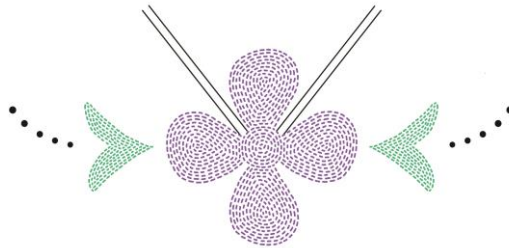


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Radisson Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta**



PUBLIC

Saturday November 17, 2018

**Statement - Volume 584
Crystal Saskatchewan,
In relation to her cousin “Tom”**

Statement gathered by Marie-Audrey Girard

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II
ORDER

On March 5th 2019, Chief Commissioner Marion R. Buller ordered that, with the exception of the witness' name and that of "Tom," all names in this public transcript and any related documents must be rendered anonymous. This order was made pursuant to *Rule 7 of Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*.

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

Edmonton, Alberta

--- Upon commencing on Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 8:25 p.m.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Hi, Crystal, so I
-- what I was saying is that -- like, now the camera -- the
camera recorder and the audio recorder are on. My first
question for you is are you okay if we record the session
tonight?

MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN: Yes.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Good. Okay, thank
you very much. Well, my name is Marie-Audrey. I work with
the National Inquiry. We are in Edmonton, here in at the
Radisson, and it is 8:26 at night. So I would ask
everybody in the room to -- if they would kindly introduce
themselves, their full name and where they're from, please.

MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN: Okay. I'm Crystal
Saskatchewan. I'm from Samson Cree Nation in Hobbema, or
Maskwacis, Alberta.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Thank you, Crystal.

MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN: Just your name.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Just your name and
where you're from, please, and why you're here.

MR. LARRY PAPIN: I'm Larry Papin. I'm from
Enoch Cree Nation.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Thank you. And
you're -- I understand that you're here to support Crystal
tonight.

1 **MR. LARRY PAPIN:** Yes, I am.

2 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Okay, thank you
3 very much.

4 So Crystal, as I said, my first question --
5 first questions here for you tonight will be, what would
6 you like to share with us? What would you like the
7 National Inquiry to know?

8 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** That my
9 sister/cousin.

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Oh, I'm sorry.

11 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** No worries.

12 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Well, she's my
13 cousin, but we grew up as sisters. That she was a
14 beautiful woman inside and out, and we miss her. And --
15 what was your question again?

16 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** What would you like
17 to share --

18 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Share about --

19 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Yes.

20 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** -- her?

21 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** So what was the
22 name of your -- your sister?

23 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** [*Tom's full name*].

24 Just how she was -- how -- what kind of a person she was.
25 What kind of a mother she was. How dedicated she was to

1 her children. Her life growing up.

2 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Can you tell us
3 what happened to [Tom]? To [Tom]?

4 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** She was found in a
5 one-bedroom apartment that she just moved into. I think it
6 was, like, maybe a week she was in that place. And she --
7 her kids were -- her two babies were with her mother-in-law
8 on the reserve.

9 And she was found by one of her friends that
10 -- that she was using with. And she -- her friend called
11 the ambulance and she was found in the bathroom. She had
12 no clothes on. She had two needles in both her arms, in
13 both sides, and she had bruises all over her body, inside
14 her thighs, on her face, her arms, her side of her -- her
15 sides. And -- yeah, she was -- and there was blood all
16 over the bathroom and the bathtub and all that. And the
17 cops never investigated, nothing. They just marked it off
18 as an overdose.

19 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And, Crystal, when
20 did that happen exactly?

21 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** When?

22 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** When?

23 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** About -- it's
24 probably going to be 2014, 2013 or '14. Actually 2014,
25 yeah. And it was in summer, I think, summertime.

1 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And do you know
2 when was the last time [Tom] was seen before her friend
3 found her in the -- this one-bedroom apartment?

4 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** She was with --
5 she was with her common-law, and he was there with them.
6 But the person that found her said that he was there when
7 he left, and he was the only one with her. And -- yeah, he
8 just took off and left her like that.

