National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Chateau Nova Hotel
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

PUBLIC

Monday October 29, 2018

Statement - Volume 545
C.T. & N.T., In relation to C.T.’s Sister

Statement gathered by Lillian Lundrigan

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Pursuant to Rule 7 of Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice, Chief Commissioner Marion Buller ordered that all names and locations be made anonymous in this transcript and any related documents. The order for anonymity was made May 23, 2019.
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Documents submitted with testimony: none.
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay, so we're both recording. So for the record I'll introduce myself first. I'm Lillian Lundrigan, I'm a Commission Council statement gatherer for the National Inquiry. We're here in Yellowknife and today is October 29th, 2018. If you can introduce yourself?

MS. C.T.: My name is [C.T.], I'm here for the --

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Inquiry?


MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And you're from?

MS. C.T.: From [Community 1 in Northwest Territories].

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.

MS. N.T.: Hi, my name's [N.T.], I'm [C.T.]'s daughter, and I'm here for her support.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Thank you. So [C.T.], you're here today to talk about who?


MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: [C.T.'s Sister]?
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: How do you spell that?

MS. C.T.: [Spells last name].

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay, your sister. Was she older or was she younger?

MS. C.T.: Oh, she's [in her sixties].

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: She's [age] or she was?

MS. C.T.: She just turned [in her sixties].

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Oh okay, so she's still alive?

MS. C.T.: No, she was murdered.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: She was murdered. So she would have been [in her sixties]?

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: When was she murdered?

MS. C.T.: [Date], yeah two years ago, 2017.

MS. N.T.: Two thousand sixteen.


MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: [Date], okay. Do you want to first talk about your life with [C.T.'s Sister] before she was murdered?

MS. C.T.: Well yeah, she's my oldest sister and I was really close with her. And I didn't really know
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what really happened, because I was here at the time when it happened. So she -- like if I have a problem I would share with her, and I've been talking to her all the time about this kind of stuff, like drinking. And I told her that maybe I'm not supposed to talk, you're the one who's supposed to tell me all this kind of stuff, but I'm the one that's doing to you. And she said -- she always said don't, don't tell me this. She'd keep saying that, yeah. But anyway she was my closest sister, that I really cared for her.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: How many years apart are you?

MS. C.T.: Let's see she's [in her sixties], I'm [in my sixties]. Five years then.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Five years, okay. You said you always talked to her about --

MS. C.T.: If I'm having a problem I share with her.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Did she do that with you too?

MS. C.T.: Sometime, but she doesn't like -- she doesn't like to talk about herself.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.

MS. C.T.: But I told her whatever happen, your problem, you have to share. That's what I've been
telling her to do this with me, but she doesn't want to listen, she doesn't listen.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.

MS. C.T.: So we grew up -- actually I was raised by my grandparents, so that's why it was kind of hard for me to, to be with them all the time.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. She was raised by your parents but you were raised by your grandparents?

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay, okay. Did, did she have a lot of problems?

MS. C.T.: Yeah, she did. But she doesn't like to share. Just a little bit, but not that much.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MS. C.T.: Yeah. When she got married she said -- she told me that -- she always said like don't get married, don't get married, because marriage is just a -- it's just abuse or something like that.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

MS. C.T.: And I told her yeah, but anyway she told me. She told me that don't listen to people, whatever they say. Just listen to yourself. She always say that. And I said well what if I need help I told her. Well there's always somebody, there's a lot of support
around. So maybe you can talk with them, whatever.

    MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Right. What was her marriage like? She told you not to get married, was her marriage --

    MS. C.T.: It was really -- she said it didn't work good for a couple of month. And then later on it started to work good with her, so after she had a kid.

    MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Was it an arranged marriage?

    MS. C.T.: Yeah.

    MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Same thing in the Inuit culture, arranged marriages.

    MS. C.T.: Yeah.

    MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Did you live out on the land?

    MS. C.T.: Yeah, we did a couple of -- yeah, we did a couple of years ago. My dad used to work for – [Employer] --

    MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

    MS. C.T.: -- so we used to go out on (indiscernible) and stay there for -- until three month.

    MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, okay.

    MS. C.T.: Yeah.

    MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Was that good out on the land?
MS. C.T.: Yeah, it was really good. All the family, all the relative family were there, so it was really good.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, that's good. It's important to be out on the land.

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Are you okay?

