National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Snowshoe Inn
Fort Providence, Northwest Territories

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Statement - Volume 606
Nancy Bonnetrouge
In relation to Delmer Bonnetrouge

Statement gathered by Frank Hope

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**Statement Gatherer: Frank Hope**

*Documents submitted with testimony: none.*
--- Upon commencing on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 12:24 p.m.

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** My name is Frank Hope, statement gatherer. Today is October 24th, 2018. We're in the Snowshoe Inn in Fort Providence, Northwest Territories. The time is 12:24 p.m. And your name is?

**MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE:** Nancy Bonnetrouge.

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** Thank you. Mahsi. Thank you for coming in, Nancy.

I just finished explaining the informed consent to Nancy. And you understood the consent form, and you can go ahead and fill out the form.

**MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE:** Just one for now?

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** You might as well do them both and then it's done. I have to sign on both -- sign off on both of them.

Okay. Marsi.

Okay. Thank you, Nancy, for coming in today. So we'll just start with -- you mentioned on your information that you're in today to talk about your son, Delmer. So what is it that you'd like the Commissioners to know about your son and his case?

**MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE:** Like what little I know. This is only after the fact that my son went missing that he never disclosed to me that he had court dates and
stuff like that. You know, like he never mentioned
anything, or anything like that. And I think he was mostly
trying to protect me from knowing any kind of information.

And at that time he went missing, like I
just came out of pneumonia. I was two days home when he
just abruptly walked out and never came back. You know,
and until today, like we've been going through follow ups,
following every lead we could get, you know, informing the
RCMP and stuff like that, but to date, we don't know
anything.

Some people are saying that somebody may
know, but they're not telling us. Because we've informed
all his friends, we personally went and seen them and told
them have you seen or do you know of whereabouts Delmer
might be, and to date, nothing.

And the police is still -- my husband is
still informing the police once in a while about if his
case is still open. So to date, as I'm speaking to you, I
know it's still open because he knows that we have no
closure, there's nothing to go by.

And we're very fortunate to have Elders and
Elders in my life that have been talking to me. And also,
my mother, you know, like she always tells me that you have
to have hope. You know, like there's -- you can't give up
on hoping and on praying. So a lot of my friends from
different communities too also phone me to see where I'm at
with -- even just come to here today.

Like this morning I got up, I felt a lot of
fear playing me because like I'm wondering how come, like
you know, I can't seem to cry. I think it's because I
wasted it all, you know, like thinking. Just once in a
while when I'm driving down some place or I'm listening to
a song that he sings, like I will cry, you know, like I
will just ball my eyes out. And thinking and talking to
him, sometimes I sit there and look at -- you know, when
I'm walking outside and I see the moon, I look at the moon
and I wonder if he's seeing the moon the same I'm seeing.
So those are the things I go through.

And for when I was coming here, I had a lot
of fear playing in me, like I said before. My allergies
started kicking in. I had to take my allergy pills. And I
was thinking what am I scared of. It just brings me back
to, you know, you don't talk, but I know I have to voice my
voice openly and not be ashamed of anything because I had
nothing to do with him. So those are the things that I --
that shame within me.

And as for the community that we're living
in, you know, like even the people are still saying that
we're hiding our son, you know. And that's really
heartbreaking because for them to say something like that,
it's really disheartening, you know, like who are our own people and we need them to stand by us, you know. Like it's -- the community support is just not there, you know, like for some, but some of them are really understanding.

So sometimes me and my husband sit down and we talk a lot about, you know, like how we grew up our son. He knows that we've groomed him well, and if he's done something wrong maybe he was ashamed of, I wouldn't know.

Because usually once in a while I would have a sit down with him and he would -- as a grown man, to cry to his mother, he would do that to me. You know, he would tell me all his hurts and the relationship breakups, you know, like how the woman treated him. You know, like it was so unfortunate and unfair for the personality and the guy he was. And for me, it was really heartbreaking.

Sometimes I would think, you know, like what if he took off from all that. And thinking that (indiscernible) would be okay. But in the long run, it's not okay because I'm still hurting. I don't have no closure, I don't have -- I'm always wondering, you know, like where he is, what he's doing, is he eating, you know.