9 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I see.

10 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** And -- yeah. He
11 didn't come to the funeral right away or the -- the wake.
12 He showed up one day for -- like, an hour or two and he
13 left. And -- yeah, pretty much everybody was mad at him.

14 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I see.

15 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** And he just -- he
16 didn't -- he wasn't really there. And her babies were --
17 since the mother-in-law had -- had them she -- they -- she
18 had been involved with child welfare. Like, her nickname
19 was "Tom". She was involved with child welfare for a long
20 time, but they -- they would always check up on her and,
21 like, they -- they let her keep her kids, but they would
22 always, you know -- like, a family enhancement program and
23 so she -- once that happened to her, they got involved, and
24 whoever their kids were with at the time, they're staying
25 with that person now. And it was up to her if she wanted

1 to bring them or not, and she brought them, like, when [Ex-
2 partner 1], I mean, the father came and -- and then I think
3 to the funeral.

4 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Nice.

5 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** But -- yeah, we
6 were -- we wanted them over -- overnight and, you know, for
7 the whole four days, but it didn't happen.

8 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Do you know how old
9 was [Tom]?

10 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** She was 44. Her
11 birthday is coming up. She's going to be 45 in heaven.
12 We're a month apart.

13 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Oh, you are?

14 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Yeah.

15 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And when you
16 started you said she was like a sister for you.

17 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Yeah.

18 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Can you describe
19 this relationship you had with her?

20 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** My mom -- my late
21 mom and her late dad are brother and sister. And when I
22 was -- we both didn't have a very good childhood, so we
23 were always bouncing from her dad's to my mom's. She lived
24 with us. My mom took care of them for a while. And then
25 as we got older we would just, like, end up at the same

1 place, either her dad's or my mom's, or wherever.

2 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I see.

3 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** We started getting
4 into mischief together. And I remember one time, I think
5 we were about five or six years old, we were with my mom,
6 my late mom, and she was looking for her car when her
7 sister was driving her around. It was funny because my mom
8 and -- she was with -- looking for her car, and her common-
9 law had her car, but he was drunk and he was with -- with
10 another lady. So me and my sister, Tom, we watched my mom
11 beat up this woman.

12 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Oh, my.

13 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** And then she threw
14 her out the car and we threw out everything out of the car
15 and she told us to get in, and she comes out with ice cream
16 and we're -- we were just eating ice cream, looking
17 outside, and wondering and talking about that, and -- yeah,
18 that was funny. But me and her, like, everything wrong --
19 like, a teenager shouldn't do, we did together.

20 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I see.

21 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Like, our -- our
22 first time drinking, smoking, getting into drugs, drinking,
23 yeah, just everything until I had my -- my daughter, 2002.

24 I drank, like, a year after I had my
25 daughter. Like, probably about -- when she was about six

1 months 'til just after her birthday when I -- I, kind of,
2 stopped and I moved away, to Calgary, and I -- we -- that's
3 when we just lost connection.

4 I came back home and she kept -- when I got
5 -- before I had my daughter, we -- we used to come to
6 Edmonton and go to bars on -- and that's when we got into
7 hard drugs. And I remember she would just buy it and buy
8 it and I'd never have to buy it, and I couldn't take it
9 anymore, so I stopped doing it and she just kept -- kept
10 on. And it just got worse and worse and into heavier, more
11 drugs.

12 She had -- she would have had seven or eight
13 babies. I think two or three of them passed away. No.
14 Seven -- wait. Yeah, she would have had eight, two of them
15 passed away. And that really devastated her. She had a --
16 both of them stillborn.

17 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

18 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** And I -- the first
19 baby was with her first common-law, the children's dad.
20 The last two are from the one that she was last with.

21 I think after her losing her babies she just,
22 like, kind of, went into a depression. We were always
23 drinking, and all that.

24 And they carried out -- they wrapped up her
25 baby in a moss bag and the father brought out the baby from

1 the hospital, and it was stillborn, and they -- they took
2 the baby right to where they were going to have the wake.
3 And -- yeah, that was -- that was really hurtful to see.
4 And her -- her -- her husband at the time, he was -- he was
5 carrying the baby and he was -- she was in a moss bag. It
6 was a girl. They named her -- she named her [Daughter 1].