MS. C.T.: Yeah, I'm okay.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Do you want to talk about how she died, can you tell me?

MS. C.T.: Geez, I don't know that part because -- I know on the 19th, December 19th, when I was coming this way, I went to visit her just before I was leaving. I was going on the charter so I went to visit her and she was drinking. She was playing that puzzle bingo, and I told her [C.T.'s Sister], I told her whatever you're doing, whatever -- I mean she was sewing that (indiscernible). I told her just make that up and then finish it. By the time I get back I'll give you some moose hide to make slipper. She says she was going to do that. I told her whatever they're doing, please don't get -- don't start drinking because Christmas is just around the corner, so just get everything ready for yourself and whatever. And she said yeah, I'm going to do that.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.
MS. C.T.: I told her just take care of yourself. I don't -- I told her that, I told her that just try to get ready for everything before Christmas. By the time I get back I'll give you moose hide and, and paper so you can make yourself a slipper. She said yeah, I'm going to work on it. I told her I'm leaving today so just take my words. I know you like to party and you like to go out and drink. Yeah, I'll do that. That was the last words -- that was the last thing she said was it.

So I don't mind talking about it but not part of things about it. But I just pray myself -- but I pray -- every night I pray for her, to keep myself strong, not to think about it. But I -- when I pray for her -- I pray every night for her. But one thing is I don't like when I'm going to the [store], that's where her house is. I hate to see that place, but as soon as I go there I always have tears. I don't like to see that house, but what can we do?

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Is that where she was killed?

MS. C.T.: Yeah, in that house.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.

MS. C.T.: That time when they told, they told us that she passed away, my sister was with me that time here. We had a lot of visitors and one elder told us
try to be strong for her, try and be strong so as not to say anything, just -- so we did. And my sister came with me and the old man told us no matter what, just try and be strong for your sister. I know she's -- if anything like that she's in, she's in the Lord's hands.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MS. C.T.: That's what he told us. So we didn't say nothing from then, when we came back. And the next day we were leaving, she was going back to my other sister's. She's from (indiscernible), but she was here. She was going to go back but something happened, so she came back with us to [Community 1 in Northwest Territories]. That's when they -- that's when we heard. We just -- they just told us something over the phone, but we didn't -- we don't believe it. I said I don't believe it. They told us but I said I don't believe it until I see with my own eyes.

My sister start yelling and crying. So we start crying. And then my husband was with us that time, her husband was with us. So they said -- they told us, they told the story. And then later on they said there's some people coming in visiting you guys, so they told us try and be nice, try and be quiet with them, so we did. The next day we took off and when we came back my -- as soon as I seen my brother I started crying. He told me try
and be strong. But one thing is -- I don't like when I see her house. And I told her -- the last word, the last word she told me, she said yeah, I'm going to do that. That's the last one.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Was she drinking --

**MS. C.T.:** Yeah.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** -- partying when it happened to her?

**MS. C.T.:** Yeah.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Was there a party in her --

**MS. C.T.:** I think so but I'm not too sure, I wasn't there at that time. But what I heard is just the stories that they saw her that day. She was really happy, but I don't really know what happened. They said she was partying and she slipped -- I think she pass out or something. There's somebody staying there with -- there's a young girl was there with her too. She says she was sleeping, but I don't know what happened. Next thing there's -- they got in a fight or something. They got in a fight and then next thing they were saying that there's -- she was sleeping by the bed. I don't know what time they were there. I don't really know what happened.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** So you don't know what the cause of her death was?
C.T. & N.T.
(C.T.'s Sister)

MS. C.T.: I think it's respiratory or something like that.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Oh okay.

MS. C.T.: If they're short of breath or -- but when she drinks she -- well even though she doesn't drink she's always short of breath.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.

MS. C.T.: I think she must -- I don't know what they did to her or something.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Oh okay. So they never determined if it was a suspicious death or natural, natural causes?

MS. C.T.: I think it must be natural causes.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: That's what they determined it as?

MS. C.T.: Yeah, yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Natural causes, okay.

MS. N.T.: That's what they said that day in court.

MS. C.T.: Yeah, that's what they said at the court.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay, okay.

MS. C.T.: Yeah.
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: So no one was ever charged for her --

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: There was?

MS. N.T.: Yeah.

MS. C.T.: But --

MS. N.T.: The stepson.

MS. C.T.: The stepson.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Oh, stepson?