My son also had a skin problem, and I always wondered, you know, is he taking care of it. Because once in a while he would phone me and tell me that, you know, "Mom", this is like this, "how do I treat it". I taught
him so well that he knew how to take care of himself.  
Well, if he is out there, I'm really hoping he's taking 
care of himself. Because I think he was telling me that he 
was also borderline diabetic. So I don't know, there was 
too much going on for him.

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** How old was he when he went 
missing?

**MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE:** He was born in 1979.
I have such a hard time with dates and birthdates.

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** M'hm. So tell me a little 
-- you mentioned how you and your husband raised Delmer.
And so just -- for our Commissioners to kind of understand 
more of the family history and dynamic, just give us a 
little -- how it was when your children were growing up and 
the family dynamic when you guys were younger and they were 
younger and growing up in Fort Providence. How was Fort 
Providence in regards to that time, era?

**MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE:** Well, we grew up --
I mean, I grew up -- my children, they -- at first -- my 
son was born in 1979. I had a daughter prior to that. We 
used to drink and we used to party but it never used to be 
at home, it always used to be outside the home. Because I 
grew up with family violence, violence in the home, like my 
mom and dad literally fought and -- fought like cats and 
dogs, running on the street chasing each other around. And
I never wanted my children to experience stuff like that.

Just periodically, maybe on a Christmas or occasionally we would have a party at the house, but I always diverted the party away. I protected my kids so much that I never let my own parents babysit them, you know, because of what happened for me when I was growing up. I didn't want my children to be brought up like that.

And in my home, education was priority. I didn't care what anybody said. My husband told me, "Why do you send them to school everyday?" I said, "Because you went to residential school". I said, "You know, for the future", I said, "I can't see anything else but them getting an education, because I can't see them going back in the bush, you know, to live". And I said, "for the future", I said, "what I see for them is they need their education". I, myself, only went to Grade 9, but I found ways and means to get them all to Grade 12 and to further on their education.

My son finished Grade 12. He wanted to be a doctor, and then he said, "Mom", he said, "if I become a doctor" -- this is the one I'm talking about, Delmer -- he said that, "I'm going to have to go to school for another seven years to get my doctor's license", or whatever. So he said that, "I'm going to try a different avenue. I want to become an electrician".
So he went into the apprenticeship program after he finished Grade 12 to get his red seal, and he did accomplish that. So he had things going for him, except for what the women were doing to him in his life. And I think he was really torn, you know, like he was a really broken down young man. That's how I see him.

So maybe that's why he did what he did, or somebody took him, you know. Those are the questions that I still search for, wonder, you know, like did somebody come here and take him.

Like I was sick, my husband was gone. He left -- he cooked me a really good dinner. He cooked me fish, broccoli, mashed potatoes, gravy, the whole works, you know, the fillet fishes that we get. After he done that, he said, "Mom", he said, "you need to sleep". He said, "You're still coming out of your sickness", like the pneumonia that I was going -- having. And then I went to sleep and I never saw him again, you know.

So trying to think about how I grew him up, like I always tried to protect them the best way I know how. Like -- you know, like I never stepped in when somebody was bullying them. I would, you know, tell them, you know, "You have to sort this out yourself. If you want me to, we'll go the parents' house and talk to them". So that's how I grew them up, you know, for them to stand up
for themselves and not for me to, you know to take their sides.

I always questioned them, you know, like "Why did it happen?", you know. "If we can fix it, we'll fix it", you know. "Everything is do-able. You guys are young". You know, all my children were young at that time. So that's the way I grew them up, you know.

Like mind you, my husband did a lot of drinking and like sometimes he would come home drunk, but he was -- like he never got mad at the children. He was just sitting, you know, doing his own thing.

So some of them seen that, but while he was still fairly young, he must have been about 10 when I quit that alcohol out of my life. So today, I'm over almost 30 years. So when I think about stuff like that...