7 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

8 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** And her dad -- her
9 ex was named [Ex-Partner 2], so she always matched up her
10 names --

11 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

12 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** -- with her --
13 with him. And she was walking behind him, crying, and it
14 was just really heartbreaking.

15 She was a good mom. She -- even though she
16 did all the drugs, like we did. I was always with her, but
17 she always had a babysitter and the kids were always safe.

18 So that was her -- her biggest thing in the
19 world that she loved. She had five children with -- his
20 name was [Ex-Partner 2], but right after him, she had --
21 she had six kids with him.

22 And right after him -- right after Tom passed
23 away, not even -- I'd say -- I don't know, within two,
24 three months, maybe six months, within that timeframe, he
25 -- he committed suicide.

1 And he's the one that really, really took it
2 hard during her wake. Like, he really, really -- all his
3 emotions. Like, he'd just cry every time he'd come in.
4 He'd be -- he was a firekeeper all weekend. And he was
5 hard on himself. He didn't want to get rest or anything.
6 Every time he'd come into -- to the wake, he'd look at her
7 body and he'd cry. And I remember all that. And, like, I
8 was -- it was really sad to see that her first baby daddy
9 would be there more than her -- the current one.

10 And, yeah, it was -- it was just -- I don't
11 know, I was -- I was angry. I was really mad.

12 And I was sitting at her coffin -- that when
13 her -- the one she was -- when she passed away, the one she
14 -- the person she was with, her -- her partner, was sitting
15 at her coffin, and he came in there and he said -- he
16 kneeled down and he was looking at her.

17 I was just -- I remember looking down,
18 watching him and, like, touch her face, everything. And I
19 was just really angry and I just wanted to ask him, "Did
20 you give her those bruises?"

21 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I see.

22 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** "Are you the one
23 that did this to her?" Like, and then he turned to me and
24 he just looked up and he just -- like, he kept saying, to
25 me, "I don't know. I don't know." "I just" -- and he kept

1 saying, "Crys (ph), Crys." "And I don't know." I -- I --
2 that's all he kept saying. And I was like, "What?" "What
3 are you -- what you don't know?" And he's, like -- and
4 then he put his head down. He just shook his head, and --
5 and I don't know. I was just -- I just wanted to -- I just
6 wanted to hurt him, but I know that wasn't the right
7 place --

8 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

9 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** -- time or place.

10 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And afterward, did
11 you get more answers? Like, no?

12 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** No. I've asked
13 him -- I've asked him what happened. He's the only one
14 that knows what happened. I messaged him.

15 Not even a month after she -- we buried her,
16 he was -- he was already with another woman. And I
17 remember who -- I know who she is. And that woman that he
18 was with was Tom's -- supposed to be Tom's -- one of her
19 good friends.

20 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

21 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** And that just --
22 and she gave her, like, a place of -- always, like, if she
23 needed a place to stay, she'd give the -- this woman that,
24 or she'd help her in any way.

25 Like, she was just that kind of a person.

1 Even if she was on her, like, last loaf of bread she'd give
2 you half of it, or she'd tell you, "Come and eat with me,"
3 you know. She was -- she was very kind hearted.

4 Every time I came up from Calgary, I'd -- I'd
5 come and stay with her.

6 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

7 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Or she'd come to
8 Calgary. She'd either stay with me or her other friend. I
9 forget her name, and she would -- that's how it was.

10 Like, every summer me and my girls would go
11 to Frog Lake powwow, and we'd always leave a week before
12 and we'd go spend that week with Tom and the kids.

13 She was either in a hotel or just moving into
14 a place. She only had her two babies, but the other ones
15 that were PGO. They would -- she would have visits with
16 them. They were older.

17 She was -- she was very beautiful. She had
18 such -- she was so beautiful. Like, I don't know why she
19 was with -- with him.