MS. N.T.: M'hmm.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And so he was charged for her murder?

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And it went through the court?

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: But he was found not guilty?

MS. C.T.: He was found guilty.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: He was?

MS. C.T.: So he got five years.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Manslaughter?

MS. N.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: What was his name?

MS. C.T.: [Stepson].
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: [Stepson]?

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. So he's out now?

MS. C.T.: No, he's --

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: He's still in jail?

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.

MS. C.T.: He just got charged, so he only had what, two and a half months?

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay, so it just went through the --

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. So he was there drinking too?

MS. C.T.: I think so, yeah. That's what they're saying. He -- most of the time they said he can't remember.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: So that was her stepson?

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: How old is he?

MS. N.T.: [In his twenties].

MS. C.T.: [In his twenties].

MS. N.T.: Around that range, yeah.
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Was he always in trouble with the law?

MS. N.T.: Sometimes, yeah sometimes.

MS. C.T.: But he was really good with your mom all the time. He really treats your mom really good. But I don't know what really happened there. Because I don't think he can remember what really happened, but he said he was -- how could I do this to my mom? That's what he told us. So I don't really know what happened there. But I know about the -- the court said it was kind of with the --

MS. N.T.: Heart.

MS. C.T.: -- heart or something. Something with the heart or something.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Heart attack?

MS. N.T.: Her heart and her respiratory, I think it just combined.

MS. C.T.: Whatever happened, but you know she must have went out of breath. But then there's too much evidence of blood and kind of mixed with paint too. They couldn't tell, really tell what really happened because he doesn't remember himself too.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Because he was drunk?

MS. C.T.: Yeah. So they told him if you
pleaded not guilty it's going to go through court and it's
going to take a while. And then if they find you guilty
you'll probably take two to five years or something. But
if you plead guilty now you're going to -- because they
don't know the whole story, just the evidence that was --
that happened.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay.

**MS. C.T.:** So he pleaded guilty, so he got
five years. But he got also proof from all his family,
everybody else.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** How did that make
you feel, like when that -- so they had a plea, they plea
bargained with him, right?

**MS. C.T.:** Yeah.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** They agreed to --
how did that make you feel?

**MS. C.T.:** It's okay. I can't say -- I'm
not against whatever really happened, but he's -- she's my
sister and she's gone already, and my -- my nephew, well
he's my nephew or whatever. He's my nephew, but he's still
living, so might as well support I said from our elders who
raised us. That's why I said, better listen to whatever
the elders say. She's gone away, she's gone already, and
my nephew is still alive so we have to support this one.
We can always forgive, forgive people whatever they do.
That's what they -- that's what they always tell us.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** And it sounds like he felt bad for what happened, because you said he said how could I do that to my mom.

**MS. C.T.:** Yeah.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Right? So unfortunately it was the alcohol that --

**MS. C.T.:** Yeah.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** -- made it get to that point that night, so he felt bad.

**MS. C.T.:** Because when I used to -- well I usually visit my sister all the time.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

**MS. C.T.:** And he's always there around, really joking around with us and that, and with your mom, teasing your mom and everything. And just that time, whatever happened happened. It just -- I don't know.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Why was she drinking a lot?

**MS. C.T.:** I have no idea. I guess she -- she was just by herself too, and she's a widow.

**MS. N.T.:** Her husband died.

**MS. C.T.:** Her husband passed away.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay. Did she always drink a lot or did it start after her husband died?
MS. C.T.: Well they'd been drinking a lot before that.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.

MS. C.T.: Even when the husband was alive too, they'd be drinking and drinking. I had no idea why. I always tell them what's your problem, but she won't --

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: She never opened up about it?

MS. C.T.: She doesn't, no.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Did she go to Residential School.

MS. C.T.: Me?

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Both of you?

MS. C.T.: My sister did. My sister went for a long time. But me, I wouldn't stay for a couple of months.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Could it be that something --

MS. C.T.: Maybe.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- from that really affected her? Because so many -- we've talked to so many family members that have gone through it.

MS. N.T.: Yeah, I think so, that's why.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Because of the trauma unfortunately internally.
MS. C.T.: But she doesn't like to share.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, and not talk about it. So that's, that's part of the problem if that's what happened to her.

MS. C.T.: I think so.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Unfortunately, yeah. She never got counselling from the Residential School?

MS. C.T.: I think she -- no, I don't think she did. I think she did when the husband was -- I think they went for treatment.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hm.