One time, during a Christmas -- during Christmas, the year, that year he was going to, you know, he was going to be gone, I guess him and my younger daughter, they were at the same party together. And he mentioned to my younger daughter that, you know, he said "[Daughter]", he said, "if I was ever -- if something was ever to happen to me", he was telling my baby daughter that. He said, "I'll never worry about my mom and dad", he said. And so my youngest one said, "Why?" He said, "Because mom and dad know how to take care of themselves".
That's what he said. And I guess she felt so distraught, she was just crying. She didn't want to be there with him anymore.

She came home and she told me that, and this is about 2 o'clock in the morning. She came home and she was crying. She said, "Mom, Delmer is talking funny, Delmer is talking funny", she says. And I said, "What do you mean he's talking funny?" "This is what he said, Mom". He said, "If anything was to ever to happen to me", he said, "I'll never worry about Mom and Dad". He said, "Mom and Dad know how to take care of themselves".

You know, so those are the things that think about, and I get really sad, you know, like that my son knows full well, you know, because -- the way we function around him. He should -- like for me, like I've never ever had this happen to me in my life. That's why sometimes when I'm by myself I just cry. But I can't cry -- like I can feel it now, but I'm stopping it. But when I do get by myself, I just let it out because I know I have to be sane for my job and my homelife.

I still have an older daughter too that still drinks heavily, and she hasn't really talked to us about it. The younger -- my younger -- my youngest son too when we approach him and we talk about his brother to him, you know, like he still cries.
I just got a little -- a young little grandson that will never know his Uncle Delmer, so my youngest daughter is teaching him by pictures, you know, this is your Uncle Delmer, you know, she's teaching him that. And once in a while, he walks around just like a little man, he says, "Where's Delmer?", you know.

MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: He says that, yeah, I heard him say that. You know, like he's never seen him physically, but my youngest daughter doesn't want for her son not to know her uncle. If he can't know him physically, at least she'll [sic] know him by seeing his pictures.

It makes me really sad because she cries about it. And I try to make the time to sit with them and tell them, you know, we have to go through this as a family. And it's good that they cry.

MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: There's a lot of times I miss him, but I can't really do anything to change what happened. I just have to -- I just hope and pray that, you know, like some things physical didn't really happen to him.

When some people tell us that, you know, we're hiding him, it really hurts me because when he went
missing nobody knew where he was. And it was in the springtime and the snow was melting, and I had all kinds of crazy thoughts that like maybe, you know, he died out there, and the animals ate him. But I try not to think like that and try to think about the positive things, but sometimes it's just too hard.

Sometimes I'm so grateful for the Elders, you know, they keep on coming. I said, you know, maybe it's something that he had to do, or I keep on talking as if he's alive. But that, again, you know, like I still question that because I don't know.

MR. FRANK HOPE: So at the time of his disappearance, how was Delmer coping? Did he use alcohol? Did he use drugs? Was there ever any issues with mental health issues?

MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: Only after the fact that I've been listening and having an open mind and trying to figure out why he would do something like this. Some people were telling us that my son occasionally used cocaine to cope with like the -- these women problems I was telling you about. And he had court dates I didn't know about, you know, like stuff like that.

And I never, ever saw my son drunk, so like if I went to the dance and he wanted to, you know, to have a few beers with the boys he used to come up to me and tell
me, he said, "Mom, I think (indiscernible) go home now".
So I just used to listen to him, because he listens to me
so I listen to him. So if he tells me to go home, I would
go home and that was it.

And so when they said that, you know -- like
I taught him to be a really good cook, that's why I never
had to worry about him going hungry. Like even if I was
away sometimes, we would be someplace, and he said, "Mom,
I'm cooking chicken, how much do I put in there, you know,
how much chili powder do I put in there?" So I just tell
him. Then he would phone me back and tell me that -- he
said, "Mom", he said, "that's the best chili I had". He
said, "I made it", and he said, "it's just like you, you
know, just like the way you make it". So stuff like that I
never had to worry about him.