20 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

21 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** But, you know, she
22 -- she had a -- she always, you know, stuck with one person
23 and -- I don't know. But she was very beautiful, and she
24 rarely -- she rarely gave herself any credit. She always,
25 you know, she never ...

1 I remember Pink was coming to town and I was
2 at her apartment. And she's like, "Crys" -- no, it was
3 Dixie Chicks. She goes, "Crys, let's go to Dixie Chicks
4 for our birthday. Come on, it's coming up. Our birthdays
5 are coming up." She goes, "I'll buy all the tickets." And
6 I said, "All right, sure." So we were going to go to that,
7 but I don't know what happened.

8 Something -- something happened with her
9 funds, I think, she didn't get them on the time she wanted.
10 Her -- she was waiting for some kind of money, but she
11 didn't get it from the time we -- the concert came, so.
12 Yeah, that was ...

13 We had so many funny moments too. I don't
14 know. There's so much things I can say about her. And she
15 had a beautiful heart and soul.

16 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** What's your
17 favourite memory of her?

18 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** My favourite
19 memory would be, we used -- I think we were about 13, and
20 we used to -- I -- she used to make me go steal cigarettes
21 from my mom. And so I told her, "Okay."

22 So we're all -- we're sneaking up, because
23 was the stairs going up to my mom's room. It was always
24 creaky. And we were -- we were just sneaking up that
25 stairs and real slow and whispering. She kept pushing me

1 from behind. I'd tell her, "Just wait." And so I went in
2 and I got a smoke. My mom was a deep sleeper, but her
3 husband wasn't and, I guess, he knew about it.

4 Anyway, I grabbed two of them. We went on
5 top of the roof. It was a split level, like this and then
6 like this and there was a third one, but we always went on
7 the middle one. And we're sitting up there. It was such a
8 clear night, just all the stars were out and it was
9 beautiful. Wasn't pitch black. The moon was out. And
10 we're just lying on our roof smoking our cigarettes and
11 talking about what we're going to do when we're older, and
12 all that.

13 We pretty much did everything bad together.
14 Yeah, it was just -- that's my favourite memory.

15 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** That's a nice
16 memory definitely.

17 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Yeah. I think
18 after that night, the next night I think my brother -- he's
19 passed away recently, and he -- I was -- they thought I
20 went to bed and my -- her sister came, [Sister 1], and it
21 was [Sister 1], [Tom] and my brother, they were all
22 outside, and I -- I woke up and I was looking around for
23 them and I heard them outside, and I looked outside, "What
24 are you guys doing?" And they were all sniffing --
25 sniffing gas. And it was real funny because I went out

1 there and I caught them, and they were all, like, telling
2 me to go inside. And I told -- told them, "Chill. You
3 probably come -- come inside too. You're -- we're the same
4 age."

5 But I ended up trying it. And she was
6 standing right beside me, and that was the only time I ever
7 tried it. I never -- always tried something once.

8 And she was looking at me, and I was looking
9 at her, and all of a sudden she started going, like, far,
10 far away from me, and I was like, "Come here, Tom." She's
11 like, "I'm right here." It was funny. That was -- when
12 we're sad -- we always used to sit on the roof.

13 But that night when we had our smokes, we
14 were talking about our -- what we want to do when we're
15 older, and she always said she was going to be a cop, or a
16 hairstylist.

17 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

18 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** She wanted to be
19 that. She -- because she loved fixing herself up and, you
20 know, that's how we were growing up. Just trying to be the
21 best and all that.

22 And I don't know how she met [Ex-Partner 1].
23 Well, her -- the guy that she had children with, her ex-
24 partner. But he just finished doing -- he just came out of
25 jail -- out of the Pen, and he was being -- he was going

1 out with everybody until he met Tom. They hooked up, and
2 all that. But he always left her with the kids and she'd
3 have to -- she'd go out there and look for him, I remember
4 that. She did that with her first one too. Whenever
5 they'd leave her, she'd go out and find them and give them
6 a licking.