MS. C.T.: They did but it didn't help them. After the husband passed away she went out again for treatment, and that was it.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And it still didn't help her?

MS. C.T.: No.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Do you think anything could have helped her? What do you think would have been better for her, to help her?

MS. C.T.: So I don't really know.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: It's okay if you don't know.

MS. C.T.: No, I don't know.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: You don't, okay.
Something like that, it's too -- it's too difficult.

MS. C.T.: Yeah. Like even when we -- even my oldest brother, he's the oldest, he's just like our dad. So every time when she talks to him she doesn't want to listen to him. So he doesn't, we don't -- she doesn't hardly talk to him anymore. We've been trained to help her with a lot of things, but she doesn't want to listen. But she's a really good worker on the land, she'll do anything. She's so in everything.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MS. C.T.: She was a good woman, but just an alcoholic really.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah. And like with her -- your mom and dad.

MS. C.T.: They like --

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: It was right before Residential School?

MS. C.T.: Yeah, my parents -- my dad and mom, well they used to drink lots too. Well I was raised -- when I was small, I think I was about -- geez, a baby. That time when my mom went to hospital because she was sick. So my Granny took me in and raised me. And then my Granny said she's -- she got ill so she -- somebody took me in and raised me again. And they didn't really, they didn't really look after me good. So after my Grandma got
-- I don't know what they call that sickness. She had some kind of sores on her arm and leg. Must be scabies or --

MS. N.T.: Yeah.

MS. C.T.: She said after it healed she took me back and since then she raised me. So I don't --

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. Did your parents, your mother and father, go to Residential School too?

MS. C.T.: No.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: No?

MS. C.T.: No.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: But they -- you said they drank a lot?

MS. C.T.: Yeah, they did, they drank lots. They used to drink lots of home brew all the time.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Oh okay, yeah. How old was your sister when they took her to Residential School?

MS. C.T.: Let's see, 17 -- 14, 15, 16, around there.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, okay.

MS. C.T.: Yeah, I remember she was just crying when they took her.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Which one did they send her to, which Residential School?
MS. C.T.: I think it's near the (indiscernible) club.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Oh, (indiscernible).

Does she -- she has children other than the stepson?

MS. C.T.: Yes, yes she has two.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.

MS. C.T.: Two boys and two adoption, one girl and one boy.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: That she adopted?

MS. C.T.: Yeah. Well she gave the oldest son to my parents.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: How are her children doing?

MS. C.T.: They're doing good, yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Good, handling it -- the children that she had, how did they handle her, her death, like how are they -- how are they coping with --

MS. C.T.: [Son 1] is okay, but -- he always come and he always talk to me about this, that stuff. I'm trying not to think about my mom, he always say that. Just pray for your mom, just pray for your mom. If he has a problem with his wife, she -- he doesn't like to share whatever. He's like that so I told him try and be strong.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MS. C.T.: Don't look so sad. I keep
telling him try and be strong. He always seems to say that
I'm having problem with my wife. I say just try and be
strong, try and be strong. I keep telling him -- when
what's his name -- [Son 2], he's around here somewhere on
the street. He doesn't want to move back.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: There's no, there's
no one, like no services in -- where you're from,
[Community 1 in Northwest Territories]?

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: For people to talk
to like counsellors for --

MS. N.T.: Like there is but --

MS. C.T.: No.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: There are some there
but they're not helpful?

MS. C.T.: No, no, nothing. They're not
like your guys out here.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: No?

MS. C.T.: No, they're not doing nothing.

MS. N.T.: I think nothing stays
confidential.

MS. C.T.: No.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: That's a problem?

MS. C.T.: That's a problem. People don't
like to go there.
MS. LILLIAN LUND RigAN: Because it's a small, small town, really small?

MS. C.T.: M'hmm.

MS. LILLIAN LUND rigAN: How many people there?

MS. C.T.: I think [number] --

MS. N.T.: [Number under 1000].

MS. LILLIAN LUND rigAN: Around [number under 1000], okay. Yeah, so confidentiality is a problem.

MS. N.T.: And everybody's like mostly related, so you can't really --

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. N.T.: You know like counsellors are there, but you can't -- you know like, like that person working there is my cousin. A distant cousin, but you know, that's how it is back there. Like everybody's related and it's really hard.