But apparently these charges really affected
him. I don't know what the charges are. I think it's got
something to do with a sexual assault for what I know, but
here again I never taught him to be like that. So maybe if
that was true and that happened, he was a guy that, you
know, like was really proud to be who he was, maybe he
didn't want to shame us. I don't know, because these are
all -- we talk about all this kind of stuff at home, you
know.

And a lot of times his dad just misses him,
you know. He wants -- he says, "You know, I miss my
partner". He said, "If I want to go someplace", he said,
"I just tell him once". He said, "Get packed, let's go".
He never had to worry about, you know, second-guessing, oh,
I've got to do this, I've got to do that. He always made
the time to do stuff with his father, and I think that's
why he misses him a lot.

And for me, that's my oldest son, and in my
family, my oldest son is the boss. It's like my boss is
gone.

MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm. Let's bring
(indiscernible). Yeah, Nancy, it's okay. It's okay to
feel that. It hurts.

MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: Just like
(indiscernible) my own family when my brother got killed,
you know. My mom's boss died too.

MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm. You mentioned
earlier that there was a lack of community support here in
Fort Providence in regards to what you and your husband are
going through. How has the relationship been with the RCMP
since?

MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: Like my husband has
really pushed system, like he's always bothering them. And
sometimes they say they pick up on some leads, they
followed up on it, but it always comes to a dead end. When
somebody contacts us or says stuff to us, by the time the
RCMP get there, their story changes. You know, this is
what they told us, but when they -- when the actual cops
went there to talk to them, their story changed compared to
what they told us. So those are the things we're still
going through.

Like people have been phoning us, telling us
that if we paid them, they could do things for us, and --
you know, like they said that people are going to stop
bothering you like that. And people were doing that to us
at the beginning and we just never paid any attention to
them, you know, we just went on our merry way and did what
we had to do.

Like we went South a lot of times, and we
put posters all along the Mackenzie Highway going to
Edmonton. Putting posters up and his pictures up and
contacting people, letting people know that we're coming
down. If they see anything to let us know. And it's just
like we're always looking every time we go South, you know.
We're looking at different people, and even sometimes, you
know, a guy could walk by me and I'll just turn around and
look, you know, and it's not him.

So it's still like that today, you know.
Sometimes I would think oh, I'm just going to go someplace
and just relax. Next thing you know, I'm longing to look,
you know, just like that searching is always there.

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** M'hm.

**MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE:** Just last weekend too I -- when I see his friends, I feel so happy because, you know, like I can share stuff with them openly, you know, and tell them how they're doing. You know, like if they -- you know, how have they been coping since Delmer's been gone. And one of them told me that every time he goes South, he always drives right downtown, you know, just trying to not deal with the traffic but still looking, you know ---

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** Yeah.

**MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE:** --- hoping to see him. So that's what's still happening for us.

But the RCMP lately my husband went to go see them. They just got a new corporal in, and the corporal knows that, you know, all families should get closure; right. So they said that they're -- he's going to try everything in his power to try to continue to follow up on some of the leads that were there before. So he said that not to worry, you know, like if he comes across anything, he'll let us know. So my husband's not getting (indiscernible).

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** So if I could just go back to the -- when Delmer went first missing. How long after
it was -- what -- was it officially reported by your family, to the RCMP?

**MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE:** Yeah.

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** Was there an official report?

**MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE:** Okay. What happened was when my son went missing, Tuesday night was the last time I saw him in April the 18th or the 19th. I was sick at that time, still sick. And then he left Tuesday night, and then Wednesday morning I dragged myself to work, even though I'm not supposed to be working. I went to work. I came home at lunchtime. There was still nothing. This was Wednesday, and then Wednesday night I came home from work. Still nothing. And I thought I'm not going to phone my husband because he was travelling.

So my younger sister from Yellowknife phoned me. She said, "How are you doing?" She said, "Now you're coming out of an pneumonia". I said, "Even though I am feeling like this", I said, "I'm strong enough to work, and at work I'm not doing that much anyway", so I said, "I'm just taking my time doing my stuff". And I told her, I said that, "You know", I said that "Delmer took off Tuesday night", I said, "I don't know where he went. Usually sometimes if he go someplace, he'll phone me", and I said, "but he left the house Tuesday night. Wednesday", I said,
you know, like I'm talking to you now, I said, (indiscernible) where he is", I said.