7 But, yeah, she's -- she's got a grandchild.
8 Her oldest son's got a daughter, and she's so cute. So
9 chubby. She, kind of, looks -- reminds me of how her baby
10 was, that she lost, that's how she was. She was, you know,
11 chubby and cute. And I remember how big she was when her
12 dad was carrying her. She was, so -- yeah.

13 And, I know she would love her grandchild,
14 and her birthday's coming up soon, in a couple weeks, maybe
15 in three weeks. Her -- her kids are still in -- in care.
16 They're with their foster families. Like, she -- she has
17 two grandchildren, yeah.

18 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Oh.

19 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Her daughter had a
20 -- a baby too. His name is [Grandson].

21 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Oh.

22 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** She had a boy and
23 she named him [Grandson]. I know her mom would have liked
24 that name. Yeah, she was -- I don't know, I haven't seen
25 her daughter in a while. She hasn't been doing good.

1 She's taken a much -- much -- like, her lifestyle isn't --
2 is, like, ten times worse than what her late -- her late
3 mom went through. So she's not doing good. Like, I
4 haven't seen her in a couple of years. But I -- I always
5 make sure to ask about her. And there was a missing person
6 on her, maybe six months ago, was shared, and from [City
7 1]. And I started boxing people, "Where is [Daughter 2]?"
8 "Like, is she okay?" And then somebody commented that --
9 they said that she was okay.

10 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

11 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** And that the
12 police put her name out there because they just wanted to
13 pick her up. She was on some kind of a warrant.

14 So, you know, I'm always scared for her
15 daughter. Like, she loved her daughter so much. She did
16 anything for her. But she's, like -- it's really -- her
17 lifestyle scares a lot of people. She -- she gave up her
18 baby to adoption to a Christian family. But the baby was
19 born with -- like, addictions --

20 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

21 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** -- too. Yeah, I
22 remember, like, she's got -- I don't know, like, her -- her
23 children -- like, I wished they would come together and be
24 as one, but they're all over. They're scattered all over.

25 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

1 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** But her -- her two
2 youngest ones remember me. I was hoping they would
3 remember me. I seen them last year at a Christmas party.
4 Her son, [Son], is his name, he -- he came running up to
5 me, "Auntie."

6 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

7 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** "Hold me." I
8 grabbed him and I held him so tight. Her -- his sister,
9 she was -- she's like, "Hi, Auntie." And I'm, like, "Oh
10 God, you guys are so cute. Just like your mom. You just
11 look like your mom." [Son]'s ten years old now.

12 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

13 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** I know, because
14 him and my girl are the same age too. And they're actually
15 the same -- like, a month apart too.

16 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

17 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** So I have tons and
18 tons of pictures of Tom on Facebook, her -- of her kids,
19 yeah.

20 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And, Crystal, can I
21 take you back a little bit? At the beginning, you
22 mentioned the police investigation. Do you have more
23 details about it?

24 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** No. That's all.
25 That's all I know is that they -- they -- written it off

1 as an overdose.

2 MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Just an overdose.

3 MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN: Drug overdose.

4 MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: But you think it
5 was maybe something else?

6 MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN: Yeah. I know it
7 was because she couldn't get two needles in her arm, and
8 she knew how much to take.

9 MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Right.

10 MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN: She's been doing
11 it for years, so. And I know she didn't want to die. I
12 know. I know she wanted to live and get all her babies
13 back.

14 And that's all -- like, I've asked questions.
15 I've asked around to other people. There's been rumors --
16 rumors that -- about him, and this and that. And there's
17 only one of our family members that's seen the place after
18 she was taken from there. Was her -- her little brother,
19 [Brother].

20 MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: M'hm.

21 MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN: I mean, [Brother].
22 And he said that her bathroom was -- the whole place was
23 all bloody. Said it just looked rundown, and it didn't
24 even -- it looked like she didn't even fully move in yet.

25 MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: I see.

1 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** And he said, he
2 was just -- he cried when he seen her place. And he -- he
3 right -- and he was living at a place -- like, a block away
4 from -- from where it happened just recently. I don't know
5 if he's still there, but he'd always message me and say,
6 "Sis, I -- I walked by Tom's old place today." I wish I
7 can go there and smudge, you know, go smudge that place.
8 And -- but I know she's gone to heaven.