MS. LILLIAN LUND rigAN: Yeah, hard to go and talk to someone --

MS. N.T.: Well he's my cousin too.

MS. LILLIAN LUND rigAN: Yeah. So what would your recommendation be to fix that kind of a problem, what would you recommend? How can a place like [Community 1 in Northwest Territories] have more help for the people, so that they have more -- someone to go and talk to, how do
you see that happening? The only way is to fly people out of there, right?

MS. N.T.: Well somebody can fly in there.

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Fly in there?

MS. C.T.: Yeah, it's better off there.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah?

MS. C.T.: Yeah. Because like I see a lot of them going out for counselling, and they're always stuck here. So it's better if somebody goes down and visits the town.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. And right now that doesn't really happen?

MS. C.T.: No.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. Because part of the work that we're doing, we really want to hear recommendations from families who are going through, you know, a missing loved one, or a murdered loved one, or you know, violence in their, in their family, in their community. What do you think needs to -- what do you -- what needs to change and what needs to happen for, for this to stop happening to our people? So we want to hear what else you might want to share with the Commissioners that should change. What do you feel that needs to change in your community, what -- so your sister who was killed, what
could have helped her not to get to that point? I know it's hard to think about it.

MS. C.T.: Yeah, it is.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: But if there's anything that you can think of that would have helped her. It sounds like she didn't like to talk too much about her problems. Is there another way that she could have gotten help? Because there are so many people that are stuck like that.

MS. N.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Right? And we hear from so many families across the country, and even back home where I'm from in Nunavut. Same thing, people can't open up because they're in small communities like [Community 1 in Northwest Territories], and they can't talk to anybody. So what are other options do you think that can help our people? Counselling is one of them, that's a really big thing. Yeah for sure, because people really need to open up.

MS. C.T.: Yeah, they do have a -- once in a while they do have a circle. Hardly anybody goes to it.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: In the community?

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Probably because of the confidentiality.
MS. C.T.: I think so, that's why -- yeah, they don't know what's confidential for me. One time I didn't went and the next -- one time I went there and the next couple of days I heard --

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MS. C.T.: So I said I wouldn't go again, to go and sit.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

MS. C.T.: So it's better if we have one good counsellor, to have one there instead of coming here, back and forth. It's good to have one back home so we can really trust.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MS. C.T.: Not, not from our own people, but somebody else.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah?

MS. C.T.: To have one there.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: So do you feel that if a counsellor went into the community to, you know, be available to talk to people that want to talk to them, how would the other community members take it?

MS. C.T.: I wouldn't know.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Would you like go and talk to that person?

MS. C.T.: Yeah, yeah I would.
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MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. Even though you know other people are talking about you, saying oh she's going to go get counselling?

MS. C.T.: Yeah, yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: You still would do the counselling?

MS. C.T.: Yeah, I would.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And you would encourage other people to do that?

MS. C.T.: Yeah, I would do that.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah. Because sometimes some may feel that they -- people know that I'm going to go talk to a counsellor, I don't want them to talk about me. You know how some people think like that? But it helps to talk to someone, right? So that's a really good recommendation. That's not happening now. It's 2018 and you're not -- people are not -- a counsellor is not being sent into the community for mental health for example?

MS. C.T.: Yeah, but we do have one, haven't we?

MS. N.T.: Yes.

MS. C.T.: But I don't think -- she's not doing anything.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Because she's from
the community?

MS. C.T.: No, she's -- I think so. She's a white lady.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Oh okay, she's not doing anything, not helping?

MS. C.T.: Because from -- I can remember way back when they started doing these things, they put mental workers there. They put them there and nobody seems to work anything out. Because I remember one time I went there and I don't really know what really happened. But there's another kind there, and are you here to see -- no she said. Why I said? She said he's not doing his work, that's what she said, so just walked out. So I said okay, so then I'll just go and I just went out of there.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

MS. C.T.: What do you mean by -- he's just standing there, he's not doing nothing. He's just going to stand there and look at me and that's it I said.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: So it needs to be someone that's going to go in and really help the people?

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah. And the family members too, your sister's family?

MS. C.T.: Yeah, but most of my -- like not my brother there. They won't -- they don't go out for --
maybe -- my other brother's starting to go, and my other sister's going, [Sister 2].

MS. N.T.: I think it's just really hard on people to talk, that's the thing. I don't know, like you know it's so easy to talk when they're drunk, but when they're sober it's hard.