So she told me, she said, "You should phone his friends, see where he's at". So I'm phoning some of them, and they said, "No, we didn't see Delmer".

And then it came to Thursday, so my sister phoned me again. She said, "Is he home yet?", and I said "No". And she said -- I said, "I don't know where he is". And so she told me, she said, "You better phone the RCMP". I said, "How am I supposed to phone the RCMP?", I said. "I don't even know if he's missing, or if somebody took him, or maybe he went for a ride with somebody".

So when my husband phoned, I told him, I said that "Delmer left Tuesday, I never seen him all day Wednesday, this is Thursday". I said "What do we do?" I said, "He can't be gone". I said, "Where would he go?" I said, "All his stuff is still at home except for that little gray backpack that he had. Everything was left there, his IDs, everything. Just that gray backpack was gone".

And then some people started saying that they seen Delmer walking away from the house with a backpack and a gun. You know, like a gun. And until today, like my husband said that, you know, one of his guns was gone, his .22 was gone around that time too, see. And
we don't know if he went in the bush, we don't know if somebody came there and took him. Because you know like how stories go. Everybody's saying this, everybody's saying that, and us all trying to piece it together for ourselves, telling the cops (indiscernible).

The cops, they even came to the house and they interviewed us. And it was just like -- that first time they interviewed Joachim, they were really rude, you know, just -- it was just like -- my husband said that when they interviewed him outside our house, he said it was just like he felt so guilty. It's like, you know, like they made it sound as if he did -- just like he was in on it. But it wasn't like that.

And I kept on telling him that, like "How do we know where he went?" You know, like just by other people saying that Delmer was carrying a gun walking away from our house, with a packsack. And until today we don't know if that's true because there's so many different stories about that.

And then at that same time too, they said that there was a black car running around with tinted windows. Maybe those guys took him. You know, so...

But I do know -- I don't know what happened. You know, like trying to think about it, going back, it's like sometimes I think it's right and sometimes I think
it's not true because it's just like this is my life, you know. Like "What the hell just happened here?", I was telling my husband. I said, "Why would he just leave just like that?"

You know, he cook really good for me, and he told me to go to sleep mom, he said, "You're still coming out of your pneumonia". I just came out of the hospital. "Go to sleep". So I went to sleep and that's the last time I seen him.

This was around 9 o'clock at night, and then I never seen him Wednesday, Thursday. Finally, Thursday night, I think it was my sister, [Sister], that phoned the cops. I don't know if it was my sister, [Sister], or my husband that reported him gone.

So that's when the searching started, you know. Started checking all over the community, checking on the outskirts of the community. Some people were saying that he was hiding in the bush. But to date, nothing.

I don't know how true that is because like I was too weak to go out there, so two of my sisters were always out there with my husband and them. And one of them even came down to help out just looking for him. And to date, nothing. So it's kind of sad how things happened. Because I was sick too.

MR. FRANK HOPE: How would you describe him
-- I mean, how would you describe your son in terms of being on the land?

    MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: My son is a survivor. Like he went to that leadership school in Fort Smith for leadership and they took him out on the land. He was used to tell his dad, "All you need is a knife, salt, and matches, that's all you need". He said, "You don't need nothing". You know, anything you get from the land, he'll fix it and eat it. So if he did survive, you know, where he was out there, it would have been no problem for -- he knows how to make emergency shelters out of nothing.

    MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

    MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: You know, like that's how good he -- like the leadership program (indiscernible) they taught him.

    MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

    MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: So I wasn't worried about him, if he was going to be out there, like he could survive with nothing. He always tells his dad, he said, "What the hell are you carrying so much stuff for? You don't need all that". He said, "You -- if you're a real Dene", he said, "all" -- he says, "(indiscernible)". You know, he would just laugh at him. And his dad just said, "Oh, I just feel so guilty, I get to go hunting and I got to bring all this". Yeah.
So you know, like I think that's what I miss about him, because you know, like I talk with him a lot of times and trying to -- so it's (indiscernible).

MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm. So just going back to when you're -- you mentioned your husband was in residential school. And how was it for your children growing in Fort Providence? Did your children when they were young, did they experience racism and bullying and those type of things growing up here in the community?

MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: I don't really think so because all of them are so close. You know, like a bunch them all stick together and, you know, like their children or other people's children that were my friends, my children's friends, they were just like my children. You know, like so they always looked out for each other that way.

And they grew up where it was so much fun, you know, like they had so much, like the kids growing up. You know, like if their friends did things, they wanted to do things with them, we allowed that to happen.

And so bullying and stuff, I don't really think so. I don't know if they went through that. It's not like today, you know, like there's so much unhealthiness happening around the community. That's why we call those days the good 'ol days compared to now, you
know, where drugs are so rampant and the children are really neglected and no activities in the community, nobody wants to do anything for them. And in those days, you know, like even though we didn't have much we always did try to make do and do things with them.

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** M'hm.

**MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE:** You know, like for us today, there is none of that, so the children are getting taken away left and right and parents don't give their children what they need. And a lot of times -- like I never let my children go without food. I made it a promise to myself when I was a really young person that if I ever had children the children would have their roof over top of their head and always food on the table. So that's what I did for them, you know. Like mind you, a lot of their friends they used to come to the house just to eat, you know, because there was always abundance of food and things that they needed.

So -- and he also grew up telling me -- Delmer used to tell me, he said, "Mom, I just used to hate you", he said. And I says, "For what?" He said, "Even though I was really sick", he said, "you made me go to school". I said, "I wanted you to get a good education". He said, "I know, Mom". He said, "Today, I'm really thankful". He said, "That (indiscernible) writing my red
seal ticket”, he said. "When I phoned you", he had told me, he said, "talk to your grandma". That's all he said. And I talked to my grandma. And he phoned me, and he said, there is five of them taking their red seal, they are going for their red seal and he was the only child or Dene young man in there. And he said, when he phoned me back that next day, he said, "Mom", he said, "you know what", he said, "just that young Dene got in", he said, "the one that never got in". So out of five of them, only him, he passed. And his best friend was taking it also, he didn't go in so he had to do it again.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Okay.

MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: Yeah. So for me, bullying in those days there was -- maybe there was some, but you know, not like today. You know, today it's so sad out there. Because a lot of times I witness parents swearing at their children, you know. In my day it was a no-no. We tried to do stuff right for them, and they were so helpless, and you brought them into the human being, how can you do that to them, you know.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Did your son have children?

MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: My son has two daughters. One from a girl from Saskatchewan. My baby. That's my first granddaughter, she's 11 years old, but she's taller than me. And he's got another daughter in
Fort Smith. That one's about 8 years old now. Eight?
Yeah. So he leaves those two.

The oldest one always -- she's really close
to us because we really took that one under our wings when
she was smaller. So every time I go close to where she's
at we make a pitstop just to see her, but lately, her mom's
saying that no, "I want to see my dad, I want to see my
dad". You know, she cries so, and she always wants to come
home. She calls Fort Providence home because that's where
her dad was from.

MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: She doesn't like it
in the city, but she's got no choice. She's got to -- you
know, like I would take her periodically, but not for long
because I don't want her to be disconnected from the only
parent that she's got left. Yeah.

And the one in Fort Smith, I've never, ever
gone to Smith to go see her, but when she passes through,
she always -- her mom makes her phone us to tell them that,
you know, we're going to be passing through, if you could
meet them. So we play a role in most of our
grandchildren's lives, but they're not for me to grow up.
The only one that I'm growing up and still having a hard
time is [Granddaughter]. Yeah. But he leaves behind two
girls.
MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: Yeah.

The youngest one doesn't know that her dad is missing. The mom can't find it in her heart to tell her. So when she asks me where her dad is, I just say he's working. You know, like -- so that I don't make her -- I don't know if she told her daughter, but every time she sees me, she said, "I never said nothing yet. So I just say he's gone working". So she still thinks her dad's working.

MR. FRANK HOPE: She's here?

MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: No, she lives in Fort Smith.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Oh, I understand.

MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: Yeah.

MR. FRANK HOPE: So just going back to the RCMP and their support. Fort Providence has a high -- like many small communities they have a high rate of turnover with the RCMP coming and going. So in terms of consistent services and services being stretched, and you know. And this being an open case, do you think the RCMP have done enough in regards to your son's case, or they can do more?

MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: I think they've done more, but all -- it always ends up to a dead end. You know, like if Joachim told them about people that said they
saw him, and like in High Level, they would go and check those people out, and it's no, we didn't see him. So they were following up and reporting back to us. So I think that way.

Just before this new corporal came in, he leaves two -- the police that was there before them, and was just kind of annoyed at him, I think, because he was always bothering them. So he's learning to, you know, back off and if the police know something, they'll let us know. So he kind of backed off a little bit, you know. But they have a job to do too, and like if we know of anything or hear of anything, we usually contact them and let them know, just even if it's just hearsay. Yeah.

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** Like some cases have a consistent contact within the law enforcement where there's one person that's in charge of the case and they're working the case and they keep the family updated. In this case, because of a high turnover, there's no main contact person?

**MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE:** No.

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** It changes with the turnover?

**MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE:** With it -- for the second turnover and this one, I think the corporal was the one that was going to be in contact with us because he knows, you know, like to date we didn't hear anything, and
if he heard anything, like Joachim would contact him personally, or else he would contact us. Yeah. But before, there was nothing, you know, so he just went in there.

MR. FRANK HOPE: M'mm.

MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: You know, like I need an update, I need this. And I think that's why, you know, like sometimes in a small community you think there's nice, peace and quiet, but it's not like that. You know, there's so much things happening, like a lot of times there's (indiscernible) so they just don't have time for something like this that's been ongoing. They have too much on their plate just dealing with the crime in the community. And that's how I see it. Yeah.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Do you feel like you've come to the end of your interview? Is there anything else you want to mention to the Commissioners?

MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: No, I'm really happy they're doing something like this, you know, because even for me, it -- like for the murdered and missing women's [sic], you know, like there's always been an outcry, you know, like something should get done, something should get done, you know. So this also opens the eyes to the RCMP, you know, have I done enough, you know. It makes people take a look at themselves to see if they've done anything,
or you know, like is there changes that can help the parents.

Because I know in the North, the -- it's so small compared to the South where -- like in larger cities, parents or mothers and fathers don't get the closure because the police agents don't have the -- they don't care or they're not doing enough to help them. We're in smaller communities. I think they try. That's how I see it.

You know, like maybe this would open their eyes too. Just like I just saw on the TV about the RCMP in Manitoba saying he was sorry, you know, like they should have done a better job. So stuff like that. Even for this to be happening, it's making the RCMP detachments say, well, have we done enough. Is there closure for the families, you know. And hopefully people, like other Canadians in Canada can see that too and say that hey, these people do matter, you know. And -- so it's a good thing for me.

MR. FRANK HOPE: M'hm.

MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: Yeah.

MR. FRANK HOPE: So (indiscernible), do you want to end right there?

MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE: M'hm.

MR. FRANK HOPE: Okay. So I'll just wrap it up.
Okay. And I just want to end with just saying marsi, thank you for coming in and sharing your story with the Commissioners. And the Commissioners will review this audio -- will listen to the audio and see the video.

**MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE:** M'hm.

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** So -- and in regards to -- lastly, are there any recommendations that you'd like to make?

**MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE:** I can't think of anything right now.

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** Okay. So you can always follow up with ---

**MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE:** Yeah.

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** --- if any recommendations come ---

**MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE:** Yeah.

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** --- you can always give us a call ---

**MS. NANCY BONNETROUGE:** Yeah.

**MR. FRANK HOPE:** --- and forward that information to us.

So that ends the interview with Nancy. The time out is 1:17 p.m.
--- Upon adjourning at 1:17 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST’S CERTIFICATE

I, Suzanne Jobb, 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.

Suzanne Jobb

January 25, 2019