9 And now there's this -- another reason why I
10 think what I think is because I actually went to a psychic.

11 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

12 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** I mean a medium.

13 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

14 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** And it was really
15 -- like, the way my -- my -- my hairs on my body were just,
16 you know, they were just standing up, and that psychic knew
17 stuff that I didn't tell her obviously.

18 That whole week, [*personal information*]. I
19 was living in Calgary and [*personal information*] I needed
20 to start walking, going on a treadmill [*personal*
21 *information*].

22 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

23 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** -- and then -- so
24 that whole week I kept finding shoes, like, online, or I
25 mean, through Kijiji, like, you know, people selling shoes

1 on Facebook, or whatever. And every pair of shoes that I
2 got was either too tight or was my size, but it fit too
3 small, or -- and they were hurting my feet.

4 And so I went and seen this psychic and she
5 was -- she was really good. She -- she -- at first my mom
6 came in. I was testing the psychic. I had my mom's jacket
7 on, and she -- she wrote something down. She was closing
8 her eyes. She had her eyes closed and she was writing like
9 this, and she opened them, looked at her thing and it said,
10 "Jacket." And I -- I started crying. I was bawling.

11 And -- and then she said -- the psychic said,
12 "Did you lose somebody violently?" And I said, "No. No, I
13 don't think so." And she said, "How about -- you know --
14 you know, like a stabbing or a gunshot?" And I said, "No."
15 She goes, "What about a car accident?" I said, "No." She
16 goes, "Huh, well, it's like -- there's -- I'm getting this
17 thing that -- like, a sister. Did you -- a sister, or
18 something, did they pass away violently?" And I said,
19 "No."

20 And then I started thinking about it and I
21 was, "Well, I have a cousin that we just buried, and I have
22 suspicions about how she passed away." And she goes,
23 "Where did this happen?" And I told her, "In Edmonton."
24 She goes, "Because I'm" -- she's like -- She goes, "I
25 wrote" -- she looked at her thing and she's, like -- went

1 like this, back and forth, and she goes, "That's a
2 highway." I said, "Oh." And she said -- she said, "You
3 know, I'm feeling like this is your" -- I told her, "Well,
4 this cousin -- I -- we grew up like sisters, so." And she
5 goes, "Okay. Okay. This person is saying she wants you to
6 stop."

7 Oh, how I knew it was Tom was she said -- the
8 psychic goes, "She's saying -- she's standing right behind
9 you and she's saying she doesn't want you to do anything
10 about what happened to her. She wants you to just let it
11 -- let the Creator take care of it. And she knows -- she
12 knows that you know what happened to her."

13 And I just -- I told her -- I started crying.
14 I said, "Yeah, that was Tom." "She was -- she was about --
15 she looks really young." And I said, "Yeah, she was pretty
16 -- same age as me." And then she said, "She wants you to
17 stop hurting your feet." And I said, "My feet?" She goes,
18 "She was just laughing at you. She was -- she's -- she
19 sees you buying all these shoes and they don't fit you and
20 she wants you to quit doing that to your feet." I said,
21 "Oh, my God." And I started laughing and she was I was
22 like her. She always had to throw in something funny.

23 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

24 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Yeah, she's got
25 siblings, but everybody knew how close we were growing up.

1 And her dad -- he looked like a white man.
2 They call him -- he even had a -- a Cree Indian name that
3 called -- his name was A White Man, in Cree. And after he
4 passed away, that was another devastation for her and she
5 got more into the -- but, yeah, I see him every now and
6 then. And he's not looking too good.

7 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I see.

8 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** And I was -- I
9 look at him and I'm like, "My God," like, I wish he'd just
10 tell me what happened that night. He doesn't talk to me
11 when I see him.

12 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

13 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Before we were
14 really good friends, but now, he doesn't talk to me, or he
15 won't even try to talk to me. I seen him, like, across the
16 street when I'm in my vehicle, and he just looks really
17 rough, and his life isn't going too good. And I believe
18 that's the Creator's way of, you know, because -- I believe
19 he -- he's, I know he did something. I just wish he'd tell
20 what happened to her. But if he did, then maybe he'd go to
21 jail or something. I don't know.