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. N.T.: You know I think that's the problem there. Because individually ask any people to talk, they won't talk, like you know. Because I think it's just that they build up their problems, and when it comes to drinking everything just comes like this. I think that's how it is in small communities.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MS. N.T.: So it's really hard to tell, to ask someone to open up.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah. How can you change that?

MS. N.T.: I think it's passed on to generations. And it's hard when you hit that generation because now it's, it's different, right? There's resources there, there's alcohol there, there's drugs opening up, it's there. We can't really take control of it. Only yourself can help you, right?

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.
MS. N.T.: That's how I see it. Like even for my mom actually, it's kind of hard for her to talk because, you know, I don't think they went through -- I don't think they go through that process in their generations, right?

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MS. N.T.: So it changes. And that's how I see it.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, yeah.

MS. N.T.: So I think like if you're willing to talk you can talk, but if you're shy you're shy. I think it's just yourself, if you can say something you can say anything.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MS. N.T.: But it's hard on people too.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, and I respect that. I know that it's hard for you to talk about it. I mean if there's -- if you want to just keep talking about your sister [C.T.'s Sister], say whatever you want to say about [C.T.'s Sister]. Because this is about missing and murdered, murdered Indigenous women, and she was murdered. It was an unfortunate accident, but the circumstances that led up to that, years and years of trauma, right?

MS. C.T.: M'hmm.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Lead up to that
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point in her life. And it ended her life and it shouldn't have, right? So we hear so many stories, same thing. So many women and girls, families across the country going through the same thing. What's happening in [Community 1 in Northwest Territories] is happening in Nunavut, in Newfound-land-Labrador, right? It's all over the country. So if you want to -- it's open to you to say whatever else you want to say about your sister. How would you want the Inquiry to remember her? You said she, she was really good out on the land, she loved to sew, she was really good at sewing.

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: What else do you want --

MS. C.T.: Like every time when -- in the community, if they want to go out on the land for some kind of a workshop, she's always the first one to be there. She really likes to work. Her husband could be on the land so many time, off and on, off and on. They went onto that place where they're making a cabin and they didn't even finish it, so they said they'll give it to their son. But I don't know what really happened, so they just left it there. And she really likes to enjoy everything. Even when we have activities, she gets involved with everything.

MS. N.T.: M'hmm.
MS. C.T.: Yeah, she's really, really -- sometime I think about her. Sometime when I think about whatever she said, it's always make me smile. We laugh, and we laugh. She always say come on, let's go, let's go drink then. We'll only have one, she always say that. So I say no, we're getting old. Don't say you're getting old, you're not getting old. The only time when you're old is when you're dead she said. She was really a good woman, she was a really good lady, yeah. Just the alcohol really hits her. Yeah, all the people back home was -- they really like her. She's really lots of -- how you say it? She was really outgoing.

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. N.T.: Like she made people smile.


MS. N.T.: She liked to tease people. She was really good.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Do you have any pictures of her?

MS. C.T.: Back home.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Oh okay. Yeah, it's too bad that such a wonderful life was taken like that, because of alcohol, right?

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: But it's not, it's
not her stepson's fault, it's the trauma that our people are going through. And we're -- I mean our work is to try and help find answers and solutions so people can get help, right? And one of your recommendations is that counsellors need to -- more counsellors need to go into the community so that people can start opening up and talking about their problems. So thank you for that, that's very important.

The Commissioners will take that recommendation very seriously because they heard it so many times, we heard it so many times across the country. It's really important.

MS. N.T.: And when her husband died I don't think she changed anything in her home, and she never did change nothing.

MS. C.T.: Oh, only the sofa bed. My uncle was moving so that sofa was -- it's kind of brand new. I said -- he told me to sell it but I said no, just go give it to my sister. So I just left the sofa in there and that's it. Ever since the husband passed away she never did change anything. Nothing, nothing, still in that house, she didn't change anything. I told her why don't you just get rid of all those stuff. I'm not rich she said. First thing she said, I'm not rich, how can I get new stuff. Don't say -- don't use those words I told her. We can help you, we can support you with anything. Whatever you need we can give it to you. No, that belongs
to my heart she said.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, so she was grieving?

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. N.T.: I think she was.

MS. C.T.: She was, but she doesn't want to share anything.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, yeah. How did her husband die?

MS. C.T.: I think what they called --

MS. N.T.: A heart attack?

