why  
7 I called the police but I called the police. I don't know.  
8 Maybe I was home alone and me and my sister were hungry.  
9 But I called the police and a social worker had shown up --  
10 or the police had shown up and then a social worker had  
11 shown up. And then I don't know if we were -- no,  
12 actually, my mom had come back and then the policeman  
13 showed -- social worker showed up and then kind of packed  
14 our bag and that was, like, I remember that was the last  
15 time we had seen -- that was the last time we had seen my  
16 mom I think.

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

23 I remember one place we stayed at and I  
24 remember it was an apartment building and I remember  
25 standing in the staircase and there was a little corner

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

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

19 And I remember another time she had left us  
20 and her boyfriend, I don't know if he was -- I think he was  
21 just a boyfriend, not, like, me or my sister's dad, he had  
22 woken up and he's, like, "Where's your mom?" And I said,  
23 "I don't know. She's not here." And so he went out  
24 looking for her. And then we were -- me and my sister were  
25 at that apartment for, I don't know, it seemed like a long



1 time. I don't know how long it was. Probably a day or  
2 something. And there was no food in the fridge. I  
3 remember there was, like, a bottle of soya sauce and I  
4 tried to eat it or drink it and it tasted horrible. I  
5 don't know if I thought it was pop or what.

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

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

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

22 But I remember one foster home she -- she  
23 had her own kids there. I think there was three. And then  
24 me and my sister. And we had our own room and a bunk bed,  
25 but she would eat with her and her family at the table and

1           then me and my sister would have to eat at a separate table  
2           in the kitchen by ourselves after they ate. So we were  
3           always separated and I remember one time her daughter, was  
4           a little bit older but she was having a party with all her  
5           friends and we went to go hang out with them and she said  
6           we couldn't be a part of that. We had to be separate from  
7           all of them being downstairs having fun. And me and my  
8           sister had to stay in our rooms all the time while they  
9           were partying.

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

18                           And what else did she do? I remember that  
19           one stick out though so I don't know -- and I think I went  
20           there -- we went there back -- we went back there twice  
21           because I remember another time I had gone -- I had this  
22           purse and it had my mother's lipstick in it and when she  
23           found it she, like, yelled at me saying I was stealing her  
24           lipstick, but I knew that purse was my mom's and the  
25           lipstick inside had been my mom's and I really wanted to

1 keep it. Like, it was something of her. I remember her  
2 yelling at me saying that I'd stolen her lipstick and,  
3 like, that wasn't hers, but it was just strange.

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

8 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

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

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

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

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

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

25 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** That's where you lived?

1                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

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

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

9                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Wandering in the  
10 street.

11                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Oh no.

12                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Oh no is right.

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

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

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

20                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

21                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** --- population.

22                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

23                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

24                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah. So ---

25                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Stonewalls and guards.

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

12                  **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Filipino for a while.

13                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Filipino for a while.

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

16                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Okay.

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

19                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Do you feel like you're  
20                  planning on reclaiming that part?

21                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Now I am. But, like,  
22                  growing up I -- and I didn't want to, like -- I didn't want  
23                  people knowing I was in foster care. Like, I think over  
24                  time I just eventually said I was adopted to people. But  
25                  people -- like, kids would always ask me or -- and then --

1 and then I got called, like, an immigrant once before and,  
2 like -- like, it's so ---

3 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** I'm sorry.

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

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

9 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah, she would.

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

11 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Ruined all my good  
12 stories.

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

15 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

16 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

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

24 So -- and yeah, so I was really ashamed of  
25 being Aboriginal and I didn't want anything to do with,



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

8                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** The turning point for you  
9                   for sure.

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

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

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

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

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



1                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Could have been.

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

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

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

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

12                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Right after?

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

15                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** So anyways, I didn't --  
16 I just kind of met Myrna, my aunt. Like, I didn't know her  
17 that long but I just showed up in, like, a police car and I  
18 was, like,  
19 "Hi, I'm going to come live with you." So I moved in with  
20 her when I was in -- I started going to school in Winnipeg.  
21 Oh no, I was in a group home before.

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

23                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Before?

24                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

25                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Before that I was in a

1 group home and then after I moved -- no, I was in a group  
2 home and then you wanted me out of there because it was  
3 just not giving me ---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yeah.

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

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

6                   **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah, and then me and  
7 you got into an argument about something and then I moved -  
8 --

9                   **MS. PAM WIEBE:** What now?

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

20                  **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Went to school.

21                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** I went -- yeah, I went  
22 -- I was in school trying to become a dental assistant but  
23 then I was skipping school and so they kicked me out. And  
24 then I worked for a bit and then I switched schools and I  
25 went to Gordon Bell High School downtown. And then I

1 graduated from there. And then I worked for a year. And  
2 then I decided I didn't want to do working at a department  
3 store anymore so I decided to go back to school and do  
4 university. And then I met my son's dad and then had my  
5 son and then decided to continue school after that because  
6 after I had my son I became a single mom, like, probably  
7 four months after he was born. So I just decided I didn't  
8 want my son to grow up how I grew up ---

9 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

10 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** --- like, in poverty.

11 And my mom had been a single mom and I didn't want to be  
12 tied down to a guy because of needing money or, like ---

13 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

14 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** --- or being in, like -

15 - I just wanted to be independent and support my son. And  
16 now I have him experiencing things that I didn't  
17 experience. Yeah. And in university, that's when I really  
18 learned about -- it was kind of like a time where I --  
19 because I grew up all those years kind of angry at my mom  
20 because I remember struggling in school and, like, not  
21 doing as well as -- well, I kind of got -- I kind of  
22 learned over time how to study so that I could remember  
23 things, but it was just really time consuming. But I used  
24 to be angry because I was, like, "Why did she drink when I  
25 -- when she was pregnant?" And I just didn't understand,



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

9                   **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

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

16                  **MS. PAM WIEBE:** No.

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

18                  **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Pass it.

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

21                  **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** Yeah.

22                  **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** How it happens. But --  
23                  so that's always kind of -- it was always on the back of my  
24                  mind, like, if you're really stressed or something that can  
25                  trigger it -- trigger, right. So yeah, that's basically my

1 main goal now is just to make sure my son doesn't have to  
2 experience anything I did growing up or -- and even, like,  
3 moving, I don't want to beg, like, but then it -- there's a  
4 lot of violence and -- especially now. Like, I -- did I  
5 ever -- I told you, eh, one time I was waiting for a bus on  
6 Salter ---

7 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Yes.

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

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

18 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Yeah.

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

20 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** It's scary.

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

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

24 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** So I'm just going to --  
25 I have to put a few more things on the record. So we

1 started today at 4:16 and it's now 5:18 so you -- you did  
2 an hour and two minutes.

3 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Wow.

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

8 **MS. NICOLE ABRAHAM:** Nicole Abraham.

9 **MS. PAM WIEBE:** Pam Wiebe.

10 **MS. PAMELA VERNAUS:** And we've just  
11 completed this statement. My apologies for not putting  
12 this at the beginning of the statement.

13

14 --- 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

November 22, 2018