22 I really, really miss her. I don't like the
23 city --

24 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

25 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** -- because she was

1 here. It was hard to move back here from Calgary. It was
2 hard though at first because Edmonton was the only reason
3 why -- she was the only reason why I came to Edmonton. And
4 she just -- yeah, like, I had my first few months here, I
5 had no one to go see. No one to visit or hang around and
6 that's when I'd miss her the most.

7 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

8 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** And her kids.
9 Like, our kids and her kids we would be always -- we'd
10 always do something with them, like, to the park or go eat
11 or something like that. But, yeah.

12 Even now it's just so -- it feels like
13 yesterday. I get -- I think about it and it gets me so mad
14 because she could still be here. Like, (unreportable
15 sound), but I know what happened.

16 Like, even for out of this -- you know, like
17 she told me not to -- that the Creator will take care of
18 it. But I just -- you know.

19 You know, the police shouldn't do that. They
20 should have investigated. They should have did everything,
21 like fingerprint, stuff like that. I don't know.

22 Everybody thought that she got raped, but the
23 coroner said that she didn't.

24 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Why do you think
25 people thought that she has been raped?

1 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** She had bruises
2 right here.

3 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I see.

4 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** All over her legs.
5 Her sisters, one of them -- can I get some water?

6 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Of course. I think
7 there's still some here.

8 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Thank you.

9 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** You're welcome.

10 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Her sisters were
11 the ones that went to view the body and, like, to confirm
12 it was her. [Sister 2] and [Sister 3], they -- they had to
13 dress her. Put -- braid her hair. And they looked all
14 over her body. And they're the ones that said her body --
15 they were just crying when they were telling me that,
16 "She's got bruises everywhere on her body." Even right on
17 her face, right here, right here, on the forehead.

18 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Do you know if,
19 prior to her death, she was a victim of domestic violence?

20 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Her brother,
21 [Brother], seen her, like, two days before.

22 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

23 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** He said she -- she
24 looked just fine.

25 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I see.

1 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** He's the last
2 person -- he was the only one that seen her during that --
3 probably, two -- two weeks before she's -- that happened.
4 He was the only one in contact with her, like, to see face-
5 to-face and ...

6 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

7 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Yeah, and he -- he
8 said that he was going to move her in -- like, go get all
9 her furniture from storage, and all that.

10 She had a storage -- I don't know what
11 happened to that storage, or if anybody went and got her
12 things from there. But she kept a lot of photos. I don't
13 know where they are, or who has them. But, yeah, he said
14 that she was -- she didn't look -- look like that when he
15 seen her, so.

16 And plus, it's been -- it happened before --
17 like, all the time, he was -- he was an abusive partner.
18 He always -- just every which way a person can be abusive,
19 that was him. He would -- sometimes she'd have black eyes,
20 or bruises on her face, and I'd be like, "What happened?"
21 And she'd be, like, "You know." And then I told her, "But
22 why do you stay? You should just leave him." She goes, "I
23 don't know. I'm dumb." She'd say. I'd tell her, "You're
24 not dumb. You're just stuck."

25 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And do you know if

1 she ever reported those behaviours to the police? Has she
2 ever --

3 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** I'm pretty sure
4 there -- there were probably a few reports there.

5 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

6 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Even with the
7 child welfare.

8 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I see.

9 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Because that's how
10 they got involved, when there was a domestic going on --

11 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

12 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** -- and child
13 welfare would show up. And -- yeah, I'm -- I'm sure
14 there's -- I'm not sure how many files, or reports there
15 is, but there's probably a few. Maybe more than a few.

16 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I see.

17 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** So he's always
18 been like that.

19 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Do you know if he's
20 ever been convicted?

21 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** I'm pretty sure.
22 Yeah, I'm pretty sure he went in for -- a few times for
23 assaulting her. Yeah.