MS. C.T.: No -- well he was -- I think it's liver shot because he was drinking alcohol.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Oh okay.

MS. C.T.: All his brother were like that.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Oh.

MS. C.T.: Pills, he was taking pills too.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah okay.


MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And how many years ago did he die?

MS. C.T.: Gee --

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Long time?

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: So she was grieving
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for a long time?


MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Really?

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Twenty years ago, right?

MS. C.T.: Twenty years ago, yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: So she was grieving for a long time.

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, so the counselling is really important, eh? Really.

MS. C.T.: I think she came down one time for counselling. She came here too, so I don't know. I don't know what really happened. She said she came down for counselling. She had somebody, somebody with her. And she told me -- yeah, she said -- I told her where's she going and she said for counselling. I had told her -- she said are you going to go back later on, and she said oh, I'm just going to start first she said. I think that's her first time by herself. So she did, she made it. The second time, that second time I think she -- I told her you going to go back there? She said yeah, I'm going on my second. But that time -- I think she didn't went because
she said she was going to cancel it. It didn't work or something. I don't know what she's talking about.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MS. C.T.: Saying it didn't work.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: It didn't work for her?

MS. C.T.: Something like that, I think so.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: So maybe she didn't really understand?

MS. C.T.: Maybe. She can't hear good and that's why.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MS. C.T.: I told her, ask somebody to take with you, sometimes support. She said no. They would do that I told her, but she said it didn't work out good for me. That's all she said.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, and then she didn't want to try again. That's too bad, yeah. Well I would loved to have met her.

MS. N.T.: Yeah, she was such a --

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: She sounds like she was a --

MS. C.T.: She was really -- she doesn't -- I mean she's really short, she's small.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Like me?
MS. C.T.: Yes. Yeah, she's short and she's -- yeah. She always have a smile on her face.

MS. LILIANN LUNDRIGAN: So the stepson, he's in jail. Just recently, like how long?

MS. C.T.: In [month].

MS. LILIANN LUNDRIGAN: This year?

MS. C.T.: Yeah. Well since two years, he spent two years in there.

MS. LILIANN LUNDRIGAN: Oh, waiting for court?

MS. C.T.: M'hmm. And now he only got two and a half years.

MS. LILIANN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah. How does that make you feel?

MS. C.T.: At first I didn't really like it, but then I thought about my grandparents, eh? They told me -- they always talked to me, they always say whatever happen you're supposed to forgive them, forgive them whatever. I thought about it, so I said I guess I'll just whatever, I said I'll forgive him. So that's the way I took it. After that I started praying really hard. I always pray at night and in the morning. I was thinking about my sister, but I just pray for her and pray for her son. I always talk to God for him because forgive him, forgive him. So that's what I did with him, I forgive him
for what he did with my sister.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: It looks like you're at peace with that. Like it's hard.

MS. C.T.: It's hard, but later on it's --

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, it's better for you.

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: That's good. You're a strong woman.

MS. C.T.: Well my Grandma raised me.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, your grandmother --

MS. C.T.: My Grandma was a really tough woman.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, that's what I was going to say, she was a strong woman. Yeah, that's good. It's better for you, it's healthier for you, right? And you're raising your daughter the same way.

I don't really have any other questions unless you want to add something about your sister [C.T.'s Sister], if you have any questions for me. Thank you for your recommendations. If you have any more to add for recommendations you can share that with me, the Commissioners will hear them. It's important I think, to talk about your sister. She knew was a strong, beautiful
woman it sounds like, how you described her. Thank you for sharing with me about her. Her name will be mentioned in this Inquiry unless you don't want this -- you know how you want us to --

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- include the story that you shared. But I think, I think you should let us -- allow us to share that because she was a strong woman, and we need to remember her that way, not how she died. Because you're at peace with that, right? But it's still important to mention her and to remember her, and the problems that she was facing. She felt alone right, because she didn't talk to anybody. And that needs to change, right? So the recommendation that you shared, having more counselling, will help them. Hopefully, you know, the younger generation won't have to suffer the way she did.

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: And this will help, this will help other people, this will help your community. Maybe not right away, but down the road.

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: The next generation will get stronger and then the next generation will be stronger. And it's because, you know, you spoke up about
your sister. So thank you for that. It's not easy, we understand that it's not easy. But it helps, it helps us.

MS. C.T.: M' hmm.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: So I don't have any more questions for you unless you want to say anything else. Then I can just stop the recording if you want to finish, it's up to you.

MS. C.T.: I don't know, I guess that's --

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: If you think of anything else you can, you know, let me know after, you can reach me.

MS. C.T.: Oh yeah. Just let me tape -- record, I'll record all day.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Just talk to the thing all day.

MS. C.T.: Yeah, that's what I can say.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Well if you want to record yourself that's something -- I can't give you that because that belongs to the Inquiry, but yeah if you have a recorder.

MS. C.T.: I don't have anything else to say.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: That's fine, you said a lot.

MS. C.T.: But I hate that -- I really get
emotional on the [date of murder]. This year I said nothing, I just don't feel like doing nothing. Because [date] is just --

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** It's hard. Is there anything you do, or can do, to help you with that in the community, when you're back home?

**MS. C.T.:** Yeah, I just -- I just go out and go visit, go visit --

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

**MS. C.T.:** Try not to think of it. Especially -- I don't mind, but especially that house.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

**MS. C.T.:** But what can we do?

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** They can't tear it down?

**MS. C.T.:** No, I don't know if -- it doesn't belongs to her, it doesn't belongs to her. It belongs to housing.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah, public housing?

**MS. C.T.:** Yeah, something --

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** So someone --

**MS. C.T.:** No, it's not public housing it's mortgage?

**MS. N.T.:** Something yeah.
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Oh.

MS. N.T.: So they're still trying to deal with that.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Oh, she -- it was her house, she owned -- like it's her own house?

MS. N.T.: Yeah, but I think she kind of make a deal with housing corporation. I think it belongs to the housing corporation, but --

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Oh okay.

MS. N.T.: Yeah, so --

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Is there someone else living in there now?

MS. C.T.: No.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: It's empty?

MS. C.T.: Yeah, I think so yeah. Like you have to live there for so long.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: A lease, like a lease?

MS. C.T.: A lease, a lease yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: A lease to own?

MS. C.T.: Yeah, a lease to own. That's what it is.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: But now it's just sitting empty?

MS. C.T.: And her cabin is just across from
that house.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay. Well you should go bring a camera and --

MS. C.T.: I'm thinking of doing that one of these days.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Maybe you're going to speak with Dana, she's going to talk to you about your after care.

MS. C.T.: M'hm.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: You know what you need to do, like counselling or some kind of activity you want to do in the community to help you heal. Yeah, that's -- maybe mention the house.

MS. C.T.: Maybe yeah, I'll do that.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Like do something that will help you get over, you know, that feeling you have every time you see the house, right? So think about what, what that could be for you, to help you with that. I know -- I mean I can't suggest tearing it down and stuff like that, because I mean that's housing corporation, but maybe ask them what they're going to do with the house?

MS. C.T.: Yeah, but they said -- they're still working on it.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, because it's through her estate?
MS. C.T.: M'hmm.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah? But yeah, when you talk to Dana --

MS. C.T.: Okay.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- mention that that's something that triggers you, okay?

MS. C.T.: Okay.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: So if you don't have anything else to add, I'm going to ask if I can turn the recording off.

MS. C.T.: Yeah, I guess that's it.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Thank you very much for sharing, I really appreciate that. You came all the way here to --

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- talk about your sister. It's important, it's very important.

MS. C.T.: This is my first time doing this kind of stuff.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MS. N.T.: In your language you would have been comfortable?

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MS. C.T.: Yeah.
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: I'm sorry I don't speak your language. Like I understand that, because when I speak to Inuit families and they want to share in our language, it's so much easier, I understand.

MS. C.T.: It does, yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MS. C.T.: Then you can say lots of words and you can like --

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MS. C.T.: Like back home we, we can -- we talk in our (indiscernible) all the time.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MS. C.T.: So it's --

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, so it's the language barrier.

MS. C.T.: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: I understand, and I'm sorry I don't speak your language.

MS. C.T.: So like you can talk -- like if I can talk in my own language I can talk all night.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, yeah, and that's understandable. Yeah, I wish we had more Indigenous speaking staff. I think we just have one from the region.


MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, interpreters
would be -- yeah. Okay, well thank you very much for coming in today and talking to me, I really appreciate it. --- Upon adjourning.
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST’S CERTIFICATE

I, Sherry Hobe, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.

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Sherry Hobe

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Sherry Hobe

November 22, 2018