24 I know sometimes he'd -- in the beginning, I
25 know that he would try and get after her older kids and

1 she'd -- she'd defend them, like, she'd fight him, or
2 anything. I don't know. It was just -- like her mama --
3 mama bear's instincts. That's how she was.

4 Yeah, I think I need a break.

5 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** It's okay. And me,
6 like, I'm, kind of, done with the questions I want. If you
7 have more to share, we can take a break, but if you think
8 that you have shared everything that you wanted, I'm -- me,
9 like, I think I -- I -- on my side, ask all the questions I
10 wanted to ask.

11 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Okay.

12 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** So if you --

13 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Do you have any
14 more questions?

15 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I have one last
16 question.

17 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Okay.

18 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** It's a more general
19 one, which is -- usually we ask everybody, like, if they
20 have any recommendations that they would like to make for
21 these kind of -- those kind of situation, to never happen
22 again. So how can we put in place a system that will make
23 sure that we never have to lose sister -- or sister or
24 aunts, or mother, like Tom -- like, what happened to Tom.
25 If there's anything at one point that we can put in place,

1 as in institutions, that can help these women, our
2 sister --

3 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** (Indiscernible).

4 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** -- our family.

5 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Well, for women
6 that are in -- are in relationships -- I know for her, I'd
7 tell her, "Go to a shelter." And she said, "I'd never --
8 those places are always full."

9 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

10 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** "Can never get
11 in." Like, I don't know. There needs to be more places
12 for women to go.

13 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Yeah.

14 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** They need to --
15 that's probably what I would -- more people out there on
16 the street to help them.

17 I worry about [Daughter 2]. I don't know,
18 it's just so hard to get -- I don't know, addiction is so
19 hard. It's more harder on the family. I don't know. My
20 mind is blank right now.

21 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** That's -- no,
22 that's really good. That's -- those are --

23 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** But I know more --

24 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** -- really good --

25 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** -- shelters.

1 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** More shelters.

2 Those are really good recommendations.

3 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Because there's
4 never any places for them to go. I know a few of my
5 friends and my other cousins, they're like, "Oh, it's
6 full."

7 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

8 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** "So I'm just going
9 to stay another night." Stuff like that.

10 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** It's difficult, I
11 see.

12 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Even on the
13 reserve. There's --

14 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

15 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** -- they have no
16 phone. They have no way to contact anyone. The shelter on
17 the reserve is always full because they'd bring in -- bring
18 in out-of-towners. Like, it's not only for the reserve.
19 So they -- when they're transporting somebody, you know --
20 so, yeah, I'd say more shelters on the reserve.

21 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Well, like I said,
22 that's all the questions I wanted to ask.

23 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** M'hm.

24 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I want to just
25 really say thank you for coming here tonight and sharing

1 your truth and, well, talking about your sister, your
2 cousin, Tom, with us, and it's important to us to know
3 about her, so thank you for trusting us enough to come here
4 tonight and to share with us.

5 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Okay.

6 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** I don't have any
7 more questions. Is there anything else that you would like
8 to share with us tonight?

9 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Well, if people
10 see my -- my video, and if it's public, then I think that
11 one last thing I'd like to share is our Native men should
12 get more help, because half the time our women are getting
13 hurt by our own -- our own Native men when they should be
14 protecting us. They need to be more aware of, you know,
15 stuff like that. Like, how him -- he -- he didn't know
16 what he had until he lost, and he was the reason why --

17 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** M'hm.

18 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** -- she's gone.
19 Yeah, that's about it.

20 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Well, thank you
21 very much. If it's okay with you I will turn off the
22 camera and --

23 **MS. CRYSTAL SASKATCHEWAN:** Yeah.

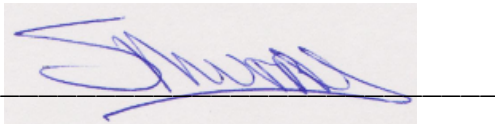
24 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** -- the video
25 recorder. Okay, so it's 9:20 and we are turning off the

1 camera.

2 --- Upon adjourning at 9:20 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Shannon Munro, 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.



Shannon Munro

January 4, 2019